

**Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Northwest
Meeting Notes
January 14, 2004
American Lung Association of Washington office, Seattle**

Participants

Kate Davies, Antioch University
Elizabeth Davis, League of Women Voters
Ticiang Diangson, Seattle Public Utilities
Sibyl Diver, Toxic-Free Legacy Coalition
Pam Emerson, EPA Region 10
Robin Evans-Agnew, Amer. Lung Assoc. of Washington
Aileen Gagney, Amer. Lung Assoc. of Washington
Richard Gelb, Office of Sustainability and the Environment, City of Seattle
Sally Goodwin, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
Bruce Herbert, Newground Investments
Cassandra Krumpelmann, graduate student in nursing, Univ. of Washington
Elise Miller, Institute for Children's Environmental Health
Linda Park, Seattle Biotech Legacy Foundation
Janna Rolland, Evans School of Public Affairs at Univ. of Washington
Laurie Valeriano, Washington Toxics Coalition
Gwen Vernon, Cascadia Consulting
Linda Westbrook, Washington State Nurses Association

1) Presentation

Richard Gelb

Richard gave an overview of the history of the Office of Sustainability and the Environment (OSE) and some of the systems, including a two-tier system of: a) citywide objectives and targets; and b) major departments' objectives and targets.

In an unofficial capacity (i.e., simply as a concerned citizen), he then made some specific suggestions regarding how we might craft our application on the precautionary principle (PP) to the City of Seattle.

- Highlight incongruities in current projects and how the PP can provide cohesion to the challenges the City faces as well as serve as an overarching framework and a statement of values for decision-making.
- Ensure that there is no perception that adopting the PP would mean the need for more revenue.
- Show how the PP will help health and environmental agencies to work together and become more streamlined.
- Show how the PP applies not only to human health and the environment, but the health of other species and ecological systems.
- Keep it simple and concise.

He also said that the proposed amendment would be reviewed internally and the public hearing process would most likely take place later in February and March. In addition, he suggested that we might attend the quarterly meetings of environmental leaders in the City as a way to bring up this issue among other groups. The next one is Jan. 27th, and we should call Mike McGinn for more information. Finally, he noted that CHE-NW's work could help stimulate healing between health and environment communities – something that is very important and needed right now.

2) Discussion of Next Steps Regarding the Precautionary Principle Initiative

Elise first noted that the PP Work Group had met for a couple hours prior to this meeting to discuss the latest version of the white paper and will be circulating an updated draft soon.

Next Steps

- Meet with the Mayor and members of the City Council.
- Get endorsements
 - Suggestions of organizations (with the name of the person who said they would contact the organization):
 - Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA) – Steve Gilbert
 - Puget Sound Consumers' Coop (PCCs)
 - King County Asthma Association – Robin Evans-Agnew
 - King County Nurses Association – Linda Westbrook
 - Washington State Nurses Association – Linda Westbrook
 - School Nurses Organization of Washington (SNOW) – Linda Westbrook
 - PTA
 - Northwest Eco-Builders
 - Northwest Environment Watch – Elise Miller
 - Washington State Sustainable Food and Farming Network – Pam Emerson
 - Washington State Environmental Health Association – Pam Emerson
 - Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) – Robin Evans-Agnew
 - Washington Education Association
 - Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility – Steve Gilbert
 - Children's Alliance – Robin Evans-Agnew
 - Learning Disabilities Association of Washington – Elise Miller
 - Other health-affected groups?
 - American Academy of Pediatrics, Washington chapter – Robin Evans-Agnew
 - 1000 Friends
 - Sierra Club
 - IKEA
 - Body Shop
 - Other businesses? – Bruce Herbert
 - Suggestions of individuals (if their actual agency or dept can't/won't sign on):
 - Maxine Hayes, State Department of Health – Elise Miller
 - Ngozi Oleru, King County Public Health Department. – Elise Miller

- Marianne Seifert, State Department of Health – Elise Miller
- Pat Wahl, Dean, School of Public Health at UW – Elise Miller

This is just a preliminary list: we need a great deal of help with this ASAP not only in terms of more suggestions, but in terms of volunteers to contact the organizations you know best. If your organization would be willing to endorse the precautionary principle white paper, please let me know now (even if you won't get confirmation for a while).

Also, we need a person to serve as the point person for collecting endorsements – unfortunately, Elise can't oversee this process, too. Is there anyone else willing to take this on?

Action: We will revise and finalize the City of Seattle application over the weekend and hand it in on Tuesday, Jan. 20th. We will then reconvene to finalize the white paper, which we intend to turn in by the end of January to both the City and King County. Once that is finalized, we will draft a generic invitation letter and circulate to groups from which we want endorsements.

3) Announcements

- Steve Gilbert has developed materials on the precautionary principle with web links that can be loaded onto the web site of any organization that is interested. Please contact Steve for more information: sgilbert@inn.d.org
- Don't forget to spread the word about (and come to!) the upcoming environmental health lecture series: “Our Health, Our Environment: Making the Link” at the Seattle Art Museum. For more information, see www.iceh.org or www.SBLFoundation.org.
- Date of the next CHE-NW meeting is to be determined.