

**Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting**  
**December 5, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**  
**LOTT Clean Water Alliance**  
**500 Adams Street NE, Olympia, WA**

**Participants**

Jesse Barham, City of Olympia  
Evan Bauder, Mason Conservation District  
Ray Hanowell, Thurston-Pierce County Public Health  
Amy Hatch-Wineka, Thurston Conservation District  
Allen Warren, Pierce Conservation District  
Tom Kantz, Pierce County  
Jane Mountjoy-Venning, Thurston County Environmental Health  
Dave Peeler, DERT  
Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe  
Merita Trohimovich, City of Tacoma

*Meeting Facilitation/Coordination:*  
Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic  
Molly Spiller, Ross Strategic

**Meeting Summary**

**I. Council Administrative Items**

October Meeting Summary

- Council members approved the October 2017 meeting summary with the following amendments; the revised summary will be posted to the AHSS website [Post-meeting update: the revised summary is posted on the [AHSS website](#)].
  - o Corrected the name of Olympia's Storm and Surface Water Plan.
  - o Corrected the title of the West Bay Restoration and Park Master Plan project.

PSP

- Derek Young was nominated to fill Dan Wrye's vacant ECB spot. The PSP Leadership Council will consider the nomination and make a decision about ECB representation at their December meeting. [Post-meeting update: Councilmember Young's nomination was approved, and he was appointed to the ECB by the Leadership Council.]

ECO Network Updates

- There were no new ECO Network updates at the meeting; there was a reminder that the Sustainability Group from Joint Base Lewis McChord will attend the January ECO Net meeting. For more information on the Thurston ECO Net, visit the [website](#).

**II. NTA Solicitation**

The next Action Agenda update will include actions for 2018-2022. Projects that are important to Puget Sound should be submitted for inclusion in the Action Agenda, whether or not sponsors believe they will be competitive for National Estuary Program funding; other funding sources will be looking to the Action Agenda to establish the menu of work that is needed for Puget Sound restoration. Pre-registration for NTAs is due by December 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is a hard deadline; if project sponsors miss the December 22 deadline they will not be considered for inclusion in the Action Agenda. After the pre-registration deadline, LIOs will have an opportunity to review NTAs that fall within their geography and provide

comments to project sponsors. NTAs from the current Action Agenda which project sponsors want in the 2018-2022 Action Agenda will need to be resubmitted, they will not be automatically carried forward.

The Council discussed the following topics regarding the NTA solicitation process and actions:

- South Sound Clean Water / Shellfish Partners NTA is currently funded. The group thought it would make sense to continue these action as a large group covering multiple geographies and larger boundaries to be more competitive for future funding. Pierce County is amenable to continuing to sponsor / organize the NTA.
- If salmon projects want to be in the Action Agenda, they need to be submitted as an NTA. Many project sponsors on the Council added that they plan to put forward salmon projects they're working on as NTAs. It was noted that salmon projects don't need to be aligned under the salmon Focus Area, they may fit under other focus areas such as shoreline armoring, estuary, or others.
- The longer Action Agenda timeframe (4 years), may affect proposals for phased projects. In the past, phases were typically submitted individually. Now, with the four-year Action Agenda plus the year of lag time for adoption, many project sponsors will need to submit all or most project phases together.
- The Strategic Initiative Advisory Teams are interested in toolkits, guidance/policy development, outreach, and other programmatic projects. SIATs make decisions on allocation of NEP funds to NTAs.
- Council members stated the following projects as potential NTAs that they are considering or planning to submit:
  - Thurston County Health Department is looking at establishing Shellfish Protection Districts across the Norther Inlets.
  - Street Sweeping NTA in Olympia.
  - Stormwater retrofits in Olympia.
  - Sediments study, Phase I, and Phase II for the Deschutes Estuary Restoration.
  - Mason County riparian NTA.

### **III. AHSS Project Scoring Criteria Update**

AHSS has the opportunity to review, score, and rank projects submitted within the South Sound geography. In preparation for this, the Technical Team worked on updating the [AHSS Project Scoring Criteria and Process](#). The three factors used for scoring are unchanged: benefit of the project, likelihood of success, and consistency with the South Sound Strategy. There is now an added binning process based on the aggregated scores of the three factors. There are four bins: green, yellow, orange, and red. Projects in the green bin are automatically endorsed, projects in the yellow and orange bins will be endorsed on a case-by-case basis, and projects in the red bin won't be endorsed.

The Council expressed concern that the AHSS criteria might be too high-reaching and may run the risk of creating the idea that good projects are sub-par. The main area that has standards that may be unattainable is under Factor 1 (benefit of the project). To earn all 4 points under the "Scale" criterion, a project must "address the entire South Puget Sound region." The Council recommended changing the

language such that a project will earn 4 points under the Factor 1 Scale criterion if it “addresses multiple watersheds and/or inlet island groups”. [Post meeting update: this change was made.]

#### **IV. South Sound Clean Water and Healthy Shellfish Initiative Update**

As discussed in previous meetings, a number of materials are under development to promote clean water and healthy shellfish in South Sound. The Council reviewed the draft Resources for Homeowners document that provides information, tips, and contact information for homeowners with septic systems, and the draft funding list for shellfish-related projects. The Council was asked to please send comments or additions for both documents to Elizabeth or Molly.

The Council suggested the following topics as potential Shellfish NTAs:

- An integrated protective measures public engagement project in South Sound.
- Project around Eld Inlet water quality improvement.
- Promotion of additional community shellfish gardens.

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

Updates from the Group

- The South Sound NTA on Shellfish Protection Districts has received \$100,000 twice, and \$300,000 last year. This year they have been awarded another allocation of \$732,000. The group submitted a tiered list of additional work that explained what could be done with different levels of funding.
- The Thurston County Shellfish Protection District program was set to sunset at the end of 2017 but has now been renewed for another ten years. The Commissioners agreed to a small increase in funds for this work.
- Olympia’s Storm and Surface Water Plan is out for public comment until December 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The Shelton Harbor Project Phase 1 is complete, nine log jams were placed in the mouth of the creek to promote estuary formation.
- The South Sound Salmon Enhancement Group sponsored a Kennedy Creek Salmon Spawning event. Many people attended, and was a great educational opportunity for the public.
- The Chambers Dam project is moving forward. The grant is for a feasibility study and due-diligence for acquisition. They’re also working on assessing the value of the dam in order to seek future funding to acquire the property from the current owner.

Suggested Future Meeting Topics

- NTA Process.
- Update on Shellfish Protection District NTA.
- South Sound Symposium.
- Presentation on Oakland Bay project.
- Discuss adding temporal scale to the South Sound targets.
- Update on Stormwater work across South Sound

[Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm]

**Next meeting: February 6, 2018, 2:00-4:00pm LOTT Clean Water Alliance**