

Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting
February 6, 2018, 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
Tom Kantz, Pierce County
Sue Patnude, Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team
Barbara Ann Smolko, Pierce County
Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe
Stephanie Suter, Puget Sound Partnership
Merita Trohimovich, City of Tacoma

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

Meeting Summary

I. Council Administrative Items

December Meeting Summary

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

PSP

- If you run into issues with the NTA submission tool, there are a few tips that may alleviate the problem: try restarting your browser; use Google Chrome when possible; if that doesn't work you can submit using the Word version and contact PSP for more assistance.
- PSP has put out a call to members of the SRC to help with the Chinook NTA review. Roughly a third of the NTAs that have been submitted are Chinook related, which is more than anticipated. If you're interested in volunteering to do this, contact Stephanie (stephanie.suter@psp.wa.gov)
- PSP held a Vital Signs Webinar on 1/31, it is posted on the PSP website ([link](#)).

ECO Network Updates

- There were no new ECO Network updates at the meeting;

II. NTA Solicitation

The date for preregistering Near Term Actions (NTAs) to be included in the 2018-2022 Action Agenda was December 22, 2017. The AHSS Technical Team reviewed the list of NTAs that occur in South Sound, or South Sound and one other geography. They did not identify any red flags in these projects, but did provide some comments and questions, and are currently following up with those NTA owners. The Technical Team did not identify any NTAs that are inconsistent with the South Sound Recovery Strategy. AHSS has waived the February 6th deadline for the full draft NTA Factsheet and informed project sponsors via email.

Final, completed NTA applications are due March 30th. In early May the AHSS Technical Team will review the full NTAs and rank them using the bucketing process outlined in the [Project Endorsement](#) page on the AHSS Website. This is not a prioritization exercise, rather it places each NTA in one of four bins: best (which we automatically endorse), upper middle, lower middle (which the Technical Team will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee on) and worst (which will not be endorsed). The results of the bucketing process will be submitted to the Regional Strategic Initiative Advisory Teams who will incorporate the LIO scores into the larger scoring process and consider any LIO comments or flags in the final NTA score.

The Council reviewed the list of NTAs in South Sound and Elizabeth encouraged the group to take a look and see if there is any opportunity for alignment or coordination across projects.

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

- PSP is not planning to update the NTA list within the next four years, so if a project is funded it is not removed from the list. The idea is to keep projects on the list even if they're funded because they are actions that will contribute to Puget Sound Recovery.
- It is important to highlight successes as they happen and show the public that projects are being funded and completed.
- A number of Sound-wide NTAs are reaching out to Elizabeth for coordination. Elizabeth will send these around to the Council as they are received. If you're interested in reviewing and ranking any of these, contact Elizabeth and the Alliance can participate during the ranking process.
- Stormwater projects didn't have a clear fit in any of the regional priorities so many project sponsors included them under the Chinook strategies.
- WRIA 13 asked about planning their own NTA review process and how results of that process might be factored into AHSS scores; they were invited to participate in the AHSS scoring process rather than carry out a separate process.

Elizabeth noted that the University of Washington's School of Geography has released a call for proposals about community-initiated GIS projects. The Geography Department has two upcoming opportunities offering GIS projects supporting community-university partnerships, in Spring 2018 and Summer 2018. Successful projects include a combination of data management, analysis, and/or a visualization component. The Council proposed the following ideas as potential project submissions:

- Mapping ecosystem services and wildlife viewing opportunities that would provide South Sound visitors with an easy way to find things to do, similar to the Trails to Trails project.
- Mapping of successful small-scale estuary restorations done in South Sound, and then a written narrative to accompany the maps.
- Use Prism data to map salmon projects funded in South Sound since Lead Entities were formed, and then analyze how much habitat has been created. This could show progress towards recovery goals and how that progress aligns with the South Sound Strategy.

III. South Sound Clean Water Partners

Barbara Ann Smolko provided an update to the group on the South Sound Clean Water Partners project. The intent of this project is to provide a partnership approach to protecting and improving water quality, coordinate Pollution Identification and Correction Programs, recover downgraded shellfish growing areas, and prevent new growing areas from being downgraded.

The original NTA (NTA 1.0) included Pierce County, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Pierce Conservation District, Mason Conservation District, and Thurston County Public Health and Social Services. The work, based on full implementation of each shellfish protection or clean water district's restoration plan, was estimated to cost \$5.6 million and received \$400,000 total. Because the amount of funding was small, the project geography and activities were reduced from the original proposal.

The current phase of this NTA (NTA 2.0) is a tiered proposal over three years that has received \$732,000 from Washington Department of Health, and \$100,000 from AHSS. Mason County Public works was added as a new partner, and the geographic area of work was expanded. The goal for this phase is to address the largest gaps in need and complete anything remaining from the previous phase.

The next phase of this work will be submitted as an NTA for the 2018-22 Action Agenda. It adds the Squaxin Island Tribe as a partner and expands work to include prevention strategies to reduce the future potential for additional downgrading.

Barbara outlined the following program benefits and challenges:

- Benefits: shared expertise across jurisdictions; prioritize and address problems regionally; increased accountability; minimize administrative costs.
- Challenges: contracting; coordination across partners; steep learning curve.

IV. AHSS Shellfish Initiative

As noted in previous meetings, a number of materials are under development to promote clean water and healthy shellfish in South sound. The Council reviewed an updated draft of the Resources for Homeowners document that includes information, best practices, tips and contact information for homeowners with septic systems. Other materials under development include:

- Shellfish Gardening Guide
- Recreational Shellfish Harvest map and guide
- Draft funding list for shellfish-related projects

V. Wrap up and Future Meeting Topics

Updates from the Group

- The South Sound Symposium will be October 16th at the Little Creek Casino Events Center. The Steering Committee is working on setting the agenda. There will be a poster session with a lightening round where presenters have 1-3 minutes to talk about their poster. More information will be circulated once it's available.
- Oakland Bay project is working on getting permitted and will begin construction Summer 2018.

- Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team is sponsoring a Youth Camp August 30-31 and Festival of the Steh-Chass September 1st both located at Heritage Park in Olympia. For more information see the [DERT website](#).

Suggested Future Meeting Topics

- NTA Process.
- South Sound Symposium.
- Presentation on Oakland Bay project.
- Discuss adding temporal scale to the South Sound targets, after the Technical Team scopes out the best way to address this topic.
- Update on Stormwater work across South Sound:
 - o City of Olympia will have a new Stormwater Utility Strategic Plan
 - o City of Tacoma could present on their stormwater projects
 - o WA Department of Ecology presentation on monitoring
 - o Pierce County could present on their stormwater work
- Future of Capital Lake and the Environmental Impact Statement process

[Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm]

Next meeting: Thursday, April 12, 2018, 2:00-4:00pm LOTT Clean Water Alliance