

Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting

February 2, 2016, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Boardroom

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
Cindy Callahan, Tacoma-Pierce County Health
District
Tom Crawford, Thurston Climate Action
Chris Ellings, Nisqually Tribe
Karla Fowler, LOTT
Justin Hall, Nisqually River Council
Jack Havens, CLIPA

Tom Kantz, Pierce County
Neil McClanahan, City of Tumwater
Sue Patnude, DERT
Stephanie Suter, PSP
Barb Tope, Port of Olympia
Allan Warren, Pierce Conservation District
Jennifer Whipple, Taylor Shellfish

Meeting Facilitation/Coordination:

Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic
Andy Chinn, Ross Strategic

Meeting Summary

I. Council Administrative Items

December Meeting Summary

- Council members approved the December 2015 meeting summary, which will be posted to the AHSS website.

AHSS Council Co-Chair Position

- AHSS Council Co-Chair Alex Smith recently accepted a position with the Port of Seattle and will no longer continue to serve as Co-Chair. Tom Kantz was nominated/seconded to fill the role of Council Co-Chair, which he accepted.

PSP Updates

- Final NTA submissions are due on 2/3. Currently 69% of all NTAs are from local areas, 31% are regional (Puget Sound-wide). Most LIOs submitted around 20 NTAs; South Central LIO was the exception, with approximately 80 NTAs. The NTA review teams will be working to review the NTAs between 2/4 and 2/11. The SITTs will develop three ranked lists of NTAs, one for each of the Strategic Initiatives. The ranked lists will be issued on 2/29. The allocation of funding across the three Strategic Initiative leads will be equal; the amount of funding available for direct funding to LIOs remains unknown.

AHSS Council 2-2-16 Meeting Summary

- For the draft 2016 Action Agenda, the various bodies of the management conference will review the draft Action Agenda and there will be at least one public comment period. The goal is for the Leadership Council to adopt the Action Agenda by the end of June.
- During the upcoming 2/10 LIO Coordinators meeting, PSP and LIO Coordinators will review the draft of the long term ecosystem strategy guidance. LIO Coordinators will also meet with their ECO Network counterparts.

ECO Network Updates

- [See attachment 1 at the end of this document of ECO Network updates]

II. 2016 AHSS Goals

For 2016 the Council will play a strong role in completing the South Sound Strategy and will work more closely with the local ECO Networks. An Executive Committee retreat is planned for April 1 to discuss what it means for AHSS to realize the ideas that made the various jurisdictions joins efforts initially.

AHSS Council members discussed the role of the AHSS Council and areas in which the Council could work throughout 2016 to improve ecosystem health and human wellbeing throughout Council jurisdictions.

Suggestions included:

- Working on ways to connect the Council's work with the general public.
- Coordinating the education and outreach work of the local ECO Networks.

III. Near Team Action Update

NTA owners are currently reviewing the feedback from the SITTs and resubmitting their revised NTAs to PSP. Some of the NTAs will not be resubmitted (owners will decide); the AHSS coordinators are also working to identify any approved SRFB projects to determine if any should be considered for NEP funding. PSP also forwarded a list of over 100 regional (i.e., Puget Sound-wide) NTAs and requested that AHSS review; the AHSS Technical Team reviewed a cross-section of these NTAs and circulated a response to PSP via e-mail.

Discussion:

- Education and outreach projects do not fit well within the NTA and Action Agenda criteria, since the time frame for their impact is vastly different than recovery projects (in many cases the time frame for impact is generational, not 2 – 5 years).
- As the Strategic Initiative teams form it will be important for AHSS and its members to maintain a connection to their work in order to raise important issues, because those teams will define the content of the Strategic Initiatives.

IV. South Sound Strategy Development

The AHSS Technical Team developed a draft Strategy outline based on Lead Entity salmon recovery planning – brief and to the point and used on a daily basis by restoration practitioners. Council participants are invited to provide feedback on the draft outline.

AHSS Council 2-2-16 Meeting Summary

Discussion:

- Outreach and education should also be included in the South Sound Strategy.

Next Steps:

- AHSS coordinators will work with AHSS members to develop an Outreach and Education subcommittee.

V. Thurston Climate Action Team

Tom Crawford from Thurston Climate Action Team provided a presentation on the group's background, recent activities, and future work.

VI. Other Items of Interest

- Washington Department of Enterprise Services recently convened the first of a series of monthly meetings on Capitol Lake. City of Lacey was invited into the discussion because of the LOTT treatment facility; some of the data indicates that if the estuary is restored, it will help LOTT with treatment options.

[Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm]

Next meeting: March 1, 2016, LOTT Cleanwater Alliance

Attachment 1: ECO Network Updates

South Sound GREEN

This fall 1,020 students tested the water quality of their local stream through the South Sound Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN) program. They are gearing up for a second monitoring event on February 11th, 2016 where these same students will compare their fall and winter data, ask questions about their results, and develop arguments based on this data. On March 15th, 2016 more than 350 student delegates from these classes will present their data at the 24th Annual Student GREEN Congress, held at The Evergreen State College. Together, delegates will identify actions they can take to improve the conditions in their watershed.

Thurston County Environmental Health

They are planning an EcoPRO landscaper training for 25 landscapers to learn about and become certified in organic yard care techniques. The program includes a certifying exam and accredited providers will be listed on their web site.

They are also conducting public outreach on an update to their septic management plan that will allow them to keep better track of all 53,000 septic systems in Thurston County.

Their garden center retail outreach will begin in March and between March – May they will train nearly all of the garden center staff in Thurston County about the less toxic products that they have in stock and how to help customers looking for safer products.

The City of Olympia

Releasing a natural lawn care video series in mid-March. The videos will be released with a radio and video PSA from Kasey Keller (and live tweets) directing folks to the videos. City of Olympia and City of Seattle will be promoting the videos in their March utility inserts. This video series will show you how to successfully maintain your lawn naturally, while saving money and protecting our drinking water, lakes, rivers, streams and Puget Sound!

Lacey Water Resources

Conducts education and outreach focused on stormwater pollution prevention and water conservation to people who live, work, play, and/or attend school in Lacey. Along with The Cities of Olympia and Tumwater and Thurston County, we coordinate a robust, 25 year old volunteer program called Stream Team. Stream Team's mission is: To protect and enhance the water resources and associated habitats and wildlife in Thurston County through citizen action and education. In 2015, Lacey Water Resources worked with 560 volunteers to plant over 600 native trees and shrubs and improve 5.4 acres of riparian areas and stormwater facilities. We reached over 13,000 people with our educational messages about stormwater pollution prevention at community events and through our publications. Additionally, we taught lessons focused on watersheds and stormwater pollution prevention to over 800 students who attend K-12 school in Lacey.