

MEETING SUMMARY

Barbara Craig, Bill Hutchison, Clark Seely, Dan Postrel
July 17, 2008

Key decisions, agreements and principles arising from this meeting:

- The current work plans accurately identify the broad, major issues facing the Board. However, they should be reformulated according to a consensus model, articulating major decisions, and identifying sub-issues or incremental decisions that, as they are addressed, lay the groundwork for the overarching decisions.
- The Board has a need to document its decisions and to keep track of issue history, helping to provide adequate context for agenda items. It is the Board's responsibility to agree on specific statements and agreements in principle, so that these can be recorded.
- Changes in staff report format may also be useful. These could include stronger statements of the issue; recommendations that provide a range of alternatives, possibly with a preferred alternative; and sufficient context and chronology to explain the progress and current status of the issue.
- The Board and Department need to work better as partners, strengthening each other's work. Work plans need to be synchronized with Department work cycles (budget and legislative concept development, etc.), to provide prioritization and guidance to the agency. Conversely, work plans should help the Board understand how their decisions look on the ground, and how Board action or direction fits with existing workloads.
- Clark and Dan can provide a report on this meeting to the Board on July 24.
- The Board should use its August meeting to test these concepts and apply Elaine Hallmark's consensus model to the state forests issue, as a means of exploring more deliberate, decisive approaches to issues.