

WASHINGTON COAST SUSTAINABLE SALMON PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF REGIONAL MEETING CONFERENCE CALL

December 17, 2008

In attendance:

Nancy Allison, Executive Director, WCSSP
Miles Batchelder, Program Assistant, WCSSP
Phil Miller, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

WDFW

Lauri Vigue, Lead Entity/Watershed
Steward Coordinator
Bob Burkle, Watershed Stewardship
Team

North Pacific Coast Lead Entity

Rich Osborne, Lead Entity Coordinator
Devona Ensmenger, Wild Salmon
Center
John Richmond, City of Forks
Katie Krueger, Quileute Natural
Resources

Quinalt Nation Lead Entity

John Sims, Lead Entity Coordinator
Dave Bingaman, Quinalt Indian Nation
Bill Armstrong, Quinalt Indian Nation
Tony Hartrich, Quinalt Indian Nation

Grays Harbor County Lead Entity

Lee Napier, Lead Entity Coordinator
Eric Delvin, The Nature Conservancy
Lonnie Crumley, Streamworks
Nichole Hill, Cascade Land
Conservancy
Doug Fricke, Chehalis Basin Fisheries
Task Force

Pacific County Lead Entity

Mike Johnson, Lead Entity Coordinator
Key McMurry, Ecological Land Services,
Inc.

Business Meeting

Executive Director Nancy Allison convened by conference call at 1:10 p.m.

All present on the call identified themselves.

Draft Work Plan from Tony Hartrich, QIN

The first item on the Agenda was the review of the Draft Work Plan from Tony Hartrich to gather, review and analyze existing data to aid the WCSSP in developing funding allocation criteria and weighting factors among the five WRIAs within the coast region.

A question was raised about the estimated cost of the project and whether it needed to go out for a bid. It was pointed out that a project under \$20K does not need to go out for bid. Tony pointed out that he prepared a draft scope of work and not an estimate, but he concluded the project would take between 30 and 50 hours. At approximately \$50 per hour the total project would be no more than \$2500.

Katie Krueger suggested WCSSP document why Tony is being considered a sole provider to cover the decision not to put the project out to bid.

Tony Hartrich, GIS Manager for the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN), was chosen as the sole provider for this project because the Quinault Indian Nation's GIS program had provided some initial GIS analysis for the prior year's SRFB funding allocation round, which led to his being asked to attend the November technical discussion, and where he was informed of the initial requirements of the group. The QIN's GIS shop has the expertise to accomplish the task, and can do it in a timely manner consistent with the needs of the WCSSP.

Phil Miller emphasized the value of these data and the importance of capturing the results of the investigation so it will not be necessary to pull this information together again.

Other thoughts and concerns included: the possibility of expanding on this inquiry to more than river miles but the quality of those miles, e.g. the abundance and potential abundance of fish, carrying capacity estimates, harvestable estimates, observed spawning, etc.

It was generally agreed and understood that the data to be generated through this project is a baseline upon which greater detail can be built over time. The scope of this

project is limited to gathering the data currently available from multiple sources and combining it into a form the WCSSP can use in determining an allocation formula for future SRFB project funding.

Lauri Vigue presented several comments she received from David Price. After some discussion she stated that she would forward additional information and these comments to Nancy Allison for distribution to the group.

Tony indicated that he will have the data ready by the end of January for review by early February by the Technical Review Committee.

Dave Bingaman will work with Lee Napier after the first of the year to arrange for payment to the Quinault Indian Nation for Tony's work. Payment will come out of the QIN Lead Entity line item in the WCSSP budget.

Minutes of November 19, 2008

Nancy reported that the minutes from the November 19 meeting had not yet been delivered by Puget Sound Meeting Services due to a staff shortage. She reported they are expected at any time and will be distributed as soon as they are received.

Nancy asked the group to review the minutes carefully because of the exceptional detail provided by Val Gow of Puget Sound Meeting Services.

Executive Director's Report

New Staff - Miles Batchelder accepted the position of Program Assistant and has been on board for a little over two weeks. Nancy reported that Miles' main job would be to interface with the lead entity groups so she asked that everyone make an effort to keep Miles in the loop.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grants – All but one of the WCSSP's projects proposed to the SRFB for funding were approved at the quarterly SRFB meeting on December 12, 2008. The Quinault Indian Nation, WRIA 21, requested that one project be held off for consideration until the SRF Board's February meeting after additional consideration from the review panel. The Board agreed and it will be on the agenda in February.

Nancy announced that a \$1 million match had been received today from the Cascade Land Conservancy for the Hoquiam Surge Plain acquisition.

Interlocal Agreement – one more signature has been received (from Thurston County). As soon as the signature page arrives at the WCSSP office it will be passed to Lee Napier for Grays Harbor County signature and Mike Johnson for Pacific County signature. Jefferson and Clallam counties will follow.

There was general discussion about the willingness of various agents to sign the agreement. Additional discussion followed about the mechanics of sending a single signature page for each group – counties, cities, ports, tribes – from one entity for a signature, then on to another and so on. It is a time consuming process. Nancy said she will be coordinating signature gathering with trips she has planned in the region over the next month.

Nancy requested those in the Lead Entity Groups do what they can to discuss the agreement with signatories and help obtain commitments to sign. It was agreed that another copy of the final version would be transmitted to make sure everyone has the final version on hand to facilitate these discussions.

Workplan – A draft was presented to the group last month. The discussion and comments from that meeting have been incorporated. Nancy has developed a spreadsheet around the updated document and distributed via email to all members of the interim committee.

Minor errors and omissions on the spreadsheet were noted and will be corrected. Nancy called for and received consensus on the spreadsheet and suggested that given the consensus, she will use this version and work with Miles to flesh out the details for use through the end of the biennium.

Regional Allocation Task Force (RATF) – Nancy distributed a copy of the RATF's summary recommendations to the SRF Board. The Board will not act on these until their February meeting. It is a very lengthy document, so was not deemed appropriate to enter into a lengthy discussion today.

Web Site – A draft web page has been built and is available now for review by the committee. During the discussion the link was forwarded via email to the group for review.

The original art work which will be used for the logo is included on the home page, but we are working with a graphic designer to develop an actual logo using the original art work.

Miles pointed out that this is only a preliminary draft of just the home page. The intent is to emphasize the independence of each of the Lead Entities in their WRIAs and to make available individual web sites within the WCSSP web site that we can host for the Lead Entities. Miles asked members of the group to forward any thoughts, impressions or suggestions on the web site.

Regional Planning Process

Nancy began the discussion noting that Devona Ensmenger and the Wild Salmon Center are beginning the development of a Needs Assessment for the Coast Region and that it would be a good idea to partner WCSSP's Regional Plan development with The Wild Salmon Center's process.

General questions to be considered for this process: Do we form a planning committee separate from the interim board? Do we engage a facilitator to help lead the group through the preparation of the plan?

Nancy turned the lead of the discussion over to Devona Ensmenger to explain where she is in the process. She explained this is a Needs Assessment, an effort to synthesize information already available across the region. The results would be useful to secure funding to compliment regional planning. There is a need for a technical committee to work on the project. In addition to the people already at the table, she would like to draw in others with expertise, time and interest in participating. She is looking for suggestions.

A wide ranging discussion ensued, covering multiple elements of both the Wild Salmon Center's Needs Assessment and the WCSSP Regional Planning process. Points and issues included:

Useful outlines of similar processes are available in WDFW recovery planning and The Nature Conservancy planning approach. The methodology for decision-making process is nearly identical in these two documents.

Eric Devlin reported that The Nature Conservancy is very excited and supportive of this process and would be willing to make a planner available to assist. Devona Ensmenger

reported that she has also been in discussions with John Kleim from Community Solutions about engaging him to work on the project as a facilitator.

It was generally agreed that the WCSSP Regional Planning process shall work in tandem with The Wild Salmon Center's Needs Assessment. Questions were raised about the make-up of the committees that will work on these projects. Do we need a separate planning committee? Do we need another Technical committee?

It was suggested that the existing interim committee could be considered and used as the planning committee. Additionally, a "work group" will be formed to engage in the process (separate from the monthly WCSSP regional meetings), to sort through work that needs to be done and to present policy and proposals to the Interim Advisory Committee.

The suggestion was that this work group should be made of up Nancy Allison, Devona Ensmenger, The Nature Conservancy Planner and the Lead Entity Coordinators. If a facilitator is engaged to assist with the project, that person should also be a part of the work group.

Further discussion included:

- The need to distinguish between two different groups: a technical committee and a policy committee. The policy committee will be the Interim Advisory Committee and Nancy will forward a request of interest to the coast technical group and other coast stakeholders to determine who will populate the technical committee.
- The need to reach out to others with expertise and capacity, and the need to be respectful of their time when asking for assistance.
- The importance of full representation of all stake holders in the process. Each co-manager (tribe, state, federal) should have a significant role in the plan's development, but depending on their capacities and interests, must self-determine their roles.
- Requests for participation and suggestions should be made to WDFW, US Fish and Wildlife, and NOAA Fisheries.
- Membership in the planning process should be extended to all signers of the Interlocal Agreement.
- How the technical and non-technical aspects of the process will interface.
- The need to clarify what a facilitator would be doing for us.

Devona Ensmenger suggested that nobody worry about it until after the holidays, but shortly after the first of the year she would like everyone to provide input on who they want to see involved.

Everyone should respond by the second week in January. Nancy will send out an email reminder.

Nancy will call on the members of the proposed “work group” to help her come up with a “straw man” approach to the plan, to conceptualize what the plan should look like, as a focal point for beginning the process.

Next Meeting

Due to the fact that this meeting had to be abbreviated into a conference call and there is a need for some in depth, focused work on the Regional Planning Process, Nancy suggested that the next meeting, scheduled for January 21, 2009, be extended to a full day retreat. Lunch would be included for the group.

In addition to the planning document, the agenda will include the final make up of the WCSSP board if time permits.

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.