

**Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting  
January 3, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 pm  
LOTT Clean Water Alliance  
500 Adams Street NE, Olympia, WA**

**Participants**

Jesse Barham, City of Olympia	Dave Peeler, DERT
Jeff Barney, Pierce County	Al Schmauder, Chambers-Clover Watershed Council
Evan Bauder, Mason Conservation District	Wendy Steffensen, LOTT
Chris Burke, City of Tacoma	Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe
Brian Combs, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group	Stephanie Suter, PSP
Ray Hanowell, Thurston-Pierce County Public Health	Ashley Von Essen, Nisqually River Council
Amy Hatch-Winecka, Thurston Conservation District	Jennifer Whipple, Taylor Shellfish
Jennifer Holderman, Mason Conservation District	Allan Warren, Pierce Conservation District
Tom Kantz, Pierce County	Meeting Facilitation/Coordination: Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic
Neil McLanahan, City of Tumwater	Andy Chinn, Ross Strategic

**Meeting Summary**

**I. Council Administrative Items**

November Meeting Summary

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

General Updates

- The JLARC review of PSP was recently released and contains 3 to 4 moderate/significant findings. One of the recommendations is better integration of monitoring issues into PSP programs (on a related note, Dave Peeler is joining the PSEMP Steering Committee as a member of the environmental caucus; Tom Kantz is also on the PSEMP Steering Committee). JLARC will be presenting its findings on Wednesday, January 4 at 1 pm on TVW.

Governor's Budget Request

- Ross Strategic recently circulated the "Budget Buddy" that shows all salmon-related funding requests in the Governor's budget.

**II. Puget Sound Restoration Funding**

Ross Strategic reminded Council members that the lists of FY2016 NTA funding, large cap PSAR project rankings, and the 2016 SRFB project list were circulated via e-mail prior to the meeting.

Evan Bauder provided a presentation on several recently completed projects in WRIA 14, including:

- Riparian assessment that identified priority properties for planting and resulted in 1.6 miles of streambank planting.
- Goldsborough and Mill Creek knotweed assessment.

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- Water type assessment work through Wild Fish Conservancy.
- Capitol Land Trust's final work around the Bayshore property, including final planting and development of a public use plan.
- Purchase of 58 acres at the head of North Bay, adjacent to Coulter Creek Park.
- Capitol Land Trust's Eagle Point acquisition, a strategic conservation property located near Shelton.

Brian Combs provided a presentation on recent South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group projects, including:

- Goldsborough Off-Channel Wetlands Project: Reconnected wetland that was disconnected by the railroad and provides fish passage to the wetland, plus groundwater infiltration.
- Likes Creek Fish Passage: This project came in under budget and SPSSEG received an amendment to complete three additional fish passage barrier removals, making Likes Creek entirely fish passable.
- Edgewater Beach Restoration: Removed an 800 foot bulkhead that was impeding drift cell function. With the bulkhead removed, the shoreline is now ready for natural processes to begin again. SPSSEG received funding for extended monitoring of this project through ESRP.

Tom Kantz commented that Pierce County's upcoming funded projects included a feasibility study for Lower Purdy Creek restoration (removing an old gas station and daylighting the creek). Wild Fish Conservancy is proposing some stream-typing projects in the Gig Harbor Peninsula. The East Fork Rocky Creek acquisition is also slated to receive funding, as well as the Huge Creek project.

### III. South Sound Strategy

The South Sound Strategy is available for download on the AHSS website. The map viewers for upland/terrestrial and nearshore/marine are also accessible via the website. Elizabeth noted that the South Sound Strategy intentionally does not set a timeline for targets in order to avoid the common pitfall of basing the time frame for a given target on what is believed to be possible. As Council members use the mapping tool, the AHSS Technical Team requested feedback on the following:

- Helpful pre-selected queries to load into the map viewer
- Additional map layers that would be useful
- If you are *not* using the tool, please provide that feedback to the Technical Team (and why).

Tom commented that project implementers should consider projects that are *strategic* and projects that are *opportunistic*. When an opportunistic project arises, the map tool can be useful to explore what is nearby, to make a project even better. The Technical Team is also considering developing outreach materials to Lead Entities, land trusts, environmental organizations, and others doing on the ground work. The Technical Team plans to meet, to discuss this.

#### Questions and Comments

- It would be useful to add local fine-scale data (e.g., wild fish data, riparian data).

#### Next Steps

- The Technical Team will meet to discuss South Sound Strategy "roll out" work.

### IV. Outreach and Education Team

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The Outreach and Education Team is planning to develop screening criteria for NTAs that are focused on outreach and education. The current NTA screening criteria are focused on technical, restoration/conservation type NTAs.

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

### **Wrap Up**

- Tom Kantz noted that the proposal to dissolve the South Central LIO and delegate its responsibilities to existing organizations remains active but no new information is available.
- Al Schmauder commented that one of AHSS's high priority NTAs is restoration of Chambers Bay estuary. In 2016 Forterra was awarded a grant to study Chambers Creek dam removal but Squaxin Island Tribe (as one of the four fishery co-managers) does not want to move forward until fish management issues are resolved. Al asked whether the Council could send a letter to the Puyallup Tribe expressing support of the dam removal study. The grant is for \$160,000 and this funding will have to be returned if the fishery co-managers cannot agree on a path forward.
  - Tom Kantz noted that any letter would have to originate in the Executive Committee.
  - Scott Steltzner commented that a significant amount of work is required before dam removal becomes an option.

### **Future Meeting Topics**

- WRIA 12 will complete two projects later this year: Spanaway Lake management plan, and Spanaway Lake watershed stormwater management plan. Tom or someone from his staff will present on this topic in the fall.

[Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm]

**Next meeting: March 7, 2017, LOTT Cleanwater Alliance**