

**Alliance Council Meeting Summary
May 28, 2013
Tacoma Mall Plaza
2702 S 42nd Street, Second Floor - Tacoma**

Attendees:

**Justin Hall
Gabby Byrne
Tom Kantz
Greg Vigoren
Debbie Riley
Alex Smith
Sue Patnude
John Bolender
Dan Wrye
Tiffany Speir
Karla Fowler
Sue Patnude
Jim Wilcox
Bob Simmons
Denis Curry**

Welcome, Introductions and Approval of March Meeting Summary

Alliance Executive Committee 2014 Legislative Strategy

Presented by the Council Ecosystem Coordination Board Representative, Dan Wrye

A legislative strategy was proposed to the Alliance Executive Committee for the 2014 session which will amend Chapter 90.71 RCW, Puget Sound Partnership to encourage recovery within Action Areas. A line item funding appropriation is also proposed. Our Ecosystem Recovery Board representative, Dan Wrye, shared this strategy with the Council and answered questions.

What many programs have in common is that they're underfunded. That's been a theme for many years. We also know that effective recovery occurs through watershed level recovery. When we've evaluated the last year and a half, we kept coming back to the notion of common ground. That existing plans and programs need to have additional funding. The idea of this legislative strategy is to build local capacity in South Puget Sound.

Back when the counties and tribes were trying to formalize the LIO - all of the resolutions had similar language e.g.; Pierce County resolution 2010- 116. The lack of a formal regional coordinating body resulted in competition for funds and in others setting local priorities.

There are four main elements to the legislative strategy:

- 1) Adopted interim regional priorities

- 2) SPS Ecosystem Recovery Strategy (in development) – modeled after the Lead Entity strategy. It takes fish recovery concepts and extrapolates them across the ecosystem. It is critical to be able to demonstrate both capacity and ability.
- 3) Policy Authorization – 2014 amendments to Puget Sound Partnership’s statute. The amendment will direct recovery at Action Area/LIO basis. Currently the statute refers to the entirety of the Puget Sound. This strategy will direct recovery at the action/LIO scale. In addition, it will establish structures like the Alliance’s and authorize them to accept and distribute funds.
- 4) Direct establishment and implementation of Action Area/LIO specific recovery targets, recovery strategies and direct State agencies to accept these priorities.

The second part of the legislative strategy is funding allocation. We have set a funding capacity biennial goal of 4-5 million for South Sound through NEP funds/Centennial Clean Water Funds etc. Those funds will be redirected to regional priorities (regional allocation). Our focus is getting funds to South Sound, but the strategy sets up a framework that can be used by all the LIOs to get funding for their local priorities.

In talking with our Executive Committee there were several messages that they asked us to convey moving forward. Partnering should be a top priority, informing original sponsors, involve other action areas and that we need to be in it all together. They also asked that we give PSP/Gov’s office/EPA “first right of refusal” (i.e.; involve and seek their support).

Outreach to EPA was a letter sent 4/4/13 The EPA response to 3/15/13 Alliance letter, said that: local implementation is critical, disagreed with block funding, committed to state agency funding approach, wants to clarify roles of “LIOs” and to determine how to integrate local and regional, relies on PSP and other state agencies.

David Troutt and Commissioner Charlotte Garrido have the lead on outreaching to Dennis McLerran at EPA re: regional allocations.

Other outreach was to the partnership: Gabby Byrne and Dan Wrye met with Marc Daily, Stephanie Suter, Michael Graham, Jeanette Dorner and Jim Bolger. The discussion was very encouraging. There is support to move forward to accomplish common goals and we will be working with them as we move forward.

The Ecosystem Recovery Strategy is critical because it gets at linking the adopted regional priorities with a path to how they can get implemented and from that fall out the Ecosystem recovery Targets. Those are reasonable expectations from EPA and PSP.

Lead Organization (state agency) funding model isn’t working. This year about 55% of the funds are still encumbered. Last year it was 74%. Funding hasn’t gotten out fast enough, which puts at risk the congressional investment.

Decision:

Does the Council support moving forward with the 2014 Legislative Strategy?

The Alliance Council members present confirmed support of the Alliance Legislative Strategy.

**Alliance Ecosystem Recovery/Implementation Strategy update workshop
Presented by technical committee member, Tom Kantz**

The Executive Committee has expressed that the Recovery Strategy is a high priority. Development of the Recovery/Implementation strategy for South Puget Sound has been tasked to the technical committee (Tom Kantz, Chris Ellings, Scott Stelzner, Cindy Wilson, Gabby Byrne). The Recovery Strategy is modeled on the Lead Entity Recovery model. As such, the Recovery Strategy will extrapolate that model to the ecosystem recovery level. A strength of using this model is that it is broadly accepted, durable and gets revisited annually.

The Alliance Recovery/Implementation Strategy will be ecosystem based. As such it will identify targets and metrics for recovery. South Sound ecosystem recovery strategy is based on the Puget Sound Partnership identified vital signs, identified and prioritized in relation to South Sound. The second section of the strategy looks at limiting factors and barriers and will do so on an inlet by inlet basis using work done by the core advisory group in 2008 and the Chinook Salmon Recovery plan that looked at limitations by inlet group. The third section is based on work done by the Squaxin Island tribe. They used data analysis for identifying pocket estuaries, feeder bluffs etc. both for protection and restoration. Section four is based on the original Alliance work group list of over 200+ projects. The technical team will prioritize, documenting the method of prioritizing that we've developed over the last couple years. Additional projects and updates were added. Each item was reviewed and scored based on their geographic scope (1-4) and on their intensity (1-4). That list was reviewed by the Executive Committee and by the work group convened by the Executive Committee and this resulted in the current Interim Priorities. The next step, and a vital piece of the Recovery/Implementation Strategy is to take each of the Priorities and flesh them out. This work requires the help of many Council members.

Once we have this information, the technical group can then loop back to those projects and say how far does this project or that project get us towards recovery? How are we doing on implementation, next steps, emerging issues? The strategy can be refined.

Important to note – the Recovery/Implementation Strategy plays a key role in moving forward with the Alliance's Legislative Strategy which, if successful, will result in funding to implement local on the ground projects.

Next Steps for Council members:

The Council went through the list of resolved upon Interim Priorities and designated a Council lead, responsible for fleshing out (via a one page form that Gabby will circulate) projects relating to that priority to be included in the Recovery/Implementation Strategy.

3:00

Council Seats and By-laws proposal

The Council Chair shared a draft proposal to addresses clarifications in Alliance by-laws, as well as laying out a process addressing Council seats.

Decision: Does the Council approve moving forward the proposal for by-laws changes and Council seats to the Executive Committee?

The Council seats proposal was accepted by the Executive Committee (below) and the quorum requirement was re-defined as half of all **filled member seats.*

3:45

Announcements/Sub-Committee updates

The Council Communications sub-committee focused in on developing the overarching messages/audiences for the Alliance:

South Puget Sound is a very unique body of water, different than the rest of Puget Sound.

- From a circulation standpoint, it is the end of the road – run off from all around the region comes here. It has slow circulation and sensitivity to excess nutrients.
- South Puget Sound is one of the fastest growing regions in Puget Sound.

The Alliance is the only regional group that is holistically working to sustain multiple species of fish, habitat and water quality

Ratio of rural/urban lands: Statement on these land uses and that this ratio is changing here...types of impacts from each of these.

High level of collaboration in the South Sound – Success stories

4:00

Adjourn

Next Alliance Council Meeting July 23rd 1-4, Location LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Olympia