

23rd Meeting of the BC/WA Environmental Cooperation Council

November 29th, 2006

Red Lion River Inn, Spokane, WA

Participants:

Chris Trumpy	BC Ministry of Environment
Jay Manning	Washington State Dept. of Ecology
Wilf Luedke	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Tom Eaton	US EPA Region 10 Washington Office
Paul Kluckner	Environment Canada
Ross Neil	Environment Canada
Kathleen Drew	Washington Governor's Office
John Dohrmann	Puget Sound Action Team
David Grace	BC Ministry of Environment
Jamie Alley	BC Ministry of Environment
Barron Carswell	BC Ministry of Environment
Kathy Eichenberger	BC Ministry of Environment
Robyn Roome	BC Ministry of Environment
Glen Davidson	BC Ministry of Environment
Tom Laurie	Washington State Dept. of Ecology
Derek Sandison	Washington State Dept. of Ecology
Brian Farmer	Washington State Dept. of Ecology
Gerry O'Keefe	Washington State Dept. of Ecology
Chris Maynard	Washington State Dept. of Ecology

Record of Discussion:

<p>Welcome, Introductions & Opening Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jay Manning and Chris Trumpy welcomed all to the 23rd meeting of the British Columbia – Washington State Environmental Cooperation Council. This was the second meeting with Jay and Chris as co-chairs. (See attendee list, above.) ▪ Handouts included the October 25, 2005 Record of Discussion and update reports from the international task forces on Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer Water Quality, Nooksack River Flooding and the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound International Airshed Strategy. 	<p>Jay Manning Chris Trumpy</p>
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<p>Total Dissolved Gas Group Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chris Maynard provided an overview of the Transboundary Gas Group organization, purpose and activities. A copy of his presentation will be posted on the ECC website. The ECC discussed the TDGG work and influence on cooperative dam operations. ▪ Glen Davidson added an update on activities related to dissolved gas management and abatement related activities at Hugh Keenleyside, Revelstoke and Waneta dams. 	<p>Chris Maynard</p>
<p>Columbia River Water Management Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gerry O’Keefe and Derek Sandison of the Dept. of Ecology gave an overview presentation of the Washington’s new Columbia River Water Management Program. This program was established by the state legislature in 2006 to create new opportunities for using water from conservation and storage in the Columbia basin for both in-stream and out-of-stream use. A key aspect of the program is protecting and enhancing flows needed for fish in critical summer months. ▪ ECC members discussed the program and possible cross-border implications. ▪ More information on the projects under this program, including a draft Environmental Impact Statement on mainstem storage options and a Columbia basin supply and demand study, are available from Ecology’s home page: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/ or directly at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/crwmp.html 	<p>Gerry O’Keefe Derek Sandison</p>
<p>Columbia River Integrated Environmental Monitoring Program (CRIEMP) update and other transboundary initiatives along the Columbia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Robyn Roome of the Ministry of the Environment gave an update on the Columbia River Integrated Environmental Monitoring Program. She provided overview of the history and current operation of the program and gave a status report on current studies. ▪ More information on CRIEMP can be found at: http://www.criemp.org/ ▪ Kathy Eichenberger discussed other approaches to collaborative basin activities that the Ministry is involved in or considering. She outlined the Ministry’s involvement in the newly emerging Canadian Columbia River Forum. 	<p>Robyn Roome Kathy Eichenberger</p>

<p>Governance options for renewed collaboration of PS/GB Task Force</p> <p>The ECC discussed the value of the past work of the Task Force and the emerging new context of cross-border marine issues outlined in the previous discussion. Representation and interest remains strong at the technical and scientific levels but needs reinvigoration at the policy and possibly governance levels. Opportunity to strengthen BC-WA relations within the context of existing initiatives on both sides of the border including the Puget Sound Partnership, WA Governors Policy on Oceans, the WA, OR and California Governors agreement on Oceans Health and through the Canadian Oceans Action Plan etc.</p> <p>The ECC discussed the benefit of expanding the charge of the task force to include all marine issues. They also discussed the need to see what actions Washington State will take in the upcoming legislative session based on recommendations from the Puget Sound Partnership.</p> <p>ECC directed the co-chairs of the GB-PS Task Force - Jamie Alley (MOE) and John Dohrmann (WA Ecology) - to continue exploring options on how to further enhance collaboration between BC and WA in the context of existing initiatives on both sides of the border and report back to the ECC by March.</p> <p>Some general comments included: identify shared priorities, keep it simple, bring together key individuals, perhaps in an advisory role. Continue having the discussion on options related to renewed collaboration and possibly governance (one suggestion was develop a “white paper”) but also focus on joint action opportunities. Don’t let the larger conversation on new approaches/governance interfere with identifying shorter term actions.</p>	<p>John Dohrmann Jamie Alley</p>
<p>Discussion/direction for Joint Cabinet Governor/Premier meeting</p> <p>The Co-Chairs discussed possible agenda topics for a proposed meeting of the Governor and Premier to take place in June '07. The ECC acknowledged numerous mutually beneficial cross-border activities underway and the prospect for more with the Winter Olympics coming to British Columbia. The Co-Chairs asked staff to look into cross-border initiatives that might be ripe for high level discussion.</p>	<p>Jay Manning Chris Trumpy</p>
<p>Next Meeting - suggested date / location</p> <p>No date was set for the next ECC meeting which will be held in British Columbia.</p>	<p>Jay Manning Chris Trumpy</p>