

Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting

May 3, 2016, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

LOTT Clean Water Alliance

500 Adams Street NE, Olympia, WA

Participants

Leslie Banigan, Kitsap County Health District
Jesse Barham, City of Olympia
Erica Bates, WSU Extension
Evan Bauder, Mason Conservation District
Marian Berejikian, West Sound Watersheds Council
Cindy Callahan, Pierce County Public Health
Karla Fowler, LOTT
Justin Hall, Nisqually River Council
Amy Hatch-Winecka, Thurston Conservation District
Rachael Jamison, Port of Olympia
Tom Kantz, Pierce County
Ilon Logan, ESA
Brad Murphy, Thurston County
Debbie Riley, Mason County
Al Schmauder, Chambers-Clover Watershed Council

Chris Schutz, Pierce County
Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe
Stephanie Suter, PSP
Merita Trohimovich, City of Tacoma
Lydia Wagner, ECY
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

March Meeting Summary

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

PSP Updates

- Comments on the draft 2016 Action Agenda were due the previous week. PSP is developing a summary of comments, with recommendations on how some comments can be addressed. This will be followed by management conference review. The Science Panel meets on June 2 and a joint ECB/SRC meeting is scheduled for June 8; during both of these meetings, the boards will review the draft and comments. During June there will also be a meeting with tribes (date/time TBD). On June 29-30 the Leadership Council will review the draft, and then PSP will forward it to PSP for adoption.
- On May 19 PSP is convening a “Partner’s Summit” (details to be circulated via e-mail)
- The latest RFP from US EPA for implementing the Action Agenda was recently released. PSP is applying.

ECO Network Updates

AHSS Council 5-3-16 Meeting Summary

- Erica Bates provided an update on recent activities from the Mason ECO Network.

II. AHSS Executive Committee Retreat – Summary and Next Steps

The Executive Committee retreat included discussions of the benefits to individual jurisdictions of AHSS membership. There was continued strong commitment from elected officials for continued coordination at the government-to-government level but the Executive Committee is unsure that an LIO is the best way to organize around that. Executive Committee members expressed frustration around the amount of time spent responding to PSP requests and discussed other types of organizational models to consider (e.g., 501(c)(3), Council of Governments, etc.).

AHSS Council Members provided the following feedback on organizational models:

- There was not clear agreement on a particular structure to gravitate towards.
- Council members who offered comments were generally supportive of (1) AHSS leaning into the parts of its mission focused on economic development and human well-being; and (2) of AHSS diversifying funding and setting more of its own agenda. To the extent that an additional organizational structure would be needed to support these two directions, Council members who spoke were generally supportive of the idea.
- Council members observed that any new organizational structure would take time both to set up and to administer; this level of effort should be considered as structures are considered.
- Council members were mixed on the 501(C)(3) or 501(C)(4) structures. Some Council members thought these were appropriate only for charitable organizations and did not see them as appropriate for AHSS, these Council members tended to favor the Council of Governments structure, or similar. Other Council members were more comfortable with the (C)(3) and (C)(4) organizations. A Council member observed that is lobbying were to be part of AHSS' work program a (C)6 also should be considered.
- Council members pointed out that Lead Entities, like LIOs, facilitate a process but do not directly administer grants or other funds beyond capacity.
- Council members discussed whether AHSS jurisdictions could consider allocating an annual dollar amount to hire an AHSS administrator, and there was some support for this idea.
- While they were supportive of AHSS doing more to set its own agenda, Council members were not supportive of AHSS ceasing to become an LIO but instead generally saw an additional organizational structure as a complement rather than a replacement to the LIO designation.

III. South Sound Strategy

The list of South Sound attributes is becoming stable, with increasing comfort from the Technical Team. Status and trends analysis is emerging and the analytical models based on the GIS data are under development. The Technical Team is moving toward fatal flaw analysis from the AHSS Council.

Discussion:

- Rather than miles of stream without fish impassable barriers, AHSS could consider number of barriers.
- On a practical level it will be important to prioritize work for short, medium, or long term.

IV. Washington Stormwater Center Presentation

Washington Stormwater Center provided a presentation on their “Eyes on the Watershed” project, which includes a series of interactive storymaps for citizen outreach and education. Storymap details are available at: <http://www.wastormwatercenter.org/eyes-watershed>

[Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm]

Next meeting: June 28, 2016, LOTT Cleanwater Alliance