

Hood Canal Coordinating Council

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



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors – Meeting Summary

8 March 2016; 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

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

Attendance

HCCC Board of Directors

David Herrera, Skokomish Tribe

Paul McCollum, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

Phil Johnson, Jefferson County

Randy Neatherlin, Mason County

Rob Gelder, Kitsap County

Exofficio Member Representatives

Puget Sound Partnership, Stacy Vynne

Call to Order, Introductions, Approval of Meeting Agenda

Randy Neatherlin, HCCC Chair, called the meeting to order. Introductions were made. The Hood Canal Action Area Representative is not available for an update on the Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board today. The meeting agenda was approved.

Public Comment

Randy Neatherlin opened the meeting for public comments; 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 12 January 2016
2. Cash Disbursements
3. Expenditures

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

Hood Canal Watershed Education Network (HCWEN) Updates

Michelle Myers, ECO-net Coordinator, as part of the Local Integrating Organization (LIO) ECO-net current and future activities was reviewed. HCWEN members met and agreed to use HCCC webpage to host news and events. They discussed IWP efforts and a presentation from Washington Sea Grant on green crab monitoring and research. The next HCWEN meeting is March 10 (9:00 AM Kitsap County Annex Small Conference Room) where Julian Sammons, HCSEG project manager, will review their On-Site Septic Nitrogen Reduction Project.

HCCC Board Outcome: Board briefed on outreach and education efforts of HCWEN.

Hood Canal Bridge Update

Scott Brewer, HCCC Executive Director, and Michael Schmidt, Program Director, Long Live the Kings (LLTK), reviewed (via PowerPoint presentation) the progress to date of development of an assessment plan for addressing impacts caused by the Hood Canal Bridge and sought the Board's opinion on next steps.

Documents distributed: (1) Hood Canal Bridge Ecosystem Impact Assessment Plan, and (2) Hood Canal Bridge Assessment—How Does a Floating Bridge Impact the Hood Canal Ecosystem, by Long Live the Kings

In the past year HCCC and LLTK has worked with eight partners to develop an assessment plan and pinpoint how the bridge (1) impacts water quality & species critical to economy, culture, legal mandates, and (2) leads to higher mortality of migrating juvenile steelhead and salmon. To date preliminary studies have tracked steelhead migration success and compared fish densities and identified predators near/far from the bridge, but are still looking at effects. The studies have also characterized water quality impacts as well as noise and light impacts and physical components of the draw bridge.

The assessment plan explores relationships between the bridge pontoons, light, shade, noise, predators, plankton, and migration patterns, densities and mortality of juvenile steelhead and salmon and tie outcomes to management actions.

We are looking at the model as an action-oriented outcome, not just planning. The timeline and budget are in two phases for 2016-2019: Phase I at \$2.3 million, and Phase 2 at \$1.7 million, with \$1.4 million in-kind match (in addition to the cost).

There was a discussion of next steps for communication, outreach, and funding strategy. The Board asked if this will go beyond a list of projects without quantifying the cost. The modeling will show if it looks like we need to change, for example, lighting to get greater survival and then afterward we determine cost and the Board decides if it is worth it compared to outcomes we get, considering project funding strategies and resources.

The plan is out for a six-week peer review to look at methodology to ensure success; the final plan should be ready in June 2016.

When acoustic tagging of steelhead juveniles was done for four years, did they see mortality? Yes, the one year they didn't see it was when parts of the bridge were out due to construction so there was a difference in survival. When we look at costs and elements involved, it seems we have many theories that need to be tested.

Can bits and pieces of the assessment plan be conducted and move forward with those results? We have funding for initial work and can review those results. We need to take it in steps, get tools out, and get the review to understand results, and then determine what to and not to fund.

As a Board we need to be skeptical of the science and academia; however, so much information was covered--temperature, depth and many other aspects were explained consistently so it is difficult to say no at this point in time. We need to support part way, then when the Board sees it, then they will determine. We need to look at hatcheries for steelhead for tribes. Because we are waiting on the assessment, we haven't discussed many other options, but there are a lot of ideas on interim fixes if we can't mitigate fully. There is potential even at the worst cases outcome. It's not just the fish; water becomes stagnant in some places. Phase I will give us a lot of information for the money. Next step is to finish methodology review to consider for funding.

Scott suggested the reviewers answer the questions in a couple of months and look at if there are parts we can act upon sooner. We are also considering a field visit to inform key legislators and Congressional staff.

The Chair asked for the Manchester presentation of the assessment highlights be given to the Board, the explanation of data points, because it was very impression and would help the Board further its understanding.

HCCC Board outcome: Board was briefed on the status of the Hood Canal Bridge Ecosystem Impacts Assessment Plan and provided direction on next steps for communication, outreach and funding strategy.

Letter of Support--McKernan Hatchery funding in State budget

Dave Herrera, Skokomish Tribe, discussed the Hood Canal McKernan Hatchery funding situation and a letter of support requested by the Skokomish Tribe for the HCCC to support funding the operations of the hatchery. Document distributed: Letter of Support

HCCC Board outcome: The Board agreed that the letter of support should be revised so that all members present could sign in support of funding of the McKernan hatchery in Hood Canal.

LIO Coordination with EPA and the Partnership

Scott Brewer discussed upcoming Local Integrating Organization (LIO) meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) scheduled for March 15, 2016 in Seattle at the EPA region office (and via Webex.com).

Document distributed: Local Integrating Organizations Leadership—PSP/EPA Meeting, HCCC Talking Points. Scott will be attending with others and wants to know what the Board wants to talk about with the EPA.

Scott reviewed HCCC staff suggested talking points.

1. Recognize and utilize LIO's as important local decision-making and implementation bodies
2. Better integrate LIOs in the PSP management conference
3. LIO's can help PSP and EPA make Puget Sound recovery successful

EPA has not yet informed the Partnership how to get direct funding to the LIO's. The partnership would like to know how that funding should be distributed so please ask them to honor that commitment to LIO's and consider distribution of funds.

Commissioner Neatherlin informed the HCCC Board that Sheida Sahandy, Partnership Executive Director plans to sign a letter from the Alliance for Healthy South Sound to argue for the EPA direct implementation funding.

For several reasons the EPA is nervous about declaring what they will fund. The NTA process has shown there are some inconsistencies among LIO's and this could cause trepidation for EPA. There are different ideas on what direct implementation funding means. The idea is that LIO's would go through the process, prioritize which projects are fundable, and a certain amount goes to funding those projects at the local level. Some LIO's have no money for all of their projects after the process. This will empower LIO's to do local issues.

Scott was asked to prepare a draft letter for submittal to the EPA and Partnership, gather comments from the Board and send the final.

HCCC Board outcome: Board was briefed on the current state of LIO/EPA/PSP coordination and prepared for the upcoming LIO Leadership meeting with EPA/PSP.

New HCCC website launch

Haley Harguth, HCCC Watershed Planning and Program Coordinator, introduced the new HCCC website and demonstrated ease of navigation of the web pages and links including:

- About HCCC covers Board of Directors, Staff, News, Events Calendar, Where We Work
- Out Integrated Approach includes the Integrated Watershed Plan and tracking progress at ourhoodcanal.org, plus Salmon Recovery, In Lieu Fee Mitigation, Water Quality Protection, Climate Adaptation

- Near Term Actions--NTA planning
- Research Library--where visitors can search by resource type and topic
 - Board meeting agendas, summaries and documents will also be available

HCCC Board outcome: Board was briefed on the new HCCC website.

Lead Entity Program 2016 grant round update

Alicia Olivas, HCCC Lead Entity Program Coordinator, gave an overview of progress to date including the “keystone action” approach, use of salmon prioritization, and salmon recovery planning and how these result in a “request for applications.”

The planning priority actions (1) Diagnosis of issues affecting Hood Canal stocks, (2) Identify feasible actions, (3) HCCC Salmon Recovery Work Plan, and (4) Request for project applications were reviewed.

Keystone actions are the highest priority actions needed for salmon recovery in the Hood Canal region or where we can make significant headway where it needs to be made.

Implementing Priority Salmon Recovery Actions--Planning priority actions, application development, and ranked list and funding decision process was reviewed. There will be site visits late April.

For 2015 grant round there was more money than projects. Will that be the case this time? We estimate \$5 million to allocate with \$11 million ask for projects.

In the past the lead entity submitted a three-year plan in a different format and this year it's overhauled to a four-year outlook to align with budget, work plan, and other needs. It's a big push for the lead entities this year but it will get us to a better reporting cycle. The 4-year Work Plan will be submitted to Partnership for the legislative request for funding. The 4-Year Work Plan requirements don't align with the HCCC prioritization. The HCCC Work Plan is based on prioritization with inclusion of summer chum. Alicia will use the HCCC Work Plan to submit the 4-Year Work Plan to the Partnership.

The Board Chair invited the citizen's committee to comment. Thom Johnson said the amount of work was understated in a long process completed by staff, the committees, and the sponsors, and as a result, a phenomenal list of projects was developed. The keystone actions rose to the top which showed that they heard the Board because these projects will really make a difference. However, there's still a lot of work to be done.

Lee Swoboda agreed with Thom's comments and added that Alicia did a good job listening to the TAG about the process and worked through many interactions. The three- vs. four-year projects seems larger and more complex with greater discipline into the process; it is an important work in progress and we're heading in the right direction.

The Board should feel good about where we are in the prioritization, which originated from its guidance giving a focus on what is needed; a lot of it was due to new information, and determining adaptive management, and the idea of the RFP approach. It's what the prioritization does--lays out what's needed to see if the project sponsors can do it with capacity, skills and abilities.

The keystone action approach that was introduced showed there is a suite of things that need to happen in sequence. We have a robust process with engagement of Citizens and Technical Advisory Groups, and the Citizen's Committee with the Board of Directors has worked well, so kudos to all who collaborated.

The Board asked if there are any vacancies on the Citizen's and Technical groups. There is one in Mason County. In addition, some technical people can't participate due to conflicts of interest. Also, we can use more shellfish experts.

The Board is more comfortable with the process and hopes the different entities can pull together to do something major with four to five working together to be extremely successful. The Board thanked Alicia for her time and effort.

HCCC Board outcome: Board was briefed on the progress of the Lead Entity program 2016 grant round.

Public Comment and Hood Canal Happenings

Randy Neatherlin opened the meeting for comments and announcements.

Rob Gelder: On Saturday, March 9, 2016, (9:50 AM to 2:30 PM) at Port Gamble Forest there will be a rain or shine Forterra field series tour to introduce 3,000-acre working forest, with birding, hiking, biking (three groups) and an opportunity to review the Forest and Bay Community Campaign for funding. Space is limited; lunch provided.

Scott Brewer: On March 14, 2016 (1:00 PM) at the HCCC office in Poulsbo, we are asking various groups to look at land conservation protection strategies and all of the plans for Hood Canal so we don't duplicate efforts and to achieve our goals and objectives to support each other. This is just the beginning and the group effort will expand. Regarding the Salmon Program Coordinator vacancy, the ideal candidate turned down the job so we need to continue recruiting.

Phil Johnson: Is invited to UW to talk to give his personal perspective on ocean farming.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

Randy Neatherlin adjourned the meeting at 3:02 PM.

Next meeting: Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors is Tuesday 12 April 2016, 1:00 to 4:00 PM, Oxford Suites, 9550 NW Silverdale Way, Silverdale, WA. For more information about this meeting, contact Robin Lawlis, 360-394-0046 or rlawlis@hccc.wa.gov.

HCCC Board of Directors Chair Approval

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