

Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting

June 5, 2018, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

LOTT Clean Water Alliance

500 Adams Street NE, Olympia, WA

Participants

Jeff Barney, Pierce County

Dave Peeler, DERT

Evan Bauder, Mason Conservation District

Al Schmauder, Chambers-Clover Watershed Council

Jeremy Graham, City of Olympia Water Resources

Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe

Ray Hanowell, Tacoma-Pierce County Health

Merita Trohimovich, City of Tacoma

Department

Amy Hatch-Winecka, Thurston Conservation District

Tom Kantz, Pierce County

Meeting Facilitation/Coordination:

Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic

Molly Spiller, Ross Strategic

Meeting Summary

I. Council Administrative Items

April Meeting Summary

- Council members approved the April 2018 meeting summary with the following two corrections:
 - Correct the spelling of Amy Hatch-Winecka's last name.
 - Correct Ray Hanowell's affiliation to Tacoma-Pierce County Public Health.
- The summary will be posted to the [AHSS website](#).

PSP

- PSP did not provide any updates at this meeting.
- Councilmembers provided the following updates related to PSP:
 - The Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP) convened for an all-day meeting in May to discuss the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee's (JLARC) review of the Partnership. PSEMP drafted a letter to express disappointment in the disconnect between the JLARC review and PSP's response.
 - PSEMP has vacant LIO member seats. If AHSS Council members are interested in filling the seat, please contact the AHSS LIO Coordinators ([email link](#))
 - PSP is rolling out a rapid Response Acquisition Program that will make available a subset of Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) dollars for time-sensitive acquisition projects. This is a pilot program with about \$500,000 available.

Thurston ECO Network Update

- The next Thurston ECO Network meeting will be July 11th from 10am-12pm at LOTT.
- The Council expressed interest in reaching out to other education and outreach organizations in the South Puget Sound area.

II. LIO Human Wellbeing Project

Elizabeth introduced a research study being done by PSP and Oregon State University. The focus of the project is to help LIOs integrate human wellbeing indicators with ecological indicators in LIO decision-making, including NTA development and scoring. The project can offer tools, capacity, and resources tailored to the LIO's interest. Elizabeth noted that there are currently three LIOs participating fully in the project (Hood Canal Coordinating Council, Island, and Snohomish-Stillaguamish) and the research team is looking for one more LIO to participate. The Council expressed interest in learning more about the project, and provided the following the ideas for helpful tools and resources:

- Integrate human wellbeing into the Shellfish NTA coordinated by Pierce County
- Explore the impact the salmonid restoration in South Sound could have on local wellbeing
- Learn how to translate the research on Capital Lake restoration into terms that are more recognizable and relatable to improve community understanding and support
- Consider the homelessness issue as it relates to water quality and pollution
- Identify how to target education and outreach that would highlight different messages to different people (homeowners, children, etc.).

III. NTA Review Process Debrief

Elizabeth shared the results of the AHSS NTA Scoring process. The AHSS Technical Team reviewed and scored the 46 NTAs in South Sound and passed on their final scoring to the AHSS Executive Committee for review and final approval. The Executive Committee accepted the Technical Team's recommendations with a slight change to the cutoff between projects in bin 3 and bin 4 to capture additional projects that are believed to be of high protection/restoration value but scored low because they are a (relatively) small size, i.e., they do not address multiple watersheds. The NTA scoring results were submitted with this change on time.

The Technical Team met on June 4th to review the NTA scoring process and discuss any changes or improvements they might want to make to the scoring guidance for next time. The Technical Team determined the current AHSS process for reviewing NTAs is too complicated and puts reviews in the place of having to make assumptions because it anticipates information about projects that is not collected in NTA project submissions. For this reason, they proposed adopting the PSP regional scoring criteria, like many other LIOs did during the last NTA review round, for NTA scoring. They might choose to apply a weighted scoring system and add a screen for consistency with the South Sound Strategy.

For other projects seeking AHSS endorsement, the Technical Team discussed a simplified scoring process that would include the same categories as the current scoring rubric but would be based on a 1-10 scale for each category with guiding questions for each reviewer to consider when determining scores. The LIO Coordinators will draft the revised scoring rubric and circulate it with the Technical Team and Council for review.

The Council agreed that having two different scoring processes, one for NTAs and another for other projects seeking endorsement, makes sense because the purpose behind the two are different and the level of detail provided for the projects is different. When scoring non-NTA projects, the AHSS could follow up with project owners and ask for additional information because generally those projects are already at the place where they have a complete grant proposal available.

IV. South Sound Strategy Update

Elizabeth noted that the South Sound Strategy has been in place for about 18 months and the LIO is responsible for reviewing and adaptively managing the plan, as necessary. The Council provided the following ideas for possible updates to the Strategy:

- Better describe the salmon section
- Add milestone targets: including what would need to be done to reach the overall target, and what could be done under current funding levels
- Identify implementation strategies for the numeric targets
- Update the freshwater targets

V. Presentation: Oakland Bay Restoration, Scott Steltzner

PowerPoint Presentation: [link](#)

Scott Steltzner provided an overview and update on the Oakland Bay Restoration project in Shelton. The motivation for the project began with the removal of a dam in Shelton Harbor in 2000, which resulted in an unexpectedly large increase in Coho use of Kennedy-Goldsborough Creek and created momentum for additional upland restoration and for restoration in the estuary. A group of stakeholders convened in 2005 to focus on continuing the restoration with a focus on Goldsborough Creek and Oakland Bay.

There are four components to the restoration project:

1. Placement of large woody debris in the mouth of the creek to naturally increase the sediment load. This component of the project was completed in November 2017. Nine log jams were placed at a cost of \$175,000.
2. Create a salt marsh to replace the one removed during mill construction. The salt marsh is planned for construction in 2018 and will involve raising 49 acres 15 feet higher.
3. Implement shoreline design plans along the Port of Shelton property. This component has been completed.
4. Eagle point conservation. This piece was completed in January 2017. The parcel was the highest rated parcel for conservation in the area and is now a City of Shelton passive recreation park and the city's first saltwater-access park.

The Council had the following questions:

Q. Where will the sediment come from to raise 15 feet?

A. The project team is looking at deep water dredge disposal sites. The point is to have a lot of organic material so that the natural organisms will return to the marsh.

VI. Wrap up and Future Meeting Topics

- Council members provided the following updates and events:
 - The South Central LIO has proposed to split along WRIA lines, creating three LIOs. The Puyallup River Watershed Council has agreed to take on the WRIA 10 LIO coordinator responsibilities and is currently working with King County on how the \$75,000 allocation would be shared under the proposed split. King County is still working with the other WRIsAs to transition them to taking on the LIO roles as well.
 - The Puget Sound Nutrient Forum had about 50 participants in person and 70 over the phone. One Councilmember added that it may be interesting to include a speaker from the Forum on a future Council meeting agenda.

Final 6/06/2018

- The City of Olympia is working with ORLA students on a stormwater education project. Students are using a grid system to map the stormwater features present at the school and creating a kiosk to house the information. The project will be complete on June 19th.

[Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm]

Next meeting: August 7, 2:00-4:00pm LOTT Clean Water Alliance