

**San Juan Initiative Policy Group Meeting**  
**June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007**  
**Friday Harbor, WA**

**Policy Group Attendees:**

Lincoln Bormann,	Peter Dederich NPS	Colonel McCormick,
Elizabeth Babcock,	Nick Jones	US COE
NOAA	Lisa Byers	Patty Miller
Bob Lohn, NOAA	David Weeks, TNC	Fran McNair, DNR
Jeff Koenings WDFW	Ken Berg, USFWS	Doug Sutherland DNR
Lynn Bahrych,	Jody Bush, USFWS	Jeri Ahrenius
Bridget Moran WDFW	Jonathan White	Tom Cowan
Pete Kilpatrick	Peter Dykstra, TPL	Rich Doenges, DNR
Steve Simpson	Bernie Hargrave US	Krystyna Wolniakowski,
Ron Zee	COE	NFWF
Jeff Bash DOE	Fayette Krause, TNC	Sam Buck
Jeannie Summerhays	Kit Rawson,	Kevin Ranker,
DOE	Terry Williams, Tulalip	

NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

WDFW: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

DOE: WA Department of Ecology

NPS: National Park Service

TNC: The Nature Conservancy

USFWS: U S Fish and Wildlife Service

US COE: US Corps of Engineers

DNR: Washington Department of Natural Resources

NFWF: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

**General Public:**

Jack Cory	Michael Greenberg,	Debby,
Jody Kennedy (note	Mary Knackstedt,	Pamela Gross,
taker),	Hillary Culverwell,	Charlie Anderson,
Scott,	Ginny Broadhurst,	Jim Slocomb,
Mike Kaill	John Marks,	Stephanie Buffam-Field,
Marilyn O'Connor,	Georgia Bacia	Sharon Kavisto,
Joyce Lewin	Mike Griffen,	Scott Rasmussen,
Georgia Bacia	Tom Shultz,	Pete Rose,
John Marx	Steve Hussy,	Mike Sato,
Nancy Wright,	Skeet Lowe,	John Shannon
Chuck Scjoetomger,	Dale Marble	Barbar Marrett
Barbra Rosenkotter,	Rachel Dietzman,	Louisa Nishitani
Shireene Hale,	Will Hamilton,	
Sharon Abreu,	Laura Arnod,	

**Welcome**

Council Member Kevin Ranker welcomed the public and the meeting attendants. He recognized that the meeting is a landmark event for having so many different levels of government together to discuss improving resource protection.

Bill Ruckelshaus, Chair Partnership for Puget Sound, opened the meeting by inviting everyone's participation in the room. He recognized the need for cooperation to make the collective vision of a healthy Puget Sound a reality.

Krystyna Wolniakowski, NW Regional Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, thanked participants and stated her excitement about the San Juan Initiative and its potential to improve resource protection. Funding for the Initiative came out of a fund that directs money from legal penalties levied against polluters in the Puget Sound region to the improvement and protection of local resources.

### **Presentation of the Partnership for Puget Sound by Bill Ruckelshaus**

- There is no end point of restoring and protecting Puget Sound, it will need to be a sustained effort. We are never going to be able to walk away from a healthy Puget Sound.
- We are tied economically to the health of Puget Sound. The economy and the environment must work together.
- The Partnership is not a regulatory body. All the agencies contributing have regulatory authority. Our job is to coordinate these agencies and their policies. An accountability system will not be created until the action plan is developed and the leadership group can sit down with the agencies and develop a fair system for holding people accountable. Accountability is essential and one of the pieces found missing from other EBM efforts such as the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- The Partnership is charged with creating an Action Agenda to protect and restore Puget Sound by 2020.
  - o Improve water quality and habitat by managing stormwater runoff.
  - o Provide water for people, fish and wildlife and the environment.
  - o Protect ecosystem biodiversity and recover imperiled species.
  - o Build and sustain capacity for action.

Jim - Invitation to panelists to present questions, comments, hopes

*Jeff Koenings, Director of Department of Fish and Wildlife:*

Interested in being better listeners, want to get a lot out of this process and contribute. Can bring science as we go forward and we must use the best available science. Support a cooperative collaborative approach that is bottom-up. Believe an ecosystem approach is necessary to maintain biodiversity

Interplay between regulation, activities and local drivers – need to better understand how they work together. It's the Washington way to work with people through the collaborative approach. Not fast, but lasting.

*Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes*

At one point we were all one tribal family. And in the summers, we lived here in the San Juans. Over 200 tribes would come here. We, the tribes are also creating a regional approach – Coast Salish Aboriginal Chiefs – to build a plan for Puget Sound and the Straits of Georgia. The tribes can provide critical baseline understanding of the resources that once existed in this region. We have participated in the salmon plan and the marine stewardship area plan and we think that the San Juan has done a remarkable job. In Snohomish, the forum has been doing wonderful work. The Stillaguamish tribe and Stillaguamish Watershed Plan – these are examples of efforts that give the tribes confidence.

The partnership is the third large scale planning process that Terry has been involved with in 22 years. Ask Bill to provide the leadership to pull us through this and plans to hold Bill accountable.

*Jeannie Summerhays, Dept of Ecology*

Excited about opportunity to identify and plug gaps. Going to require us to leave our organizational identities at the door. If we have a product that we can take from this that says here are gaps, here are things that we can fix to other counties, that will be a big accomplishment.

Hopes:

- stormwater management, there is lots of overlap between her agency and local government and she is hopeful that there are some models that result from Partnership.
- shoreline development is another area, involves multiple layers including education
- low flows, tributaries need to be addressed.
- early creative solutions to environmental problem solving, meets needs of industry/businesses.
- Inform and assist with CAO and SMP updates.
- If this groups comes up with legislative changes, then we will need across the board support. This will empower at the legislature to make changes.Changes will need to be good for Sound, economy and health of residents.

*Bob Lohn, Regional Director of NOAA*

The Federal government can provide immense focused power, but in no way is the federal government able to lead an effort of this size and scope. We need long term local community support .

Where do I invest for the best gain for the public and resources given available funds. This project is an example of such an effort.

Solving ecosystem problems on a grand scale is the greatest problem facing resource managers all over the world. This can help solve problems for efforts elsewhere – inspire and inform efforts elsewhere.

*Ken Berg, Manager, USFWS*

These type of collaborative efforts couldn't be created by USFWS, but we appreciate being able to sit at the table and participate. Natural resources warrant more attention.

Interested in bringing the terrestrial focus into the marine conservation efforts in a holistic approach.

If this pilot can show that local and state policies are effective in protecting the listed species, then we do not need more federal regulations. Show that we don't need to list more species, etc. hope to be able to spread this as a model. Has identified the San Juans as a focus in their coastal mgt plan.

*Doug Sutherland, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources*

We have been involved in restoration efforts a long time, since superfund site was identified. Have been working to clean up badly polluted areas as a result of historic activities.

This effort (Partnership) looks not just at one area, but the entire Sound. Collectively we can bring the resources together that we need, if we are committed. Delighted that you folks in SJI are committed. It will be difficult, it will be frustrating but I am excited and optimistic.

*Kevin*

Bob, you said one agency can't do this alone. Same is true for one community; we can't do it alone either. We have the people around the table today to do this. We have to learn to bridge the gap between coastal economic conservation and economic development. Have to bridge the gap between local community needs, economic and development needs and the conservations

### **Overview of the Initiative – Amy Windrope**

The San Juan Initiative is a public-private partnership asking two central questions: How well are we protecting our ecosystem that fosters a vibrant community? How can we better protect the ecosystem in a way that supports the community? There are four phases and we are currently in the first phase: choosing priorities. I have asked five Policy Group members to introduce the 9 threats to the ecosystem that we think are most critical.

*Jonathan White: Notes attached.*

There are three overarching threats to the San Juan Island ecosystem:  
Population growth  
Climate change  
Threat of a catastrophic oil spill

*Lincoln Bormann*

Fresh water threats – providing adequate amounts for ecosystem functions and for residents.  
Surface water – quality and quantity  
Aquifer recharge

Don't have a map of aquifers in the county -- we don't know that much. But some important areas have been identified, and these areas coincide with areas of intense development.

*Saltwater intrusion*

People like to live on the coast, where salt water is most likely to intrude. Alternatives come with a set of potential problems that need to be addressed.

*Lynn Bahrych – notes attached.*

Threats to surface water processes

Natural vegetation, quantity and quality of terrestrial habitat, surface water processes

The San Juan Islands face a death by a thousand cuts. These cuts are single private family residents. What are we going to do to address these cuts? Under GMA, we are only 50 percent built out. The remaining 50 percent of the growth will happen in the most sensitive habitats and on the shoreline. Stormwater – it isn't just about impervious surfaces it is also about the loss of water retention when you disturb the soil. Need funding for low impact development in rural areas.

*Kit Rawson*

Concerns about losing biodiversity

Nearshore habitats

Marine water quality

Every agency here has had staff working with us on the MSA plan – thank you.

*Lisa Byers*

There are two key threats to the community: affordability and high population turnover. We need to keep those that work here, here. There is high percentage of the population that is discouraged, what does that do for a community? How do we connect people with the natural environment? The only way to do this is to integrate cultural changes into the way we live. Education will not reach poorer communities. Would like to see us measure our effectiveness over time.

*Sam Buck*

Water quality – caused by the things we buy at the grocery store and then gets dumped into the septic system.

*Tom Cowan*

The list of threats at the regional and local level seem to be the same. What are the ways through this initiative, that we can help the agencies achieve their mandates? How can the local level assist agencies meet their responsibilities?

Jim – take a look at that question, focusing on threats of shoreline development

*Doug Sutherland:* partnerships already happening in his agency

Areas where local community can help:

– creosote removal, locals can help identify logs

#### Sedimentation

- DNR is responsible for permitting construction or reconstruction of stormwater outfalls. When shifting from septic to stormwater outfall we need to work together.
- Mooring buoys – the placement is a significant issue for local governments and DNR.
- Derelict fishing gear
- Bulk heads – when they are changed and permitted, we need to work together.
- Community docks – when, where, how?

#### *Jeannie Summerhays:*

Prioritization – identify most important issues and sites and we can then deploy our resources. It is best for us to work in partnership on projects. This meeting is critical for getting the staffs together. We need support when asking for resources and political support from the legislature in order to take action. We need to target broad issues rather than case by case.

#### *Jeff K*

HPAs – trying to come up with an HCP to cover the HPA process. Community can offer input into that process.

How can a state agency with a statewide mandate help the more local processes. Let's pilot a project here that brings the agencies together in a different way and test effectiveness. Pilot projects build political credibility. Go to the legislature and give the agencies different authorities in this place to try out different ideas and develop a new model.

#### *Fran McNair*

Agrees with Jeff on the pilot

Working with this group on a simple pilot that can then be a model for the partnership. Keep it simple and small.

#### *Terry Williams*

We need to talk about climate. We should have required a damage deposit. In AK, sea level rise is already happening. We will see more erosion here – need to require more planting of native vegetation along the shoreline.

On-site storm-water

Well-head protection programs

Help small communities when developing water treatment plant. Assist small communities in applying the best technologies.

Protect the soft soils. In 86, found that there was more storm water from lawns than streets.

Leave the trees.

Restore beaver ponds, wetlands. Tulalip climate model – shows surface water loss at 30 percent.

#### *Ken Berg*

Develop fish friendly/habitat friendly approaches to development that they can use to expedite permitting processes. Minimize work around repetitive permit processes with programmatic permits

*Peter D.*

Model what can be accomplished here – match regulatory obligations and tap agencies in their nonregulatory functions – incentive-based programs. Get broader support for goals and apply incentive programs as much as regulatory.

**Public Comment:**

*Mike Kail*

Add measurable benchmarks to this process. Black rockfish are gone, quillback are gone. Why are we still fishing for rockfish? Why are there derbies, increasing numbers of derbies while we're trying to save salmon?

*Sandy Harold:*

When talking about solutions, make education a priority. Everything we know about science will not make a difference we do not change behaviors.

*Stephanie Buffum:*

What is going to keep us at the table as a cohesive group?

Capacity building

Customer service

Community change

*Sharon Abreu*

Resonates with what Lynn and Jonathan said on spirituality. Main concerns – growth and climate change. Come up with an energy plan for the county. Fish farms are a real concern for us. I am able to help you when you need to reach out to the community.

*Mike Greenberg*

As a nutritionist, I am very concerned with bioaccumulative toxins. Our health is tied to the health of the ecosystem. Well tended soil, organic produce can actually reduce the number of toxins in your body due to the soil in which the organic vegetables are grown.

*Mike Sato*

People are driven to action for a variety of reasons – appeal to multiple reasons for acting and you will get a majority – doing the right thing, social benefits, economic reasons.

Need to appeal to all groups of people. Target your audience.

*Fran McNair*

As a state agency, we need to know what local communities want and need from us. Must be bottom-up. A good example is the new regulations in Bainbridge Island that requires all docks to be community docks.

*Colonel McCormick*

There is \$35 million available to help protect Puget Sound and adjacent waters. A good example of a win-win at the Corps of Engineers is the beneficial reuse of dredge material.

*Bernie Hargrave*

The Corps struggles to address shoreline armoring because once it gets to the Corps the project is often far down the road. Need to shift decision making to be more pre-emptive.

*Steve Simpson*

Would feel better leaving this meeting if we had a biased toward action. Would like everyone at this meeting to take part in the education of the broader community. Act now, measure later.

*Sam Buck*

Encourage people to question the products that they buy. Would like agency heads to get together and pick one subject – one prioritized one subject and then approached the policy group to address this one subject.

*Doug Sutherland*

How about the community identifies the priorities and then come back to the agencies. Will not tell the community what to do. That's not bottom-up.

*Nick Jones*

70 percent of the people who have authority over the issues that I deal with are in this room – I really appreciate that. Once we crystallize the issues, we will be able to deal with them.

### **Closing the meeting:**

*Krystyna*

- suggests we develop a coordinated education plan
- document what it is that makes this process works. This information will inform efforts that model after this. Will help with funding.

*Bill*

People are moving to the coast. They are older and better educated and richer.

Need to understand our own economy/ demographics

Make economics an important part of our analysis. What drives the people who are not here. Need to understand/ appeal to their needs

Educate the people who have retired. They are here for the resources

This process is top down and bottom-up, like the salmon plan. Congress listed the species, agencies set the fish goals, people figured out how to do it.

Need to be clear about what we are trying to accomplish. Need to set goals.

Appreciate the bias for action.

Manage adaptively

*Kevin*

This process will go further. Thank you