

**22nd Meeting of the BC/WA Environmental Cooperation Council
October 28, 2005
Delta Ocean Pointe Resort, Victoria, BC**

Participants:

Chris Trumpy	BC Ministry of Environment
Jay Manning	Washington State Dept. of Ecology
Wilf Luedke	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ron Kreizenbeck	US Environmental Protection Agency Region 10
Brad Ack	Puget Sound Action Team
George Boggs	Whatcom Conservation District
Doug Brown	Washington State Dept. of Ecology
Jim Carruthers	UBC Grad Student
Anthony Danks	BC Ministry of Environment
John Dohrmann	Puget Sound Action Team
Jenny Fraser	BC Ministry of Environment
David Grace	BC Ministry of Environment
Richard Grout	Washington State Dept. of Ecology
Nancy Helm	US Environmental Protection Agency Region 10
Ben Kangasniemi	BC Ministry of Environment
Bruce Kay	Environment Canada - Pacific & Yukon Region
Tom Laurie	Washington State Dept. of Ecology
Penny Lloyd	BC Ministry of Environment
Jennifer Maxwell	BC Ministry of Environment
Jennifer McGuire	BC Ministry of Environment
Martin Mullan	Environment Canada Pacific & Yukon Region
Glen Okrainetz	BC Ministry of Environment
Sukumar Periwal	BC Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat
Neil Peters	BC Ministry of Environment
Michael Rylko	US Environmental Protection Agency Region 10
Peter Trotzki	BC Ministry of Environment

Record of Discussion:

<p>Introductions and Opening Comments: Outline of priority issues for collaboration and cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As this was the first meeting for both ECC co-chairs, some time was spent at the beginning of the meeting understanding the differences in jurisdiction between the province and state and their respective federal governments, and how responsibilities are delegated and divided for environmental protection. • There was some discussion about how BC engages local government and First Nations in environmental protection. 	<p>Chris Trumpy Jay Manning</p>
<p>Washington Marine Initiatives from the State's 2005 Legislative Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-outs and updates were provided on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Puget Sound Conservation & Recovery Plan Highlights 2. Washington Ocean Policy Work Group 3. Washington Oil Spill Advisory Group 4. Washington Ballast Water Work Group 5. Hood Canal <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC was invited to participate in the Washington Ocean Policy Work Group. • BC and Washington are both active in the West Coast Ballast Water Work Group. • The Transboundary Oil Spill Work Group is functional and effective. Ongoing participation was encouraged. 	<p>John Dohrmann</p>
<p>Presentation on the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Task Force</p> <p>- The presentation outlined the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The history of the Puget Sound Georgia Basin International Task Force (PS-GB ITF) • Recent ITF activities • ITF challenges and opportunities • Proposed future directions for the ITF <p>Discussion on the future direction of the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Task Force</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECC approved the PS-GB ITF's proposal to focus on the following priority areas in the near term: toxics, invasive species, orca recovery, marine protected areas. The PS-GB ITF was asked to develop a workplan with specific targets and goals. • Over the longer term, the Task Force will seek opportunities to achieve its objectives by aligning with broader initiatives such as Canada's Oceans Action Plan and the Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan. • ECC asked that it be given the opportunity to review the Puget Sound Georgia Basin Transboundary Indicators Report before it is publicly released. • A number of challenges facing the PS-GB ITF are related to governance. ECC asked the task force to look at governance options and to bring back recommendations. 	<p>John Dohrmann Jennifer Maxwell</p>

<p>Presentation on the International Airshed Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was an update on Georgia Basin/Puget Sound International Airshed Strategy under USEPA and Environment Canada Statement of Intent. • The purpose of the GB-PS International Airshed Strategy is, through international and regional co-operation and collaboration to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce the impacts of air pollution to human health, ecosystems, and visibility in the GB-PS airshed; - Prevent future deterioration and work towards continuous improvement of air quality in the GB-PS region; and - Establish practical and effective instruments to address shared concerns regarding transboundary air pollution in the GB-PS region. • The Council was asked to support the International Airshed Strategy process. <p>Council Discussion of the International Airshed Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine emissions are becoming a more dominant source of air emissions in the region. Transboundary collaboration in this area is essential. • Washington and Oregon have announced recently that they will be adopting California's more stringent vehicle emissions standards. In Canada, there are more voluntary efforts than legislative actions (e.g. hybrid buses). • Both BC and Washington are beginning to look at railroad emissions. • Air quality improvement initiatives in Washington include pilot projects to use orchard wood and wheat stubble to make paper rather than burning the agricultural waste, and a biofuels initiative involving planting dedicated fuel crops as one way to work towards energy independence in the agricultural sector. • Key air quality issues for Washington are diesel vehicle emissions and visibility. • Emerging issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agricultural sector emissions – cows in Washington and chickens in BC. - Both Hope and Enumclaw, areas downwind of Vancouver and Seattle, are experiencing elevated ozone levels as a result of emissions generated in the cities. - Rising gas and oil prices are leading to the use of other cheaper fuel types. For example, burning of wood to heat homes and other buildings. - ECC supported the International Air Strategy and the ongoing work of this Task Force. 	<p>Nancy Helm</p> <p>Martin Mullan</p>
<p>Report from the Nooksack River International Task Force</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nooksack River International Task Force (NRITF) was formed shortly after major flooding in November, 1990, and is comprised of federal, state, provincial, county and city representatives. The purpose of the Task Force is to exchange information, co-ordinate technical studies and make recommendations on potential projects and solutions that would alleviate flood damages on both sides of the international border. 	<p>Neil Peters</p> <p>Richard Grout</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although significant collaborative efforts over the past several years have improved emergency response and floodplain management, the actual potential for flooding in the overflow corridor has not been significantly mitigated by “on the ground” works. • The presentation outlined the flood hazard, Task Force activities, work completed and in progress and flood model animation – impacts of a large flood in Sumas Prairie, Abbotsford. <p>Discussion on the Nooksack River International Task Force</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are links to climate change – we need to look ahead and plan for scenarios of greater intensity and frequency of floods. • The NRITF is looking at options for reducing flood damage. It needs to complete flood modelling, determine what criteria will be used to identify the best alternative, and evaluate the options. This analysis will be brought back to ECC at a future meeting. • Chris Trumpy expressed that this Task Force is a good example of a reason why the two jurisdictions should work together. • Jay Manning indicated that international equity is important in sharing the load of the costs associated with flood mitigation. • The Nooksack River International Task Force will analyze the potential options and present them at the next ECC meeting. 	
<p>Report from the Sumas Abbotsford Aquifer ITF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A substantial number of people in both Whatcom County and the Fraser Valley currently rely on well water to meet all or part of their drinking water needs. The Sumas Abbotsford aquifer is comprised of highly permeable sediments and has a shallow depth to the water table, thus making it very vulnerable to contamination. • On the Canadian side, a combination of intensive agricultural activity and a growing urban/industrial population poses a double threat. On the U.S. side, the threat to the aquifer comes primarily from agricultural activities. Nitrates in the water come primarily from manure, chemical fertilizers and faulty septic systems. • Nutrient plans, proper waste disposal, and alternative agricultural operations are potential solutions to address the excessive nitrate issue. • In a recent audit of manure management practices in Abbotsford, 76% of farms did not have nutrient management plans. <p>Discussion on the Sumas Abbotsford Aquifer ITF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The intensity of agriculture is the key problem. • Stronger regulation and increased compliance are needed. • A change to the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation in BC is needed. • The Task Force is effective in sharing information and undertaking collaborative activities. 	<p>Jennifer McGuire</p> <p>Richard Grout</p>
<p>BC Climate Change (adaptation to climate change) Presentation</p> <p>- The presentation outlined the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impacts of climate change; 	<p>Jenny Fraser</p> <p>Ben Kangasniemi</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC's plan; • Plan implementation; • Adaptation actions and initiatives; • Accomplishments and next steps; and • Opportunities for BC-WA partnerships. <p>Council Discussion of Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BC has two full-time staff working on adaptation. - Monitoring is shared by the province and the federal government. - BC to send copies of the Climate Change Action Plan to US ECC members. - Jay Manning suggested that the BC Climate Change staff be brought to Washington to outline the process that has been undertaken in BC. 	
<p>Next meeting – suggested date and location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tom Laurie will contact Jennifer Maxwell and Penny Lloyd in regards to the date and location of the next ECC meeting. 	<p>Tom Laurie</p> <p>Penny Lloyd</p> <p>Jennifer Maxwell</p>