

**Pierce County Panel Discussion Summary
Hosted by City Club of Tacoma
May 19, 2004
Noon – 2pm
Tacoma, Washington**

Introduction:

Kris Kaufman, Pierce County Trustee and Steering Committee Member

Facilitator:

Charles Royer, former Seattle City Mayor

Panelists:

David Seago, Tacoma News Tribute (Panelist)

Tim Thompson, Thompson Smitch Consulting Group

Charley Bingham, Weyerhaeuser Company

Major Outcomes of Discussion:

Our Community, Our Waters and the Cascades

There is a growing awareness that our land base, water, and other natural resources are finite, and being used at an unsustainable pace.

The issue is that “We are the enemy and the enemy is us. It is our challenge.”

We therefore feel an urgency and responsibility to think about our future now, make decisions, and act.

Our communities want to tackle problems together and find creative solutions and opportunities for enhancing the quality of life for everyone in our region.

Success will depend on engaging all affected interests, sectors, and people in our community in planning for life in the cascades over the next 100 years.

Dramatic Changes

We expect dramatic and unpredictable changes in our environment, economy, and community over the next 100 years. The future is a constantly moving target.

We have already witnessed changes in our community over our lifetimes – but we don’t have to live with the mistakes of the past. It is as much about recovery as it is about conservation.

Dramatic changes might include – a war over fresh water allocation, population growth and sprawl, and changing economies.

Planning

Strategic:

Creating a long-term plan with values as a foundation and with explicit assumptions on which predictions and visions are based is the first step as we begin to think about and act on a shared vision for the Cascades region now and 100 years into the future.

We must act strategically and with enlightened self interest.

Flexible:

Any plan that provides only static predictions for the future will not be useful to us when dramatic changes occur.

We must create a plan with a flexible framework that can accommodate changes in our environment, economy, and communities as they occur and embrace different futures.

Leadership is essential for staying in tune with the changing needs and expectations of a democratic society

Creative and Cooperative:

We understand that water and land are related and that because problems are complex and difficult we need to find creative solutions.

Conserving and preserving space is the first step in keeping our options open for the future.

Success will depend on managing our lands, waters, and communities with flexibility, cooperation and long-term commitment and vision.