

## **Memorandum**

To: Interim Board members

From: Liz Redon, Vice Chair

Date: April 20, 2006

Subject: "Spring Cleaning" letter

### **Introduction:**

Through the process of preparing for the next legislative session, several Interim Board members realized one way the Network could serve councils is to provide a gentle, peer-to-peer reminder to councils in the form of a letter suggesting a little "spring cleaning." The purpose of this reminder is to encourage councils to be thinking about what they can do to monitor themselves and show accountability when legislators start asking those difficult questions councils inevitably face each session. The letter could include a "checklist" of activities, such as reporting, auditing, reviewing contract obligations and assessing stakeholder diversity. Finally, the letter will encourage councils to check in with their interim board representatives and/or John on their progress so that John can have stories and data to share with legislators. This "spring cleaning" process recognizes that councils receive state funding, and therefore are willing to demonstrate to legislators that they are following the direction set forth in statute. The flexibility that councils have in fulfilling their missions is one of their greatest strengths. Their willingness to self-monitor will encourage the legislature and others to continue supporting that crucial attribute.

### **Talking Points for Letter to Councils:**

- The network is here to support councils and ensure they are ready for the next legislative session.
- Remember to review council support contracts and be sure your council is fulfilling requirements outlined within them (e.g. auditing, annual reports to OWEB and County Commissioners, self-evaluations, etc.).
- Take an honest look at your council's operations with an eye on both statute and legislative perception (e.g. "the council represents a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed"), and self-correct accordingly.

### **Board Input Required:**

- Does the Interim Board support the concept of this letter?
- Does the Interim Board have any suggestions of what should be included in this letter?