

# THE WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

SSB 5248 Update Bulletin

February 19, 2008

## Welcome Note

This inaugural document is our response to your suggestions to keep the momentum going and keep you informed while the legislature is in session. This document will provide an easy and concise way to communicate and keep things moving on a forward course during the interim. Look for it about twice a month.

## Fact Finding Progress

The fact finding team is completing the data compilation and draft content analyses for five of the seven legislatively-mandated fact finding items. We will begin to send these draft content analyses and related data to the committee for initial comment and review beginning in early March.

We are hoping to have some of the staff in Olympia in March or April for some informal, optional briefings on these fact finding items and get some preliminary input on them from committee members- - more on these potential 'open houses' as the plan develops.

## Local Examples and Field Visits

Following on the County's suggestion, and other offers, will begin to arrange opportunities in the context of Committee meetings this Spring and Summer to learn from local examples through structured field trips or presentations. We are presently researching illustrative examples of handling critical areas protections on agricultural lands. If you have suggestions, please call the caucus coordinators or Jim Reid or Jon Brock.

## Retreat Planning

We are proposing to schedule the Committee retreat on the dates of May 1-2, 2008. The location and further details are in the works, so watch for more information in the future. Please let us know if the dates work for you.

After reviewing the summary of January 25, 2008 committee meeting, which you will receive via email in the coming week, it's evident that there is much more to present and discuss. Thus, the retreat will, in some ways, pick up where we left off at the January meeting. Also, we expect to present advanced drafts of the gap analysis and other fact finding items by that time, so we will have both the interests and the gaps identified and ready for discussion. These should engender significant discussion and learning, and help point out the key areas we then have to explore in depth.

## Legislative Updates

Funding of \$300,000 is in the Governor's budget, which is divided to reflect the allocation of tasks between WSU (\$175,000) and UW (\$125,000). When combined with existing funds, this will give us the same level of support for the coming fiscal year as was available in this year. Legislative leadership is being contacted to confirm our commitment and interest in continuing this work. Caucus coordinators are working to see that this is supported. Please make known your support to the appropriate members of the legislature.

## Committee Meeting Dates and Center Administrative Items

In looking at the time frame and the limits on meeting during the legislative session, it is clear following the January 25th meeting that we will need more dedicated time to ensure that the needed discussions, examples, fact finding input and other information comes into the discussion. Therefore, we have circulated some meeting dates that reflect this need for committee time. While some dates may be for field visits and some may not ultimately be necessary, please check your calendars and respond to us if there are any problem dates. Please try to let us know by February 26th. We will do our best to confirm dates that allow the most people from the committee to attend. We will coordinate responses and send out the finalized list soon.

## Upcoming Meetings

*March 10: 9:30 - 11am  
Caucus Coordinator Call*

*April 9: 9:30 - 11am  
Caucus Coordinantor Call*

*April 24: CANCELLED*

*May 1-2: Tentatative Date  
Committee Retreat*

*May 7: 9:30 - 11am  
Caucus Coordinator Call*

*May 29 : 10 - 3pm  
Committee Mtg*

Ruckelshaus Center  
ruckelshauscenter@wsu.edu  
(509) 335-2937

Jon Brock  
jbrock@u.washington.edu  
(206) 616-5818

Jim Reid  
jfalconerreed@comcast.net  
(206) 324-2061

Katie Bombico  
ra5248@u.washington.edu