

Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting
April 12, 2018, 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	Stephanie Suter, Puget Sound Partnership
Ray Hanowell, Tacoma-Pierce County Public Health	Merita Trohimovich, City of Tacoma
Amy Hatch-Winecka, Thurston Conservation District	Allan Warren, Pierce Conservation District
Tom Kantz, Pierce County	

Meeting Facilitation/Coordination:

Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic
Molly Spiller, Ross Strategic

Meeting Summary

I. Council Administrative Items

February Meeting Summary

- Council members approved the February 2018 meeting summary without amendments; the summary will be posted to the [AHSS website](#).

PSP

- There were no Puget Sound Partnership updates at this meeting.

Thurston ECO Network Update

- Since January the ECO Network has had presentations from Joint Base Lewis McChord on their sustainability programs and a curriculum sharing from The Missing Species Coalition. The ECO Network continues to network and coordinate education messages as a group.
- Thurston ECO Network meetings are now on the third Thursday of every other month from 10am-12pm. The next meeting will be May 9th at LOTT.

NTA Update

- April 12th was the final day to fix any errors with submitted near-term actions (NTAs). Elizabeth contacted NTA owners for actions that were flagged, and everyone that responded fixed the errors and resubmitted the project.
- The Puget Sound Partnership will finish the Administrative Review on April 13th, followed by the LIO review period from April 16th – May 12th. During this time, the Technical Team will review and score the NTAs in South Sound and provide recommendations to the Executive Committee which is meeting on May 10th to review and make final decisions on project endorsement. Scores and comments are due to PSP on May 12th.

II. Presentation: South Sound Stormwater Planning ([PowerPoint link](#))

Tom Kantz provided an overview of the stormwater planning process for the Spanaway Lake Watershed. The planning was a requirement for the county NPDES permit, which requires development of a

watershed-scale stormwater plan. The watershed is about 23 square miles, and is a tributary to Clover Creek, which is used by salmon. Pierce County completed the watershed-scale planning requirements including:

- Constructing a continuous flow model of Spanaway Creek/Lake watershed
- Estimating historic and predict future hydrologic, biologic, and water quality conditions
- Identifying and modeling stormwater management strategies that fully support designated uses
- Creating an implementation plan and schedule

Tom explained that this study took about two and a half years and costed \$1.2 million. After modeling and monitoring, results ([slides 12-25](#)) suggest that stormwater doesn't seem to be a large limiting factor in the Spanaway watershed. The study identified the following stormwater-related and non-stormwater-related strategies:

Stormwater related

- Retrofit stormwater outfall to significantly reduce the stormwater from Military Road
- Retrofit identified drywells
- Retrofit identified ponds

Non-stormwater related

- Toxicity testing of the creek sediment to identify if herbicide and pesticide treatments are impacting benthic communities
- Channel improvements for benthic habitat
- Outreach and education
- Riparian enhancement

Councilmembers asked the following questions:

Q. How many watershed basins in Pierce County have plans like this one?

A. *This is the only plan like this in Pierce County, but there are basin plans for other watersheds, and TMDLs require water quality restoration plans as well.*

Q. Why was this watershed required to do this kind of study and planning?

A. *Because Pierce County is a Phase 1 jurisdiction for stormwater planning. The County was required to do this, but the cities were not.*

Q. Does this planning tie in with the Hirst Decisions?

A. No, these are completely different areas. The Hirst decision specifically relates to water supply and drinking water.

Q. Did the study consider effects due to changing climate?

A. No.

III. AHSS Website Update

Ross Strategic has been working on updating the AHSS website to be more easily navigable and useful, including the addition of Salmon, Shellfish, and Stormwater pages that will provide resources and references for South Sound residents and visitors. The Council provided the following feedback and suggestions for future updates and uses of the AHSS website:

- Council members noted that the website is an important avenue for sharing the South Sound Strategy and associated maps, so they should be better highlighted and more user-friendly.

- The primary audience for the website is Council members and AHSS partners who use the website to access meeting materials and the strategy – including the maps.
- To be effective, the Alliance needs to get more people involved.
 - One member suggested that to do this AHSS partners could share information on their social media sites, and the AHSS website should include a more enticing home page that includes a tagline about the Alliance and why people should care.
- Several members commented that the Recent News section is useful and should continue to be updated regularly.
- Overall the sense was that the website worked well enough for its primary audiences; small changes and improvements would be helpful but to reach new audiences (e.g., the public) much broader engagement and a more significant upgrade would be needed and this is probably not a priority right now.

IV. South Sound Shellfish and Clean Water Initiative

As noted in previous meetings, a number of materials are under development to promote clean water and healthy shellfish in South Sound. These materials have been revised based on feedback from representatives of the Mason County, Pierce County, and Thurston County health departments. The Council reviewed the revised materials and did not have any additional comments. The following materials will be posted to the AHSS website.

- Septic System Owners Resource Guide
- Shellfish Gardening Guide
- South Sound Recreation and Shellfish Mapping

In addition to developing shellfish materials, AHSS is on the committee planning a shellfish summit in 2018, led by the Hood Canal Coordinating Council which has a small amount of funding to lead this effort. The purpose of the summit is to continue the conversation around collaboratively defining a shellfish initiative that recognizes the many interests, partners, and stakeholders across a broad geographic and multi-jurisdictional area, including South Puget Sound and Hood Canal. Council members were encouraged to send feedback and thoughts on the draft [Shellfish Initiative Topics and Outcomes](#) to Elizabeth (emcmanus@rossstrategic.com) and Molly (mspiller@rossstrategic.com).

V. Wrap up and Future Meeting Topics

Updates from the Group

- Jeff Barney is working with a group interested in shellfish seeding. They have a little bit of funding, some of which will be used in Penrose State Park. If you're interested in learning more or connecting with this group/effort, let Jeff know.
- Department of Enterprise Services released a Request for Qualifications for the Capital Lake Environmental Impact Statement in Olympia and will be putting together a review panel including state agencies and tribes to help select someone for this \$4 million project.
- The South Sound Science Symposium will be October 16th at the Little Creek Casino Events Center. The Symposium Steering Committee is working on setting the agenda. There will be a poster session with a lightning round where presenters have 1-3 minutes to talk about their poster. For more information, see the Symposium Website ([link](#)).

- The Washington Department of Ecology has adopted a No Discharge Zone rule. The Alliance submitted a comment letter during the public comment process expressing support for the notion but concerns with the availability of pump-out stations in South Sound.
 - Pierce County is working on a pump-out facility at Filucy Bay but are still in need of \$50,000 in additional funding. Council members suggested Salmon Safe Certification, RCO boating grants, and a State Capital Budget request as possible means to fill the funding gap.

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.
- Additional updates on Stormwater work across South Sound:
 - City of Olympia will have a new Stormwater Utility Strategic Plan
 - City of Tacoma could present on their stormwater projects
 - WA Department of Ecology presentation on monitoring
- Future of Capital Lake and the Environmental Impact Statement process

[Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm]

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 5, 2:00-4:00pm LOTT Clean Water Alliance