



Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Thurston Regional Planning Council

2424 Heritage Ct. SW, Olympia, WA 98502

Meeting 1 — June 6, 2016

SUMMARY NOTES

Meeting Facilitator: Paul Brewster, TRPC

Presenter: Michael Burnham, TRPC

In Attendance:

Name	Organization
Cynthia Pratt	City of Lacey
Rich Hoey	City of Olympia
Randy Schleis	City of Rainier
Dan Smith	City of Tumwater
Grant Beck	City of Yelm
Candace Penn	Squaxin Island Tribe
Allison Osterberg	Thurston County
Bill Paulen	Resident
Barb Scavezze	Resident
Lisa Denis Perez	LOTT Clean Water Alliance
Morgan Greene	Nisqually River Foundation
Rachel Jamison	Port of Olympia
Amy Tousley	Puget Sound Energy
Lisa Palazzi	SCJ
Scott Morgan	The Evergreen State College
Graeme Sackrison	Thurston Climate Action Team
Amy Hatch-Winecka	Thurston Conservation District
Ramsey Zimmerman	Thurston EDC
Andrew Kinney	TC Emergency Management
Chris Hawkins	TC Public Health
Scott Davis	TC Public Works
Mark Maurer	TC Water Resources

Greeting and Introduction

Paul Brewster acted as the facilitator for this meeting. He began by reviewing the materials included in the project binder and asking that each member of the stakeholder committee introduce him or herself to the group. Members of the project team and others present also introduced themselves.

Presentation: Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan Overview

Michael Burnham, project lead for the Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan, gave a brief overview of the project and the role the stakeholder advisory committee plays in it.

Sustainable Thurston has a dozen Priority Goals – three of which related directly to water and climate change:

- Protect and improve water quality, including groundwater, rivers, streams, lakes, and the Puget Sound.
- Ensure that the region's water supply sustains people in perpetuity while protecting the environment
- Move toward a carbon-neutral community

One of the first action steps in moving toward a carbon-neutral community is to create a regional Climate Action Plan. **Such a plan requires both mitigation actions** (actions we can take to reduce our emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases) **and adaptation actions** (steps we can take to cope with projected changes in Thurston's climate).

The project is being funded by a National Estuary Program grant and thus only applies to watersheds that drain into Puget Sound. The purpose of the project is to produce a watershed-based plan with actions to prepare for and cope with climate impacts. Although this project is confined to WRIAs 11, 13, and 14, the goal is to come up with a number of strategies and actions that may be implementable in other watersheds, including the Chehalis.

Climatologists project that the Pacific Northwest will see warmer and wetter winters and hotter, drier summers in the decades ahead. This could mean shrinking snowpack, rising seas, and more frequent and intense droughts and fires that affect both the built and natural environments including farms, the urban shorelines, forests, and fisheries.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2014 assessment report, a report peer-reviewed by scientists around the globe, concludes that adaptation is unavoidable. Even if we halt emissions today, the global temperature will continue to rise as result of what we've already emitted.

Burnham also reviewed the scope of the project and the Stakeholder Advisory Committee's role in it. Scientific models will be used to project regional changes in temperature, precipitation, snowpack, and sea-level rise. Using this information, vulnerabilities in the built and natural environments will be identified so that the associated risks can be assessed (i.e. the probability and consequence of occurrence). Once the vulnerabilities have been identified and assessed, adaptation strategies can be developed. The project team will work with consultants to conduct cost/benefit analyses of various strategies. The plan is to incorporate the work TRPC and its partners have undertaken, including TRPC's hazard mitigation plan and Thurston County's Drought Plan.

The climate adaptation planning effort is being guided by this stakeholder committee as well as a scientific advisory group. On a regular basis, the project team will also check in with policymakers and seek final adoption of the plan by Thurston Regional Planning Council. The result of this project is to be a menu of strategies that local governments can integrate into their comprehensive plans, development codes, and other policies.

Discussion: Questions and Comments

Paul Brewster opened the discussion by reviewing three questions the project team has for the committee. Brewster provided a few minutes for committee members to write down their thoughts on each before asking the shareholders to respond to the questions. The following are the committee's responses.

A. *What do you regard as a successful Project outcome?*

1. Practical action plans
 - Commitment to action to deal with the issues
 - Mitigation and adaption both important
2. Identify what individuals can do
3. Realistic and actionable plan
4. Plan based on scenarios
5. Plan that identifies trigger events/circumstances that sets things in action
6. Needs to be implementable
7. How to create change
8. List of areas of vulnerability
9. Realistic plan of action
10. Look at what other adaptation plans out there
11. Shell fish and salmon concerns
12. Indigenous Health Indicators (IHIs)
 - Natural resource security
13. Realistic and workable
14. Applicable to Thurston County
15. Translatable to other watersheds – ecological, social, and economic adaptations
16. Flexible actionable stakeholder buy-in
17. Not wholly reliant on outside funding
18. Adaptable over time as things change
19. Continue coordination after this effort is done
20. Protect the most vulnerable – species and people (even those not on this committee)
21. Not recreating the wheel
22. Sustainable Thurston is integrated – comprehensive
23. Ability to make earnest change
24. No-regret strategies – i.e. strategies that work whether or not climate change happens (ex: culvert/fish passages)
25. Non-polarizing
26. Assessing vulnerabilities - be specific as it's the key factor in getting people doing something
27. Coastal and inland focus (people who don't live by the coast may not think it's a big deal – what's their take-away?)
28. Who is audience?
 - Clear methodology
 - Identify key impacts we want to address
 - Clear actionable strategies
 - Socio-economically balances – triple bottom line
 - Draw on existing work
 - Science-based
29. Recognize different needs for different communities
30. Be aware of up/down stream impacts of action
31. Measurable milestones/targets/trigger points
32. Focus on vulnerable populations
 - Families with young children
 - Health impacts
 - Be broad in engagement
33. Identify and implement priorities and projects
34. Needs to be adaptable
35. Clear definition of local and regional risks and probabilities
36. Well-defined priorities
37. Processes in place for reacting to changes
38. Communicate the vulnerabilities
39. Identify areas where more data is needed
40. Achievable action items
41. Measurable outcomes
42. Interaction with other plans

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| <p>43. Broad understanding of science, understand as a group, and communicate to the community</p> <p>44. Identify strongholds – where are we most resilient?</p> <p>45. This is a big topic and daunting – facilitate community engagement.</p> | <p>46. Broad understanding of science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make it local • Multiple appeals to multiple constituencies <p>47. Address mitigation and adaptation</p> <p>48. Economic (negative and positive impacts)</p> <p>49. Realistic but don't aim too low</p> |
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B. What concerns do you have about climate change impacts on our region?

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| <p>1. Impacts to region in context of global action/inaction</p> <p>2. Identify vulnerable entities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downtown Olympia • LOTT • Who will be affected first and most? <p>3. Impacts on agriculture and fisheries</p> <p>4. Not a static plan – update and modify</p> <p>5. Solutions address cross-jurisdiction</p> <p>6. Human impacts we will see – especially for the Tribe</p> <p>7. Garnering interest in the project in South County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All county not just north • Don't lose sight of rural communities <p>8. Non-climate issues with climate issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population growth <p>9. Water quality</p> <p>10. LOTT's ability to provide services and keep water clean</p> <p>11. Not working fast enough, don't know enough, underestimate impacts</p> <p>12. Food, water, infrastructure security</p> <p>13. Ecosystems shifting faster than nature can adapt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can't model everything • Start talking about extremes | <p>14. Changes in water resources</p> <p>15. Climate refugees</p> <p>16. Identify key impacts – process issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solutions come from rural communities – forestry, food etc. • Jurisdictional capacity. What can we actually affect? • Social buy-in. How do people understand this? <p>17. Water availability</p> <p>18. Maintaining water flows in riparian zones</p> <p>19. Impacts of severe weather on health, safety, and infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tie to mitigation – co-benefits <p>20. Extreme weather – amount of resources needed to respond to existing weather will consume ability to mitigate</p> <p>21. Water erosion, quality, availability</p> <p>22. Magnification/cumulation of impacts will be hard to predict</p> <p>23. Cost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we be proactive to save costs minimize impacts? • Business practices – how do we start adapting? (ex: mowing and fire risks) <p>24. Water quantity – both over and under abundance</p> |
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C. What else do you want us to know or consider as we work on this project?

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| <p>1. Look at best practices</p> <p>2. Include a professional economist in the stakeholder advisory committee</p> <p>3. Cost/benefit analyses of strategies/ impacts/actions</p> | <p>4. Make sure plan/actions are adaptable over time</p> <p>5. Disaster recovery – keep including in the discussion</p> <p>6. Our lives are going to change</p> |
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7. Dive into topics in more depth – they’re going to affect people differently
8. Carbon emissions inventory (include Tribe)
9. Disaster Recovery phase scares me
10. Education and outreach
11. Ecosystem services as a funding source
12. Water – what can we do now to get ahead of issues?
13. How do we shift to adapt? Ex: irrigation/less water
14. Integrate with other existing plans
15. How do we negotiate with those that don’t recognize the problem? How do we word things to resonate with many people?
16. Public safety component (recovery)
17. Project life cycles – ex: bridge construction – can it be resilient?
18. Be critical and question the science – make sure it makes sense
19. Get to conversation about solutions not just climate change
20. NOAA training/education
21. Reach the kids through science teachers
22. Outreach to community – what keeps you up at night? (it will get better, worse, no change)
23. Meet people where they’re at
 - Win-win solutions
24. Build on existing strategies/experiences
25. Look at energy infrastructure
 - Hydropower
 - Climate refugees
 - Reducing energy consumption will help with both adaptation and mitigation
26. Good strong link between climate adaptation plan and other efforts including mitigation
27. Coordinate efforts – Olympia sea-level rise action plan (Port, LOTT, WA state involved as well); coordinated but not duplicated
28. Long-term infrastructure and eco system services
29. Look for partnerships to build resiliency
30. Look beyond WRIAs – Chehalis watershed
31. Reconsideration of development as highest and best use
32. Electric vehicle infrastructure and emerging technology
33. Needs to be a transportation component

Committee Schedule

Michael Burnham asked for feedback scheduling future meetings. The group was unable to come to a consensus, and the project team committed to sending out a Doodle Poll to establish July’s meeting date as well as a consistent schedule (2nd Tuesdays, 3rd Fridays, etc.) for future monthly meetings.

Public Comment

No members of the general public who attended commented.