

**Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting**  
**May 19, 2015, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
**LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Boardroom**  
**500 Adams Street NE, Olympia, WA**

**Participants**

Jesse Barham, City of Olympia  
Erica Bates, WSU/Mason ECONet  
Scott Brewer, Hood Canal Coordinating Council  
Chris Ellings, Nisqually Tribe  
Karla Fowler, LOTT  
Justin Hall, Nisqually River Foundation  
Amy Hatch-Winecka, WRIA 13 & 14 Lead Entity  
Coordinator at Thurston and Mason  
Conservation Districts  
Bob Holman, CLIPA  
Tom Kantz, Pierce County  
Neil McClanahan, City of Tumwater

Sue Patnude, DERT  
Alex Smith, Port of Olympia  
Barbara Ann Smolko, Pierce County  
Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe  
Stephanie Suter, PSP  
Lindsey Tuttle, TPCD  
Jennifer Whipple, Taylor Shellfish  
Jim Wilcox, Wilcox Farms

**Meeting Coordination:**

Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic  
Andy Chinn, Ross Strategic

**Meeting Summary**

**I. Council Administrative Items**

March Meeting Summary

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

PSP Updates

- Several organizational changes at PSP are underway in conjunction with the new EPA NEP funding model. PSP is not receiving extra funding for implementation of the new model and is also facing a 10% reduction in state general fund support. As a result of this budget reduction, PSP is re-aligning staff and providing central facilitation for the Leadership Council, Science Panel, ECB, and Salmon Recovery Board. For additional information on changes at PSP, see the recent e-mail from PSP Director Sahandy.
- Jim Wilcox, PSP Leadership Council-AHSS liaison, noted that the PSP councils/boards are created by statute; in addition one of their main functions is to support/evaluate funding requests for organizations that want to enhance Puget Sound recovery. The Leadership Council sees more and more importance in supporting funding requests supported by science because this signals to the legislature and EPA that these are good investments. One reason why Director Sahandy is

creating the new board facilitation position is to funnel the councils/boards in the direction of supporting funding requests.

#### State of the Sound Update

- PSP has requested that each LIO submit a success story for inclusion in the State of the Sound update. Squaxin Island Tribe's Bayshore restoration project has been proposed as the story from AHSS.
  - The State of the Sound update can include multiple stories (although space is limited). AHSS members can contact Andy or Elizabeth if they have a project to forward for consideration.

## **II. South Sound Multi-Species Strategy**

On a practical level, the EPA NEP funding decision provides money for planning and once a plan emerges it provides a pathway for implementation funding. During the next 9 – 15 months, AHSS will develop a LIO-scale recovery plan on the same model as the salmon recovery lead entity model. The AHSS Technical Team has begun discussions and as the recovery plan is developed the Technical Team will use the existing analyses as building blocks.

AHSS also owes deliverables to PSP under the existing capacity grant: A list of South Sound ecosystem pressures, and a process for prioritizing South Sound NTAs.

## **III. Hood Canal Coordinating Council – Integrated Watershed Plan**

Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) began working on a unifying structure for Hood Canal ecosystem recovery around 2011. The HCCC began by considering the vision for a restored Hood Canal by defining desired future conditions. HCCC then held workshops to compile a list of items most important to the Hood Canal community. In 2014 the HCCC Board approved the resulting Integrated Watershed Plan (IWP), which is available online at: [www.ourhoodcanal.org](http://www.ourhoodcanal.org). The IWP lays out a five-year plan of strategic priorities for Hood Canal. HCCC recognizes there is a significant amount of data and limited time and resources, and therefore focused on five components: Shellfish, commercial shellfishing, salmon, forests, and forestry.

Meeting participants provided the following comments:

- There are clearly property owners on Hood Canal with insufficiently sized septic systems.
- Compilation of the human well-being and the other focal components through the workshop/stakeholder process appears to be a good model for AHSS.
- Hood Canal tribes recognize that counties have regulatory authority over water quality/septics.

## **IV. Pierce County Shellfish Partners**

Barbara Ann Smolko from Pierce County provided a presentation on the Pierce County Shellfish Partners program. Her presentation covered the primary South Sound shellfish bays, the development of the Pierce County Shellfish Partners program, sampling sites, technical and financial assistance, and the derelict vessel program. The program involves many people and has experienced several successes as well as challenges.

## VI. Miscellaneous Updates

- Bob Holman from CLIPA read the following statement:

*PSNERP has decided to “de-couple” (not fund) the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project.*

*As most of us know, PSNERP is composed of personnel from WDFW and the Army Corp of Engineers. I’ve been told by Margen Carlson and Theresa Mitchell both of WDFW that the apparent reasons for the non-funding include:*

- 1. Removing the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue dam at significant cost to the public would create substantially increased ongoing dredging costs by the COE to keep the Budd Inlet channel open for the Port of Olympia.*
- 2. Ecosystem cost/benefit ratios for the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project are significantly unfavorable when compared to cost/benefit ratios for other ecosystem habitat restoration projects which otherwise might have been undertaken.*

*Confirmation of this decision may be made by contacting Ms. Carlson or Ms. Mitchell at WDFW.*

*Jack Havens, member, AHSS Council*

- Squaxin Island Tribe clarified that Deschutes Estuary Restoration is still on the PSNERP project list despite not receiving funding during the current funding round. ACOE can still undertake a project that conflicts with other ACOE responsibilities, but cannot fund such a project.
- Thurston ECONet has a new website with a searchable education guide and good opportunities: [Thurstoneconetwork.org](http://Thurstoneconetwork.org)

[Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm]

**Next meeting: Tuesday, July 14 2:00 – 4:00 pm**