

Hood Canal Coordinating Council

JEFFERSON, KITSAP & MASON COUNTIES;
PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM & SKOKOMISH TRIBES



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors – Meeting Summary

12 January 2016; 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Location: Oxford Suites, 9550 NW Silverdale Way, Silverdale, WA

ATTENDANCE

Board of Directors

David Herrera, Skokomish Tribe
Paul McCollum, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Randy Neatherlin, Mason County
Rob Gelder, Kitsap County
Phil Johnson, Jefferson County

Exofficio Members

Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board for Hood Canal, Teri King
Puget Sound Partnership, Stacy Vynne
US Navy Region NW, Lynn Wall
Washington State Dept. of Ecology, Lydia Wagner

Call to Order, Introductions, Approval of Meeting Agenda

Randy Neatherlin, HCCC Chair, called the meeting to order. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Rob Gelder; seconded by Paul McCollum and the agenda was approved. A request was made to add a discussion about the 2016 Board meetings schedule.

Public Comment

The Chair opened the meeting for public comments and there were none at this time.

Consent Items

All matters listed under Consent Items have been distributed to each member of the Board for reading and study, are considered to be routine, and will be enacted by one motion of the Board with no separate discussion. If a separate discussion is desired, that item may be removed from the Consent Items and placed as an additional topic by request.

1. Draft Board Meeting Summary 8 December 2015
2. Cash Disbursements
3. Expenditures

HCCC Board Outcome: A motion to approve consent items was made by Rob Gelder; seconded by Paul McCollum and the items were approved.

A request was made to change the time of the June 14, 2016 Board retreat (originally scheduled for 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM) to 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM; the Board agreed with the time change; the change will be communicated to interested parties.

Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) Update

Teri King, Hood Canal Action Area Representative, provided updates on current topics and proceedings of the Puget Sound Partnership ECB pertinent to HCCC. There is an ECB meeting on Thursday (1/14/16) in Georgetown (S. Seattle).

HCCC Board Outcome: HCCC Board was provided ECB updates.

Hood Canal Watershed Education Network (HCWEN) Updates

Michelle Myers, ECO-net Coordinator, distributed the document, HCWEN Membership Meeting Agenda, January 14, 2016. HCWEN members will discuss future outreach events; Michelle will report outcomes to the Board. There will be a special presentation from Washington Sea Grant on the European Green Crab Monitoring Program. Michelle will ask members for their comments on HCCC's offer to support a website. Seth Elsen, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group, is the HCWEN alternate ECO-net Coordinator and may also provide future Board updates.

HCCC Board Outcome: The Board was briefed on the progress of HCWEN efforts.

Stakeholder Discovery in Hood Canal

Haley Harguth, HCCC Watershed Planning and Policy Coordinator, reviewed the project aimed to provide a deeper understanding of stakeholder interests and perceptions to support the development of a strategic communications plan for the HCCC. Document distributed: "Stakeholder Discovery in Hood Canal," prepared by Dr. Jennifer Arnold, a social scientist who was contracted by the HCCC to gather the information. Haley also discussed next steps and guidance via PowerPoint presentation. The purpose of the interviews is to provide a deeper understanding of partner interests and perceptions about core HCCC values and functions, and to provide information on the HCCC Strategic Communications Framework (in development).

Jennifer Arnold, PhD conducted one-on-one confidential interviews (not a survey); 8-10 individuals representing geographic scope, diversity of fields and interests, and levels of involvement with HCCC were selected. Questions were asked about HCCC perceptions, such as how HCCC impacts policy, which issues HCCC influences in the region, what issues are HCCC most effective or ineffective at influencing, and impressions about the Integrated Watershed Plan. Responses were analyzed with a technique called "open-coding" to identify codes to reveal the "themes" of the responses. Themes represent the findings of this exercise, from which conclusions may be drawn and future strategies may be developed.

The findings included love for Hood Canal, but a need to tell the story that that the ecosystem is threatened. People have respect for the HCCC Board; the Board has real power and influence in region, but that the process takes time. HCCC is forward-thinking and willing to take bold action. HCCC has a desire to connect and learn from other watersheds. HCCC staff and roles are responsive to partners but work is technical and hard for people outside the process and small groups to follow. HCCC is unknown, but that could be OK. We may need more visible outreach and communication and use less technical language to get public support.

Other findings included: The new salmon Citizens Advisory Board has created more engagement. We need more transparency in salmon recovery efforts and need to communicate progress on slow, process-oriented work. HCCC should use its influence to direct the region toward unified goals/vision.

The Integrated Watershed Plan (IWP) has great potential with a lot of information but more work is needed and it needs more visibility. OurHoodCanal.org is another great resource but not well-known yet; it's a good place to highlight partner work.

These findings will inform the specific goals and objectives that make up the Strategic Communications Plan (more information will be provided). We will continue to review and interpret these findings as we develop strategies.

Randy Neatherlin said that as an independent, he goes to both legislative houses and focuses on economic development to get the biggest bang for the buck and finds that each house is supportive and believes if they knew what HCCC was doing it would get more support. We are an example of how it works--we are both economic development and salmon restoration and need to promote that message.

Teri King asked if this tracks along the same lines as the community engagement strategy presented to the Board in 2012. Haley said the focus on the previous effort was more toward public outreach and this effort is to get the perceptions and needs of partners. We haven't yet defined the extent that we want public outreach for the HCCC.

Randy asked about the benefit of public and community outreach because there is a difference between the public and our partners. With our partners we are building engagement and efficiency in our processes. Outreach to the public is about the successes that our partners are doing. In the past we focused too much on the partners and we need to find a way to integrate both. However, it takes capacity and funding.

Scott Brewer reiterated that this provides a tool to do the communication framework and noted that we currently are working on public outreach, especially through OurHoodCanal.org and will continue to make those improvements.

Lynn Wall believes the public knows that things get done even though they might not know who all of the members are. This is the same formation of what our strategic communications plan needs to be. We'll have key messages to convey for outreach groups. We may want to highlight the economic benefits in dollar values that are generated in this region, which helps people relate to jobs, fisheries, cleaner water, and their particular topics of interests. Yes, we are about environmental protection, but it has solid economic value.

Teri King said that aquaculture has been valued. The HCCC is in a unique position. We did have a dedicated staff member working on education and outreach 7 years ago. There are different models from our past systems which were successful that we can look at to see what will work as we develop the communications strategy, i.e. newsletters, workshops, HCWEN involvement, etc.

Randy said we can show the public that things are different than perceived. Getting the public to know we do look at economic viability, such as projects in Skokomish with property owners fighting to protect their rights, which may open more doors.

Paul McCollum said the report was very good and if we have time we should work on a strategic communications plan that we separate into boxes to determine critical elements going back to the last 5-10 years of outcomes to see what were the best, which were the most difficult, which involved partners, which we didn't get to accomplish. Then we look two to three years forward, such as the bridge study, to see who we need help from to get these things done. We need to consider due diligence to outreach and education institutions. We could facilitate a large annual public meeting where anyone could come and discuss community matters. With HCWEN we could do community monitoring, water quality in Hood Canal, get the data, and get those people together who are supportive.

Randy Neatherlin suggested a newsletter format, once a year to the full community, then quarterly to partners, that tells who we are and why they should support, and then get feedback that helps with the cost, too.

Rob Gelder commented that this was a lot of information to get out of eight participants.

Lynn Wall said that the Navy REPI uses a running total of projects/actions, do we have direct funding running total? Scott said some through the Lead Entity Program, Habitat Work Schedule, and a protected lands database, but we don't have a comprehensive look.

HCCC Board Outcome: The Board was briefed on the communications project.

HCCC Local Integrating Organization Near-term Action process update

Haley Harguth, HCCC Watershed Planning and Policy Coordinator and Scott Brewer, HCCC Executive Director, updated and discussed the Near-term Action (NTA) process currently underway with the Puget Sound Partnership. Haley presented a PowerPoint on Hood Canal Near Term Actions planning. The update included the submission of the actions approved at the last Board meeting.

There were 400 NTA's submitted for the entire Puget Sound region. The Hood Canal Action Area (HCCC and partners) submitted 14 NTAs via HCCC LIO process; 115 NTAs that impact Hood Canal were submitted separately and directly to the Partnership from Regional Entities. HCCC will be reviewing the 115 regional NTA's for conflict--something that significantly interferes with a local regional strategy, priority or action.

All NTAs are reviewed by Partnership Strategic Initial Transition Teams (SITTs) with feedback delivered on Jan 18, 2016. We have until January 31, 2016 to revise and re-submit. Once the NTA's are resubmitted the teams will rank based on Partnership regional priorities by February 29, 2016.

We are uncertain how or when this translates to funding. The EPA said they may or may not use a ranked NTA list to determine funding. Staff will make revisions to HCCC-owned NTA's based on SITT feedback; however, we won't have time to bring to the Board before we resubmit.

Randy Neatherlin said the reason this was created with the federal government was for the LIO's to get direct funding for its projects, but now it's the Partnership taking it in, but not on our behalf.

Stacy Vynne explained that the Partnership is pushing for funding directly to LIO's rather than the regional filter. EPA has not yet responded and they encourage LIO's to reach out as well for a decision. This process is very frustrating with all of the LIO's, which will form future processes. This will give LIO's a stronger voice than in the past, and although it is not perfect, it is a first opportunity.

Dave Herrera said it remains to be seen how much of a voice the LIO's will have. We went through a deliberate process and we knew there was the next step of regional NTA's, but at some point the two need to come together; we don't have any answers how decisions will be made. There are also problems with the process, and many corrections need to be made, but it's unclear how it will be done. We can identify conflicts but not do anything else (for example, some King County NTA's include Hood Canal.). There are many unknowns and it has been frustrating. We have spent more money on work hours developing this process than there will be money for projects in 2016.

Randy Neatherlin added that we trusted the Partnership and we are just part of a mix; the LIO's have lost power. Randy also said there is still another process, projects are either good or bad, we teamed up and worked with partners, we were the party and were making progress; other LIO's aren't up to speed, this process was supposed to create that. With this process, we are being undermined, you can be prioritized and not be an LIO and have projects funded, but not the ones on the ground.

Stacy said the Partnership is following the EPA model, with three different arms. Their team is working with HCCC in an effort to get regional entities to coordinate for 2018 and we want your suggestions. We are having a debriefing meeting on February 10, 2016 with the LIO coordinators.

Dave said the regional piece could have been done differently and explained his preferences on how it could have worked. This way anyone who has an interest can submit a proposal on what they want to do, but what gets done first, second, etc. matters.

Paul McCollum said we knew the RFP said local entities and tribes, then regional entities, where they strongly encouraged them to work with LIO's, so we can push for ours, but not full pushback.

Scott Brewer said staff will continue to review the 115 to see if they are consistent or conflicting. We will get our 14 NTA's back after the quality of proposals review is done and finalized by the end of the month. Then they go through strategic review teams and we'll see what they tell us. We don't know if there will be a chance at dispute resolution.

Paul said we may cover Dave's issues on conflicts if significant; we can't start ranking yet.

Stacy said the next opportunity for comment on a draft Action Agenda is March 15, 2016, which will include team's ranked list for comment.

HCCC Board outcome: The Board was briefed on the progress of the NTA process.

Public Comment and Hood Canal Happenings

The Chair opened the meeting for comments and announcements.

Dave Herrera: Regarding the Hatchery program in Hood Canal, the WDFW quit funding, they allowed for private entities to bid operations of the facility and there is a contractor who releases 10 million chum salmon every year. The Skokomish Tribe and contractor are pushing on the governor to restore funding so it will be part of the state budget for 2016. Dave will ask the Board to write a letter to legislature to include that funding in the budget and for the state to retake the hatchery. Dave will draft a letter for approval at the next meeting.

Lynn Wall: The Navy closed the Dosewallips and Duckabush riparian work and is looking for others areas to get protected status.

Paul McCollum: The Port Gamble Bay cleanup is happening with removal of 3,000 creosote pilings at the southern part of the mill site. The tribe received an extension from the US Army Corps, with completion in two weeks. Meetings with Ecology about planning is being done for Hood Canal in the Bay. The concern is what would happen if there was a spill. He would like them to present at the February Board meeting.

Teri King: Washington Sea Grant released the State Shellfish Aquaculture Report found at <https://wsg.washington.edu/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Shellfish-Aquaculture-Washington-State.pdf>. On page 7 there is information for Hood Canal shellfish productions. This weekend the UW research vessel is doing sentiment sampling in the bay through Lynch Cove. Ten stations are participating in annual training this month in Hood Canal looking at algae by various groups and agencies.

Executive Session - In Lieu Fee (ILF) Mitigation Program

The Chair stated that the purpose of the Executive Session is by reason of RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate. We will take a ten minute break then resume the Executive Session at 2:35 PM for one hour. We will let you know at that time if an extension is needed. The Chair announced that there may or may not be action taken after the session. The executive session adjourned at 3:50 PM with no further discussion.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:51 PM.

Next meeting: Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors is Tuesday, February 9, 2016, Mason Transit Authority, downtown Shelton, 601 W. Franklin Street (street parking around the building and on Railroad Avenue). Allow extra time for parking. *[Note: The meeting was subsequently canceled.]*

For more information about this meeting, contact Robin Lawlis, 360-394-0046 or rlawlis@hccc.wa.gov.

HCCC Chair Approval:

Signature on file
