

**Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting**  
**March 7, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**  
**LOTT Clean Water Alliance**  
**500 Adams Street NE, Olympia, WA**

**Participants**

Nancy Arnold, South Sound Education Association	Dave Peeler, DERT
Jeff Barney, Pierce County	Debbie Riley, Mason County Public Health
Evan Bauder, Mason Conservation District	Stephanie Suter, PSP
John Bolender, Mason Conservation District	Jennifer Whipple, Taylor Shellfish
Kim Bredensteiner, Nisqually Land Trust	Allan Warren, Pierce Conservation District
Jeremy Graham, City of Olympia	
Justin Hall, Nisqually River Council	Meeting Facilitation/Coordination:
Jack Havens, CLIPA	Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic
Austin Jennings, Tacoma-Pierce County Health	Andy Chinn, Ross Strategic
Neil McLanahan, City of Tumwater	

**Meeting Summary**

**I. Council Administrative Items**

January Meeting Summary

- Council members approved the January 2017 meeting summary as amended; the summary will be posted to the AHSS website.

General Updates

- Pierce County will be overseeing the South Sound Shellfish NTA, with partners Thurston County, Mason Conservation District, and others. Pierce County staff met with WA Department of Health to review and adjust the NTA scope of work, which they aim to finalize by April.

PSP

- Sheida Sahandy has developed some bullet points on the Puget Sound recovery program that describe the connections between regional health and Puget Sound health, and Puget Sound as a source of direct and indirect job creation.

General

- DERT recently met with a group from the Puget Sound environmental caucus to emphasize that under the current federal administration's planning, a large number of voluntary and non-voluntary programs will be cut, along with associated grant funding.
- Mason County Public Health noted that there are two OSS bills that they are monitoring during the current state legislative session.

**II. Puget Sound Summit**

LIO Coordinators participated in a Puget Sound Summit in May. There was a poster session for LIO recovery plans, and funding agencies were represented by staff. PSP has been looking across the LIO recovery plans at Vital Signs, pressures, and connections between them as they develop priorities for the upcoming Action Agenda.

**III. Action Agenda Update**

AHSS Council 3-7-17 Meeting Summary

The current PSP bill to amend the Action Agenda update cycle will not affect the upcoming Action Agenda; it will affect the 2018-2022 update cycle. The various PSP boards are discussing the Action Agenda update in terms of a deep and narrow update or a broad and shallow update. Most of the management conference prefers the narrow, deep approach. There was not ECB consensus on a preferred approach. Given that the legislative session is in progress and there are several large budget requests around estuaries and floodplains, there is a question of whether it's a good strategy to pivot away from those priority focus areas at this time.

#### Questions and Comments

- A preferred Action Agenda update option is whatever allows NTA owners to roll forward their 2016 NTAs without doing the work all over again.
- A potential compromise for the Action Agenda update is 8 or 9 vital signs rather than all 16.
- Connecting different Vital Signs (like marine water quality and shellfish) is one way to demonstrate interconnectedness.
- There is pressure on PSP to narrow the focus of the Action Agenda.
- There are actions that SI leads have invested in, such as shoreline armoring: Projects have been in process for several years; if that's not a priority any longer could it be perceived that we're now walking away from those priorities? This might result in lost opportunity or momentum.

#### **IV. AHSS Priorities**

AHSS Council members provided input on draft AHSS priorities for 2017:

- Rolling out the South Sound Strategy seems important and timely. This also has connections to increasing awareness of AHSS and also funding advocacy.
- Emphasize that as part of NTA ranking, South Sound members will determine if NTAs align with the South Sound Strategy.
- Early in AHSS's existence the Council talked about broad-based community participation. Today approximately half of the groups identified at AHSS's inception actively participate in meetings. Notably absent are the business and development communities. More energy should be invested into the human well-being element, in order to draw more public participation.
- Community buy-in is key for a successful project.
- PSP has not responded to the JLARC review and something might reach back down to LIOs as a result of however PSP plans to respond; AHSS's organizational review might be premature.
- Asking the business community to participate will require some planning as those members might be less interested in the planning process; their participation might be better as quarterly or twice per year.

#### Next Steps

- Ross Strategic will synthesize Council feedback, circulate with Council for review, and circulate with the AHSS Executive Committee.

#### **V. Wrap Up and Future Meeting Topics**

##### Wrap Up

- Attaching a dollar value to Puget Sound restoration and protection activities would help build support, starting at the watershed level. Students from Evergreen College are a potential resource for this.

Future Meeting Topics

- Update on the Shellfish NTA.

[Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm]

**Next meeting: May 2, 2017, LOTT Cleanwater Alliance**