

**Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting**  
**October 10, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**  
**LOTT Clean Water Alliance**  
**500 Adams Street NE, Olympia, WA**

**Participants**

Jeff Barney, Pierce County	Jennifer Johnson, Thurston County Public Health
Tom Kantz, Pierce County	Jessie Barham, City of Olympia
Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe	Allan Warren, Pierce Conservation District
Ray Hanowell, Thurston-Pierce County Public Health	Stena Troyer, Harbor WildWatch
Dave Peeler, DERT	
Abby Barnes, WA Department of Natural Resources	<i>Meeting Facilitation/Coordination:</i>
Stephanie Suter, PSP	Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic
	Molly Spiller, Ross Strategic

**Meeting Summary**

**I. Council Administrative Items**

May Meeting Summary

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

PSP

- PSP is gearing up for the mid-November release of the NTA solicitation. There is a new submission online interface that is shorter and easier to work with than the previous NTA submission interface. The interface asks a series of questions about the proposed project. The time it takes to complete will vary.

ECO Network Updates

- Jennifer Johnson is the new Thurston ECO Network coordinator and attended the meeting to update the council on the ECO Network's current activities. They recently conducted an analysis of membership to explore shared priorities, and to look at how to better align collaboration within the group. They're working on professional development and networking opportunities for members. Coming up in September, Sam Ham will offer a free workshop for ECO Network members on Environmental Interpretation. The Sustainability Group from Joint Base Lewis McChord will attend the January ECO Net meeting. The ECO Net welcomes coordination/collaboration with AHSS and AHSS members are welcome at ECO Net meetings. For more information on the Thurston ECO Net, visit the [website](#).

**II. Action Agenda 2018 Planning**

The next Action Agenda update will include actions for 2018-2022. PSP put together a handout to describe the process for the Near-Term Action Solicitation and Submittal Process. Important dates include:

- *By December 22 – project sponsors preregister using the online interface.* This includes a brief description and overview of what the action will be. The preregistration process is to give groups like the LIOs a chance to look at what actions are being proposed and provide feedback.
- *By February 6 – project sponsors for NTAs that will occur in 2 or fewer LIO geographies ("local projects") complete full draft NTA submittal form.* This is to facilitate review by LIOs and so LIOs

can provide feedback to the NTA owners who can then address any concerns before submitting the final NTA application.

- *By March 30* – Final NTA submissions due from all project sponsors.
- *By April 15* – LIOs review and score local NTAs and provide feedback to the Strategic Initiative teams.

The Council discussed the process the AHSS uses to review projects and brainstormed potential South Sound Actions. On project review, the Technical Team has a long-standing process that they have used to do this in the past. That group is meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss any changes to the process. In the past, the Technical Team has used a pass-fail system, that scores projects based on three categories (benefits, likelihood of success, and consistency with South Sound strategy). Projects that receive 50% or more of the possible points pass, those that don't, fail. Projects that pass are automatically endorsed. The Council asked that the list of projects for endorsement be circulated among the Council for review and any red flags could be forwarded to the Technical Team and Executive Committee for consideration.

Possible South Sound Actions the group may propose as NTAs include:

- Abby Barnes indicated that the WA Department of Natural Resources is interested in working with the group on proposing actions.
- The City of Olympia will be pushing forward a street sweeping program as a pollution prevention method for stormwater and runoff. This project also was submitted last time.
- Pump out facility infrastructure NTA to provide pump out facilities in high destination areas in South Sound. This would address the issues the AHSS identified with the Department of Ecology's Proposed No Discharge Zone Rule.
- The ongoing Shellfish Partners program will be included as an NTA for additional funding. Received feedback that it would be useful to split the program into more discreet 2-4-year phased proposals that are more manageable in terms of funding.
- Project to play off Mason County's Shore Friendly program. A regional Shore Friendly Program could be a good project to put forward because of the scalability, however it could come with a larger price tag being submitted for a limited amount of money.

Allen Warren asked if there are priorities outlined in the South Sound Strategy that are not covered in the projects being proposed that the Council should propose actions for. Elizabeth commented that the Alliance can propose projects, but would need a fiscal agent.

#### **IV. South Sound Clean Water / Shellfish Initiative Update**

The AHSS is working to build out the idea that the Alliance cares about shellfish through a number of resources. These resources will be added to the new [Shellfish](#) page on the AHSS website to help raise awareness and support for clean water and shellfish in the South Sound. We're working to make sure this work is not duplicative of the Shellfish Partners work. Resources include:

- Commercial and recreational maps to point out where shellfish are grown and can be harvested.
- List of Shellfish Celebrations around the South Sound.
- Inventory of Potential Funding Sources for Shellfish work.
- Catalogue of ongoing activities and resources regarding clean water and shellfish. This includes information on shellfish gardens, the history of shellfish in South Sound, and resources for homeowners around septic systems and loan programs.

Comments from the Council:

- Ray Hanowell commented that focus groups have been convened around the shellfish effort in Pierce County. They've changed the name to Clean Water Partners to more accurately portray the focus of the work. Shellfish Partners is not meant to specifically further the commercial shellfish industry, but to emphasize work toward clean water.

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

Updates from the Group

- Olympia's Storm and Surface Water Plan is being updated. There will be a public review draft in mid-November.
- Olympia Parks is starting work on the West Bay Restoration and Park Master Plan project.
- Tacoma Pierce County Health Department's Surface Water Program will likely lose staff and capacity in 2018 due to reduced funding. They will continue work on Shellfish, but other work on toxic algae and freshwater swimming beaches will likely be reduced or cut.
- The Shelton Harbor Project received the needed permit and will be starting up in the next few weeks. Goldsborough Creek will have log jams placed at the mouth of the creek. This project is on track to build a marsh next year.
- Dan Wrye is retiring, his last day will be October 31<sup>st</sup>. For information on his retirement celebration, please contact Jeff Barney.

Future Meeting Topics

- NTA Solicitation update
- Sharing updated information on who's proposing NTAs
- Other projects that AHSS would like to support/sponsor to align with the South Sound Strategy
- Shellfish Initiative Update
  - Build out resources for Septic Owners
  - Revise draft maps
- Update on Technical Team's NTA scoring and ranking process

[Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm]

**Next meeting: Tuesday December 5, 2017, LOTT Cleanwater Alliance**