

**Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting  
July 11, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 pm  
LOTT Clean Water Alliance  
500 Adams Street NE, Olympia, WA**

**Participants**

Jeff Barney, Pierce County	Stephanie Suter, PSP
Evan Bauder, Mason Conservation District	Jennifer Whipple, Taylor Shellfish
Jeremy Graham, City of Olympia	Jordan Rash, Forterra
Tom Kantz, Pierce County	Brad Murphy, Thurston County
Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe	
Sue Patnude, DERT	
Marian Berejikian, West Sound Watershed Council	<i>Meeting Facilitation/Coordination:</i>
Tiffany Speir, Pierce County	Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic
Ray Hanowell, Thurston-Pierce County Public Health	Molly Spiller, Ross Strategic

**Meeting Summary**

**I. Council Administrative Items**

May Meeting Summary

- Council members approved the May 2017 meeting summary without amendments; the summary will be posted to the AHSS website.

PSP

- Internally, PSP has been short-staffed, without a Deputy Director and a CFO. They are in the process of filling those two positions. The new budget has allocated funding for a Salmon Recovery Manager, and potentially a PSAR manager if it's included in the Capital Budget.

General

- GAO is auditing the Puget Sound Partnership to look at whether its goals are clear, if progress is being made, and if its funding is contributing to achieving the goals. Elizabeth participated in an interview with a team from GAO and expressed that it was an interesting conversation. The main theme from the LIO comments had to do with the continued concern with the way NEP funding is distributed and administered in the sense that only a small portion of the funds get out to on-the-ground projects.

ECO Network Updates

- ECO Network recently had a meeting focusing on local efforts to reduce the use of pesticides and encourage natural yard care practices. They are also working on consistent messaging and promoting local resources for people. They have some key resources for people to be aware of and promote when possible. Links to these resources will be available on the AHSS website. The group also discussed gaps in the solicitation overall.

**II. Action Agenda Update**

The next Action Agenda update will include actions for 2018-2022, this will include a solicitation for NTAs, including Puget Sound scale priorities. The Council reviewed the regional priorities by vital sign to add local context by stating whether or not the priority is applicable in South Puget Sound, and identified any gaps that exist within the priorities. Overall gaps discussed include:

- No inclusion of pocket estuaries

- Lack of importance of pollinator habitat in terms of landcover, development, and food security
- The shoreline armoring section doesn't include avoiding shoreline armoring through education and outreach
- The shellfish section is focused around water quality and upgrading shellfish growing areas; there is no mention of native shellfish habitats and their priority in South Sound
- The Water Quality, Shellfish, and BIBI sections do not include mention of education and outreach

Next steps:

- Council members will review the chart and send any identified gaps to Elizabeth. Elizabeth will talk with those interested to write something up and then will circulate for review and comments.

#### **IV. No Discharge Zone proposal**

The Washington Department of Ecology has proposed a Puget Sound No Discharge Zone for vessel sewage. Jeff Barney provided background to the group:

- US EPA has determined that a no discharge zone can be established for Puget Sound because they found adequate facilities in the Puget Sound area for vessels to pump out their sewage.
- Looking at the inventory, limitations are not called out. For example, boats may be too long or too deep in the water to access the pump out stations, and incorrect/outdated placement of the pump stations mapped.
  - Re-inventorying the pump out stations would be a beneficial exercise – the main outputs are centralized in areas like Tacoma, Edmonds, and Seattle, with few locations in the South Sound.
- This proposal is good for water quality, fish, shellfish, health, etc. but in terms of maintenance, funding sources are unclear.

Discussion: Should AHSS comment on the No Discharge Zone proposal?

- The group expressed the opinion that it seems appropriate to comment on the proposal. The Council supports the proposal but also believes that there should be more pump out stations in South Sound and that if the infrastructure isn't in place, this will not work.
- The Council could potentially engage with someone from Thurston County and the Port of Olympia.

Next Steps:

- Jeff Barney and Elizabeth McManus presented to the Thurston county Boating Authority and are working to engage other groups to let them know the work that the AHSS does and what the strategic plan is.
- A comment letter will be drafted to reflect the opinions from the discussion

#### **V. South Sound Shellfish Initiative**

There is interest in developing a South Sound Shellfish Initiative that would cover the South Sound and Hood Canal. The goal of the initiative would be to raise the profile of South Sound Shellfish, improve coordinated shellfish protection actions, and to increase investment in shellfish protection and recovery. This is an opportunity to coordinate across counties and LIOs. The other piece of the proposal includes creating a sustainable funding source (or sources) that could be administered at the county scale.

Discussion: How to inventory ongoing shellfish protection programs in South Sound?

- Ray Hanowell explained that Pierce County Shellfish Partners has done work to identify existing programs and gaps and how to move forward.
- The Washington Shellfish Initiative has momentum right now, so it's a good time to connect to the statewide effort.
- The group expressed the need to include the importance of producing a sense of pride and communicating the economic benefit of South Sound Shellfish.

## **VI. Applying the South Sound Strategy**

The group discussed an approach to creating summaries of opportunities in each inlet-island group. This derived from a conversation on how to make people aware that the strategy exists. The group expressed thoughts on creating a one-pager:

- The target audiences would be elected officials, people proposing work in the island groups, and the public
- Should add context about the group and what AHSS does
- Limit the use of terms and acronyms that will confuse/lose people more removed from the work
- Direction to website for more information
- Use of infographics
- Could include "Key Players" in the Inlet-Island Group
- Needs to be checked to make sure the summaries are accurate representations of what's on the ground

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

Future Meeting Topics

- Action Agenda update
- Inlet island group summaries
- Update on Chinook Implementation Strategies
- Draft Inventories for Thurston/Mason County South Sound Shellfish Initiative

[Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm]

**Next meeting: Tuesday October 10, 2017, LOTT Cleanwater Alliance**