



Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

PNWER Action Items (2006-2007)

*Approved by the PNWER Executive Committee
at the 16th Annual Summit in Edmonton, Alberta (July 19, 2006)*

***These action items form the basis of
PNWER's annual workplan and guide the
development of future programs in response
to stakeholders' priorities and interests. For
detailed resolutions and background infor-
mation on these action items, please consult
the PNWER website.***

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PNWER Action Items (2006-2007)

Agriculture

WTO Negotiations

Convey the importance of an ambitious and timely conclusion to the agriculture component of the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations to both the US and Canadian federal governments. A substantial reduction in trade distorting support and real market access improvement is essential for the future growth and competitiveness of the region's farmers, ranchers, and food processing industries.

PNWER is working with Washington State Department of Agriculture and the Alberta Ministry of Agriculture to hold a two-day cross-border livestock health conference in Spokane (January 10-12 2007.)

PNWER Staff: Brandon Hardenbrook

Border Issues

Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI)

Work to ensure that any biometric document that is developed is accessible, sensible, low or no-cost, and provides seamless processing of low-risk individuals and causes no delays or refusals of legitimate discretionary travelers.

Implement a regional pilot project to design and test secure travel documents

for the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

Perimeter Clearance

Gain further acceptance and encourage implementation of off-shore interdiction of low-risk goods and inadmissible people before they reach US or Canadian shores.

Nexus

Encourage the US and Canadian federal governments to pilot an intermodal (highway, marine, ferry, air and rail) expedited clearance "Cascadia Nexus Plus" Trusted Traveler concept which will integrate into a single program (ONE card, ALL Ports, ALL Modes with a Global Enrollment Integrated Database) - a next generation process for secure and easy cross-border travel for known low-risk individuals

NAFTA Visa Holders/First Nations Citizens

Address the unique needs of First Nations people across North America and ensure their ability to move freely across the border regions.

Smart Border Improvements

Encourage the US and Canadian federal governments to install NEXUS convertible

lanes be installed at the Sumas and Lyndon/Aldergrove crossings.

Allow in-transit shipments meeting the FAST criteria to use the FAST LANES.

Encourage the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to cross-designate regular shipment inspection to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) during off hours to achieve 24/7 service and provide efficient service at peak periods.

PNWER Staff: Ian Burkheimer

Energy

Integrating non-firm power (e.g Wind)

Engage in and monitor Bonneville Power Administration/Northwest Power and Conservation Council Wind Integration Study.

Staff will work with BPA and NWPCC, and report back to the Energy Working Group

Clean Coal

Develop a primer on clean coal, working with the Energy Council, Idaho National Laboratory and others. Build on existing work done by the National Governor's Association, Western Governor's Association and the National Conference of State Legislatures.

This primer will be part of the PNWER Energy 101 Project, which includes primers on Clean Coal, as well as a range of additional energy issues

China

Form a steering committee with representatives from both the public and private sector from the PNWER jurisdictions to draft a structure and business plan to establish a Pacific Northwest/China Clean Technology Exchange Center in Beijing.

Staff will work with the University of Alberta's China Institute, EnergyINet, the Northwest Energy Technology Collaborative, Global Energy System Exchange, various jurisdictions and other interested parties.

Ocean Energy

Add permitting challenges of ocean energy to PNWER's US and Canadian federal agendas. Check with the National Conference of State Legislatures for information on alternative energy tax credits. Report back to Energy Chairs Task Force.

Staff will work with the Ocean Renewable Energy Group, NCSL and other stakeholders to implement this action item.

Biofuel Incentives

Circulate existing legislation on biofuel incentives to the Energy Chairs Task Force

Energy Corridors

Host a meeting of legislative and executive branch representatives to discuss the possible structure of a multi-state transmission siting compact to retain decision-making authority over yet-to-be-determined National Interest

Electric Transmission Corridors. Compare FERC and State siting processes.

Workforce Shortages

Urge licensing bodies to adopt reciprocity if engineers have practiced for a set amount of time. Assist licensing bodies in preparing amendments to rules or policies to support reciprocity.

General

Develop a consensus within the region on cross-border pipeline permitting issues and assess the opportunity of advising the US Secretary of State on cross-border pipeline permitting issues.

Develop a primer on high voltage direct current lines.

The HVDC primer will be part of the PNWER Energy 101 Project

Add impact of infrastructure development on rural communities to next year's Annual Summit agenda.

PNWER Staff: Neil Parekh

Environment

Marine Air Pollution

Meet with officials of West Coast ports to discuss the issue of marine air pollution and decide appropriate role for PNWER.

PNWER has developed a strategy to explore the possibility and promote the development of a West Coast Sulfur

Emissions Control Area (SECA) from Alaska to California under Annex VI of the MARPOL Treaty. Discussions will continue through Fall 2006 with various potential stakeholders, with possible action items developed in time for the 2007 legislative sessions.

Environmental Emergency Response

Work with states and provinces to emphasize the importance of environmental emergency response.

PNWER Staff: Ian Burkheimer

Health Care

Innovative Approaches

Develop and distribute a biannual newsletter on healthcare innovations and best practices from across the region.

PNWER is preparing the first bi-annual regional healthcare update with support from Merck Frosst and the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. This publication will serve as a reference regarding healthcare innovations, policies and best practices from around the region.

PNWER Staff: Brandon Hardenbrook

High Tech

Building Collaborative Research Capacity

Implement PNWER's US Economic Development Administration grant in

Washington State and broaden the R&D Exchange Network Initiative to encompass other jurisdictions within PNWER.

Transitioning Ideas into Business

Share best practices and needs among regional forums to encourage market-driven commercialization (e.g. MentorLinx, IdeaLinx). Identify and implement 1-2 demonstration projects within the PNWER region. Address market/commercialization issues. Build on state/provincial strengths.

PNWER Staff: Joy Howland

Homeland Security (Pandemic)

Regional Planning Efforts

Coordinate a PNWER peer critique group to review and share plans or components of plans to assist other organizations, to address potential gaps, and identify criteria for assessing preparedness plans.

Encourage states/provinces/regions to create a comprehensive pandemic influenza preparedness plan that is interoperable and where possible, integrated.

Establish an inventory of pandemic preparedness plans in the PNWER region – identify those portions of plans which are classified and (which should not be shared) and allow sharing upon request by accredited individuals.

Create inter-jurisdictional exercise(s) to raise awareness, identify preparedness gaps, and test interregional plans.

Form a tiger team of people throughout the region who are willing and capable of working together to facilitate additional action points.

PNWER developed a new website called the “Center for Regional Disaster Resilience” in Oct. 2006. This site hosts an inventory of over 600 critical infrastructure related plans, policies and best practices from around the PNWER region.

PNWER is planning a Blue Cascades-style exercise focusing on a Pandemic scenario for early 2007. This exercise will lead to the development of a comprehensive regional pandemic preparedness plan.

PNWER Staff: Brandon Hardenbrook

Sustainable Development

Strategic Land Use Planning

Continue to provide information about the Land Use Framework and ensure the sharing of this information through the PNWER organization

Organize a water policy forum at the PNWER Winter Meeting in order to share information about initiatives in Alberta and other PNWER member states and/or provinces.

Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation

Help put together a strategic plan to address the mountain pine beetle infestations in order to share best practices in the field. Make use of the expertise developed by Alberta with respect to mountain pine beetle infestation, pursuant to collaboration with British Columbia. Share updates concerning the mountain pine beetle infestations.

Sustainable Practices for the 2010 Olympics

Create a task force to showcase regional technologies for sustainable development in the 2010 Olympic Games to be held in British Columbia. The task force will underline the PNWER regional work and support for such technologies.

The 2010 Sustainability Showcase will be developed in close coordination with the Vancouver Organizing Committee of the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympics (VANOC) as well as other regional public, private and non-profit partners.

Development of this program will begin with the PNWER Economic Leadership Forum in Whistler (November 16-18, 2006). A steering committee for this project will be added to the 2010 Coordinating Council (See Tourism).

PNWER Staff: Ian Burkheimer

Telecommunications

Standards-based IP Networks

Establish a communications working group within PNWER to share best practices,

provide input on policy issues to stakeholders, and provide informational briefings to legislators and other regional stakeholders.

IP Interoperability and Collaboration System

Identify potential multi-jurisdictional uses of new technologies in the area of emergency communications.

Field Fly-away Communication

Establish a consensus among first responders to help develop 2.0 and help field test it. Hold a workshop for emergency management stakeholders to explore uses for new common technologies like fly-away kits.

An alternate resilient communications workshop took place at the Microsoft campus in October 2006. PNWER facilitated a discussion and collected input on how new technologies might be piloted in our region

PNWER Staff: Brandon Hardenbrook

Tourism

Regional Tourism Initiative

The 2010 Coordinating Council's mandate shall be expanded to address other regional tourism initiatives as identified by the tourism working group.

PNWER 2010 Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council, being made up of members from each of the PNWER

jurisdictions will oversee a number of projects being funded from public sector grants and the development of private sector partners.

Currently identified projects are:

1. *Developing a regional training venues marketing strategy, inviting international winter sports teams to come train in the Pacific Northwest often prior to the 2010 Olympics,*
2. *Creating a Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) public information program educating travelers about upcoming and current border crossing requirements,*
3. *Development of a Regional Visitors Center in the Vancouver/Whistler area prior to and during the 2010 Olympics and Paralympics,*
4. *Development of a regional media strategy leveraging the 2010 Games that increases visibility of the region in the worldwide press, and*
5. *Other programs as identified by the Coordinating Council.*

PNWER Staff: Ian Burkheimer

Trade and Economic Development

(See also workforce issues under “Workforce Development”)

Movement of Specialized Equipment/Personnel

Work with both federal governments to propose an education and training pilot project for customs officials on both sides of the border within the PNWER region, regarding the movement of specialized equipment and personnel.

Regional Collaboration

Embrace the opportunity to educate and explore all aspects of the regional impacts of the BC-Alberta Trade, Investment and Labor Mobility Agreement (TILMA) concept throughout the PNWER region.

PNWER Staff: Judy Skarsten

Transportation

Bi-National Pacific Gateway

Host a major session on the Pacific Gateway for the Economic Leadership Forum in November 2006. Form a steering committee of major NW ports and appropriately involve the Netherlands.

Cross-Border Transportation

Support increased capacity for flow of freight and passenger movement in Seattle/Vancouver corridor through investment in the Colebrook siding in the border region.

These projects will continue to be developed through a more in-depth discussion at the PNWER Economic Leadership Forum at Whistler (November 16-18, 2006).

PNWER Staff: Brandon Hardenbrook

Water Policy

Current Compacts and Treaties

Host a water session at each meeting to educate stakeholders and discuss water issues.

Regional Policy Issues

Develop a Water Task Force to begin a dialogue on important regional issues (e.g. renegotiations of the Columbia River Treaty. Provide information briefings to legislators on current issues. Link current water policy groups and activities around the region. Develop renegotiation strategy for Columbia River Treaty.

PNWER is facilitating a Water Policy Task Force co-chaired by Senator David Nelson from Oregon. This group will hold quarterly conference calls to develop strategies to address important regional issues such as the renegotiation of the Columbia River treaty.

PNWER Staff: Brandon Hardenbrook

Workforce Development

Licensing Reciprocity

Urge licensing bodies to adopt reciprocity if engineers have practiced for a set amount of time. Assist licensing bodies in preparing amendments to rules or policies to support reciprocity.

Workforce Issues

Continue efforts to explore the opportunities related to 55+ age demographic as a potential source to help mitigate labor shortages in the PNWER region.

PNWER is working with Citizenship & Immigration Canada to establish a bi-national task force to address three specific workforce issues: 1) What specifically are the barriers to addressing the labor shortages in western Canada? 2) Who are the key stakeholders that should be engaged to develop bi-national solutions? 3) What specific actions can be implemented to alleviate these current and projected shortages?

The task force will be composed of public and private, provincial and federal officials, as well as border officials from both Canada and the US. PNWER will facilitate this task force to develop clear deliverables for all stakeholders.

PNWER Staff: Brandon Hardenbrook

PNWER Executive Committee (2006-2007)*

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