

Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting

March 1, 2016, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Classroom

500 Adams Street NE, Olympia, WA

Participants

Jesse Barham, City of Olympia
Erica Bates, WSU Extension
Marian Berejikian, West Sound Watersheds Council
John Bolender, Mason Conservation District
Chris Ellings, Nisqually Tribe
Karla Fowler, LOTT
Justin Hall, Nisqually River Council
Ray Hanowell, Tacoma-Pierce County Health
Department
Tom Kantz, Pierce County
Brad Murphy, Thurston County
Sue Patnude, DERT
Dave Peeler, DERT
Debbie Riley, Mason County

Chris Schutz, Pierce County
Amber Smith, Thurston ECO Network
Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe
Stephanie Suter, PSP
Lydia Wagner, ECY
Allan Warren, Pierce Conservation District
Kristin Williamson, South Puget Sound Salmon
Enhancement Group
Luis Yanez, Pierce Conservation District

Meeting Facilitation/Coordination:

Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic
Andy Chinn, Ross Strategic

Meeting Summary

I. Council Administrative Items

February Meeting Summary

- Council members approved the February 2016 meeting summary as amended; the summary will be posted to the AHSS website.

PSP Updates

- The second annual Puget Sound Day on the Hill is scheduled for February 29 – March 2.
- On 3/3 PSP is conducting a training for LIO coordinators on developing local recovery plans. Tom Kantz, Stephanie Suter, and Andy Chinn will participate on behalf of AHSS.

ECO Network Updates

- Erica Bates provided an overview of Mason ECO Network, an organization with 57 members from 38 different organizations. Mason ECO Network was originally formed as a subcommittee to the Oakland Bay Shellfish Protection District and in recent years has received a small PSP stipend to coordinate outreach and education activities. Each year the organization holds “Oakland Bay Day” and this year the event will be on Sunday, June 12 at the Bayshore Preserve. The event is open to all.

II. AHSS Executive Committee Update

AHSS Council 3-1-16 Meeting Summary

The majority of the February Executive Committee meeting was dedicated to a conversation with Peter Murchie (US EPA) and Sheida Sahandy (PSP) on AHSS concerns around EPA funding model decisions and PSP processes. Mr. Murchie noted that there is some flexibility built into the funding model but a dedicated funding stream for local projects is not likely for this year; EPA is willing to discuss it for future years. Mr. Murchie also noted that there may be some flexibility as part of the management conference grant to LIOs. The Executive Committee is currently deliberating internally on the content of a letter to EPA and/or PSP. The AHSS coordinators will also reach out to other LIOs to brief them on the Executive Committee's discussion with EPA and PSP.

III. South Sound Strategy

The AHSS Technical Team is developing objectives under each of the South Sound focus areas submitted to PSP in late 2015 (this work is described in the "early elements" document – [link](#)). The Technical Team is focused on ecosystem processes as much as possible (i.e., "how it works" as opposed to "how it looks"). The Technical Team has a starting point of attributes for discussion and feedback, and the Technical Team will vet this list against existing data and begin to produce sample results to see how the strategies can be constructed.

Discussion:

- Some attributes have better data sources than others, and some attributes need more detailed information.
- For stormwater outfalls: Some areas do not require testing, depending on the local jurisdiction's stormwater permit.
- There should be a strategy to address retrofits.
- Freshwater quality index is problematic because if there changes to the index, it is not always clear what is causing the change.
- The Technical Team is considering how to incorporate one-time studies.
- The Technical Team is also considering how to incorporate a social strategy into the South Sound Strategy.
- Climate change and associated sea level rise should be considered as part of the South Sound Strategy.

For next steps, the first draft of the Strategy is due in mid-April and the Technical Team is pushing to make that happen. The Technical Team is considering how to incorporate the Council into the review process prior to the April 15 deadline, given that the next Council meeting is in May.

IV. Outreach and Education Team Report

The AHSS Outreach and Education Team convened for its inaugural conference call on February 25. The Team discussed various aspects of outreach, education, and overall communication for AHSSs, including:

- Varying messages and communications approaches depending on audience
- Connections between communications staff and technical staff within AHSS member organizations.

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- Story mapping and other ways to convey success stories.

For next steps, the Outreach and Education Team will continue to meet and refine its thinking around communications. The Team will consider what type of feedback and other information would be most useful to request from the AHSS Council.

V. Other Items of Interest

- McLane Cove was closed to shellfish harvest in 2015 due to water quality problems. On 9/16 the Mason County Board of Commissioners signed a resolution establishing a shellfish protection district for McLane Cove.
- DES meetings on Capitol Lake/Deschutes Estuary are occurring on the fourth Friday of each month from 9:30 – 11:00 am. On 3/9 DES will host a public open house to present and gain feedback on a draft work plan to develop strategies for the long-term management of Capitol Lake.

[Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm]

Next meeting: May 3, 2016, LOTT Cleanwater Alliance