

**R.I. Bays, Rivers & Watersheds Coordination Team
Public Advisory Committee
*Minutes - March 17, 2005***

Members attending: Michael Ryan; Michael Rauh; Jack Schempp; Judith Swift; Robert Lefebvre; Mike McGiveney; Christopher D'Ovidio; Jennifer McCann; Jenny Pereira; Richard Ribb; Rupert Friday; David Zoglio; Linda Jzyk; Jane Austin; Denise Leone. Also attending: Peg Parker (House Policy Office). Chaired by Chip Young, URI Coastal Institute.

- C. Young described the legislative intent for the Public Advisory Committee (PAC).
- He noted that it makes sense to conduct PAC business over the Web whenever possible
- C. Dovidio asked how do comments or products get into the CT system
- R. Ribb noted that that role of the PAC was beyond communications; the PAC is the broad-based stakeholder review group that can influence the Coordination Team decisionmaking process. It can participate in the SLP development; participate in SLP workplan development and budgets. Other implementation needs that could be addressed by the PAC include financing strategy; interstate coordination; coordination with municipalities, NGOs, and watershed councils; coordination with federal initiatives; production of public forums; development of CT communications strategy and interface with the public; noted that the Puget Sound Action Team PAC has a strong role in reviewing the effectiveness of the process and adherence to goals and budgets, it builds in more accountability.
- R. Ribb asked if a role for federal partners could be created – bring them in as ex-officio, non-voting members – we are planning to spend federal dollars and need to have these agencies have a seat at the table is we expect them to support the systems level plan – the legislation states that the “membership should include but not be limited to....”
- Next steps: compile list of needed additional members on the PAC.
- J. Austin noted that the PAC could use a presentation on the existing products and process that brought us to this point – Systems Level Plan outline and Scope of Work development; implementation framework needs, etc.
- J. Swift noted the Chesapeake Bay effort has not had much impact—need to address economic, environmental and social justice issues—to show people what the profit is in stewardship.
- It was recommended that the PAC initially focus on its legislative charges.

Meeting outcomes:

- Distribute Systems Level Plan outline, Scope of Work, Timeline and EMC report to PAC members
- PAC members will send in comments and suggestions for next agenda
- Chip Young is elected Chair; Jane Austin elected Vice-Chair.