



Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting
April 2, 2019, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
LOTT Clean Water Alliance
500 Adams Street NE, Olympia, WA

Participants

Jesse Barham, City of Olympia
Jeff Barney, Pierce County
Andy Deffobis, Thurston County
Tom Kantz, Pierce County
Neil McLanaghan, City of Tumwater
Brad Murphy, Thurston County

Dave Peeler, DERT
Al Schmauder, Chambers-Clover Watershed Council
Kevin Shutt, Mason County
Stephanie Suter*, Puget Sound Partnership
Merita Trohimovich*, City of Tacoma
Allan Warren, Pierce Conservation District

*Participated remotely

Meeting Facilitation

Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic
Mary Byrne, Ross Strategic

Meeting Summary

I. PSP Updates

Stephanie Suter provided several PSP updates:

- [Sheida Sahandy is resigning as Executive Director of PSP](#). Her last day will be in early May.
 - Laura Blackmore will serve as the Interim Executive Director.
- Carrie Byron was hired as the PSAR Program Manager.
- Puget Sound Day on the Hill will be May 14-16 in Washington D.C.
- There is a call for South Sound ECB nominations. Councilmember Young's term ends at the end of June.

II. National Estuary Program Funding Decisions

The Council discussed recently announced National Estuary Program (NEP) funding decisions for South Sound and considered a proposal for LIO-led initiative to encourage EPA to increase the amount of funding LIOs direct. Three South Sound projects were funded for a total of \$1.1 million. Notably, only one South Sound program is typically funded through NEP each year. However, no NEP funding was provided for shellfish projects, habitat, or City of Olympia retrofits.

Some LIOs are interested in changing how Natural Estuary Funding is distributed to allow for more local discretion of fund allocation. A few years ago, the Alliance had approached EPA to ask for changes in funding, and the EPA did not permit funding allocation changes. The Council was asked to consider if they are interested in joining other LIOs in discussions with EPA and PSP around funding allocation.

AHSS Council Comments:

- The Council did not raise any red flags for advocating for more local funding discretion if the Executive Committee is in favor. However, it was noted that this is now a different landscape and administration then when the Alliance requested funding allocation changes from EPA

before, and that Tribes may not be in the same place with engaging in this particular conversation about funding and may have different focused efforts with EPA.

III. Interim Targets for Shoreline Armor Research

Ross Strategic provided an overview of initial findings on shoreline armor in the South Sound. In order to measure and track progress towards meeting the South Sound Targets on shoreline armoring removal, it was proposed that an interim target could be related to identify a goal rate of restoration progress based on past work and projects “in the pipeline.” Ross Strategic examined how much restoration has been accomplished in the past 10 years using the Four-year Work Plans, PRISM, NTAs, Habitat Work Schedule, and the WDFW Hydraulic Project Approval.

The following table summarizes the main findings.

Summary	
Databases examined:	(1) Four-year Work Plans (2) PRISM (3) NTAs (4) Habitat Work Schedule (5) WDFW Hydraulic Project Approval
Projects that qualified as shoreline armor removal:	98 projects
Projects that qualified as shoreline armor removal that include data on length of shoreline removed:	21 projects
Length of shoreline armor removed:	3,288 linear ft (~.62 mile) 24 sq ft 1,060 cubic yards

AHSS Council Comments:

- It was noted that in order to make progress on shoreline removal targets, there must be willing landowners. This requires education/community outreach, site visits with geologists/engineers, and funding.
 - Increased outreach to real estate agents was suggested as an effective method of outreach education because point of sale is prime opportunity for shoreline armor removal.
- The Council indicated interest in examining and compiling information on South Sound shoreline protection efforts. Ross Strategic will examine South Sound counties shoreline protection regulations and programs (e.g., SMPs, Shore Friendly, etc.) to help provide a fuller picture of

shoreline protection strategy in the South Sound. Ross Strategic can also review opportunities for third party funding and grants for bulkhead removal.

- There is a bill to give Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife more shoreline armor protection authority. Illegal bulkheads in the South Sound pose a threat to shoreline protection; currently, enforcement is complaint driven. Furthermore, there are no checks or incentives to ensure contractors have acquired the proper permits for home shoreline armor development.

IV. Updates and Round Robin

- Andy Haub, Water Resources Director of City of Olympia, is retiring in April. Andy has worked for the City of Olympia for 29 years.
- There is a new Habitat Coordinator for Mason Conservation District who will lead restoration in Chehalis, WRIA 14, and WRIA 15.
- The Governor's Budget includes funding for a new catchment facility in the City of Tumwater. This would be a \$5.1 million project. In addition, the Governor's Budget includes funding for a state-of-the-art chinook salmon hatchery in Pioneer Park. This would be a \$30-40 million project to increase salmon in the Deschutes (by potentially over a million salmon). A hatchery will also be built in the Tumwater Falls Park area through a collaboration among WDFW, City of Tumwater and the Squaxin Island Tribe.
- Thurston County has recently had some staffing changes. Andy Deffobis may be more engaged with Alliance work. Thurston County Shellfish Protection had small closure on Henderson Inlet; a response plan has been tentatively approved by the Shellfish Group.
- The South Sound Salmon Enhancement Group has been working on the Titlow Lagoon Restoration project. BNSF Railway Foundation has donated \$25,000 for this project.
- The feasibility study on the Chambers Bay Dam removal is continuing. Removing the dam is important for improved salmon habitat in the area.
 - The Chambers Bay dam has not been maintained for decades, and an inspection two years ago reported large cracks in the dam. Pierce County is in the process of trying to acquire the dam from the previous property owner (a paper mill that has since been torn down). The County previously applied for \$3 million in PSAR funding to acquire the dam but was not awarded the funding.
 - The Pierce County Bridge Group in the Transportation Division is applying for grant to replace the bridge over Chambers Bay with a larger full span bridge.
- Pierce County is applying for funding with partners to conduct an Olympia Oyster planting study in Penrose State Park. Pierce County is also completing a culvert study and inventory of private roads in WRIA 10 and in the future other parts of the county. Pierce County is working with Tribal partners to ensure the study is moving at a pace they are comfortable with. In addition, Pierce County is working with Ecology on a water quality cleanup plan for parts of Clover Creek.
- Orca Recovery Day 2019 will be on October 19. This event helps drive public engagement for orca protection, and partners have already begun event planning. Last year, there were 800 volunteers who planted 5,000 plants.
- Thurston County has been holding community forums on water quality and resources. The Forums have been well attended, and the County Commissioners and the Court Commissioner have been in attendance as well.
- The Department of Ecology has been hosting a series of public meeting for the Puget Sound Nutrient Forum. The Forum serves as a as a large public advisory group for the project to discuss, learn, and provide input on how to reduce human sources of nutrients entering Puget

Sound. In the March Forum meeting, there were presentations by the Nutrient Management programs in Chesapeake Bay, Long Island, and San Francisco.

- PSEMP is recruiting members to join the Steering Committee. If you are interested in joining the Steering Committee, please apply on the PSEMP website:
<https://sites.google.com/a/psemp.org/psemp/home>

V. Next Steps

The council will meet again June 4, from 2-4 pm at the LOTT Cleanwater Alliance, 500 Adams St NE, Olympia. If you have suggestions for agenda topics, please email Elizabeth, emcmanus@rossstrategic.com