

FORUM ON MONITORING
Special Meeting
SALMON RECOVERY AND WATERSHED HEALTH
SUMMARY MINUTES

DATE: May 11, 2009

PLACE: Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

Lacey, Washington

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Wilkerson	Chair, Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health
Kaleen Cottingham	Director, Recreation and Conservation Office
Chris Drivdahl	Director, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Bruce Crawford	Designee, NOAA Fisheries
Josh Baldi	Designee, Department of Ecology
Sara LaBorde	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jim Cahill	Designee, Puget Sound Partnership
Bob Metzger	Designee, USFS Olympic National Forest
Terry Wright	Designee, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

IT IS INTENDED THAT THIS SUMMARY BE USED WITH THE NOTEBOOK PROVIDED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

A RECORDING IS RETAINED BY THE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE AS THE FORMAL RECORD OF MEETING.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:11 a.m.

Kaleen explained that the purpose of the meeting is to review the NOAA Guidance and finalize recommendations to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Ken Dzinbal provided an overview of the agenda. Ken pointed out the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's set of draft High Level Indicators that are currently undergoing public comment. The Power Council staff was involved in the Forum's work group to develop HLIs, so the Power Council would like the Forum's feedback to ensure the documents are aligned.

Agenda Item #2: Legislative/Budget Update

Kaleen Cottingham gave a legislative and budget update to the Forum. She briefly discussed Substitute House Bill 2157 which moves the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) to RCO; noting that there is a directive to include High Level Indicators (HLIs) by December 2009, then the development of protocols to manage the HLIs. The other issue is consolidated reporting. GSRO and RCO's reporting will be consolidated into one report with monitoring as part of the larger report. RCO took a 10 percent cut in monitoring, but there is enough money to cover the salary of the Forum's Executive Coordinators for the biennium.

Forum Discussion:

Bob Metzger asked about the timeline for HLIs. Kaleen clarified that HLIs must be adopted by December, and then protocols need to be adopted by June 2010.

Josh Baldi noted that Ecology and the Puget Sound Partnership will conduct some of the monitoring through federal funding. The primary question is how much funding will be dedicated to status and trends with ecology. Jim Cahill noted that the Partnership requested funds for Puget Sound Monitoring and is moving forward coordinating coastal monitoring with Ecology. Kaleen added that the Federal Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) grant will add about

\$300,000 more to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's Funding.

Jim Cahill noted that Partnership is working with the Monitoring Consortium to secure funds. Chair Wilkerson will work with Jim when he returns within the next week.

Agenda Item #3: NOAA Draft Guidance for Monitoring Salmon Recovery

Ken Dzinbal presented the Forum's response to the NOAA Draft Monitoring Guidance. NOAA experienced delays in distributing the Guidance, so the Forum workgroup did not have the anticipated amount of time to review the document. The Guidance is inclusive and extensive. The status of the workgroups is that the Department of Fish and Wildlife and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission are still working on internal reviews. The Forum needs more time to convene lead staff to coordinate agency comments. Ken proposed that the workgroup meet with lead agency staff in early June and provide consolidated comments for approval at the June 24, 2009 regularly scheduled Forum on Monitoring Meeting.

Forum Discussion:

Bruce added that NOAA wants the Guidance to be accurate and receive adequate feedback from agencies and the Forum, but there needs to be a timely response. Chair Wilkerson encouraged the Forum to develop a workgroup to brief the Forum at the June meeting. Kaleen asked Ken if he expects diverging opinions on the group. Chris Drivdahl encouraged the group to focus on policy of the Guidance, and have each of the agencies add their top comments/responses to the Guidance. Kaleen asked for the regional perspective. Rebecca Ponzio, of the Partnership, contributed that the Puget Sound is working on finding where the NOAA Guidance on monitoring connects to monitoring taking place at the regional and watershed level.

Ken Dzinbal gathered names for the workgroup to respond to the NOAA Guidelines:

- Erik Neatherlin (WDFW)
- Steve Leider (GSRO)
- Rebecca Ponzio (PSP)
- Rob (ECY)
- Bob Metzger (USFS)
- Brad Thompson (USFWS)

Kaleen added that Regions need to decide if they need to be represented as a group. The workgroup will report back at the June 24, 2009 meeting.

Agenda Item #4: SRFB Monitoring Review Workgroup

Ken presented an overview of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's (SRFB) Monitoring. Currently, the SRFB funding totals \$2,350,000 (10% of 23.5 million). Ken is continuing to develop the "white paper" to assist the SRFB decide future allocation of monitoring funds.

Forum Discussion:

Jim Cahill asked Ken to define the adaptive management cycle based on the monitoring structure for 2009-2011. Kaleen reminded the Forum that the SRFB tried to relinquish the monitoring efforts, so it is important to link monitoring funding to successful adaptive management.

Ken asked if the Forum supported sending the recommendations to the SRFB. Kaleen asked that the presentation to the SRFB needs to explain that the recommendations are for 2010 and beyond.

The Forum concurred.

Ken's second presentation reviewed preliminary recommendations for Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) monitoring supported by the SRFB.

Chris Drivdahl noted that since the IMW and HLI workgroups are the same, and suggested that the groups look for data gaps. Discussion ensued among Forum members regarding the IMW Monitoring recommendations to the SRFB.

Chris Drivdahl recommended that Ken change the 3rd recommendation in the Preliminary recommendations for summer – fall 2009 to *“Funding for restoration doesn't always support treatment plans, compromising the value of IMW monitoring. The SRFB needs to incentivize Lead Entities to forward projects in IMW treatment watersheds.”* The Forum also added the recommendation to *“Connect IMW Monitoring staff and Lead Entities/Regions to improve implementation of IMWs – need policy support from SRFB for that relationship.”*

The Forum recommended Ken to advocate continuing the current monitoring contracts and give a high level preview of the issues discussed by the Forum.

Agenda Item #5: High Level Indicators – Regional Developments

Ken introduced Steve Leider's presentation on the work with High Level Indicators by the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP). PNAMP's next steps are to finish and distribute their report, seek NWEIS and executive feedback, and continue collaborations. Ken asked the Forum for their suggestions for developing next steps for High Level Indicators

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Bill Wilkerson, Chair

Next Meeting: June 24, 2009
Olympia, WA