



Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting
February 5, 2019, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Webinar

Participants

Jesse Barham, City of Olympia
Jeff Barney, Pierce County
Cinda Callahan, Tacoma PC Health
Department
Andy Deffobis, Thurston County
Amy Hatch-Winecka, Thurston
Conservation District
Tom Kantz, Pierce County

Brad Murphy, Thurston County
Dave Peeler, DERT
Al Schmauder, Chambers-Clover Watershed Council
Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe
Stephanie Suter, Puget Sound Partnership
Merita Trohimovich*, City of Tacoma
Allan Warren, Pierce Conservation District

Facilitation – Ross Strategic

Elizabeth McManus
Mary Byrne

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.
- Puget Sound Day on the Hill will be May 14-16. If you are interested in participating, [contact Stephanie](#).
- The Leadership Council adopted the Action Agenda in December. The Action Agenda includes two sections:
 - [Comprehensive Plan](#) – overarching framework/strategies for protection; includes information on how issues are prioritized and how strategies are adopted over time.
 - [Implementation Plan](#) – action component that will be updated every four years; includes NTAs and regional priorities. Updates will be made through input from partners, management conference, public, etc.
 - Stephanie will provide an Action Agenda overview at the next AHSS Council Meeting.
- LIO data synthesis project will run from July 2018 to September 2019 to build capacity for open standards adaptive management and to formalize how plans are used. This includes data stewardship of LIO plans and a needs assessment for users of the plan. The project will work to capture local context and content in the plans.
- Funding mobilization: an RFP has been issued to help with mobilizing funding. The contractor will reach out to partners and build a strategy on fund raising, including how to better engage the private sector.
- PSP will be engaging in a progress measures project. Progress measures are needed for intermediate outcomes that indicate if we are on track to achieve the vital signs. The Partnership staff, partners, and consultants will work with an advisory group to develop a durable set of measures on the Puget Sound recovery effort.

- A proposal for a recovery framework on three measures (activity, intermediate, outcomes based on vital signs) has been developed. A pilot project to refine the measures will be conducted, and the proposed process for evaluating the results will be included in implementation strategy.

II. NEW PSEMP Strategic Plan

Dave Peeler provided an overview of the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP) strategic plan. PSEMP was established by PSP Leadership Council in 2011 as a coordinated ecosystem monitoring and assessment program. PSEMP serves the needs of the PSP and the many organizations and entities across the Puget Sound basin that are committed to helping the PSP through their individual and collective actions achieve the goal of restoring and protecting the health of Puget Sound.

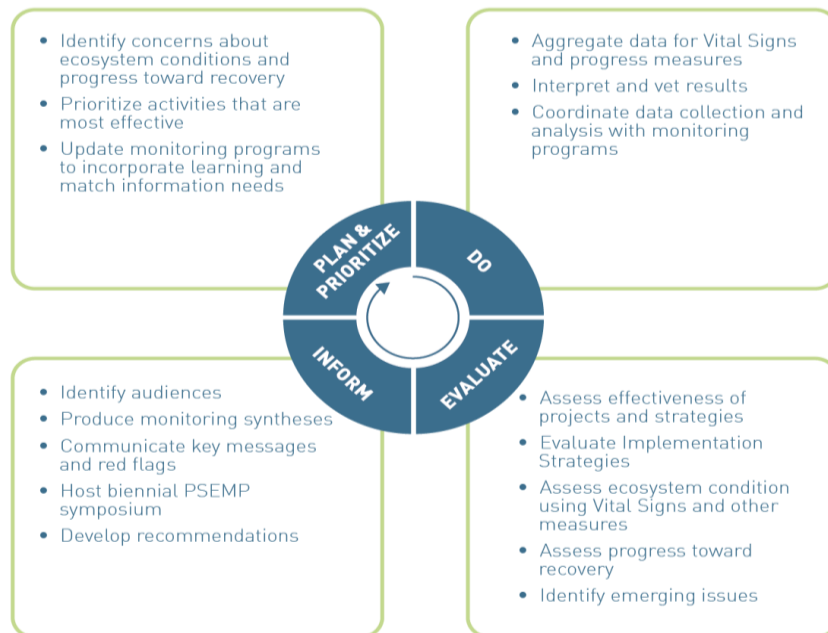
In 2018, PSEMP revised its mission and objectives:

- Revised Mission: Convene a collaborative network of subject matter experts who organize, synthesize, and communicate scientific information from many monitoring organizations and different parts of the ecosystem to directly address foundational management and science questions critical to recovery of the ecosystem.
- Revised Objectives:
 - Create and maintain forums to increase collaboration across monitoring programs to improve effectiveness and efficiency of monitoring programs and their ability to meet the information needs of planners, managers, and decision-makers. Organize and synthesize the data being gathered by existing monitoring programs to increase access to available information, and highlight priority knowledge gaps to be filled.
 - Support adaptive management of recovery efforts by: evaluating the effectiveness of recovery actions and approaches so that those actions can be prioritized; engaging PSEMP members in planning processes such as Implementation Strategies (Figure 3); and facilitating the exchange of knowledge among PSEMP members and with planners, managers, and decision-makers (Figure 2).
 - Improve communication within the monitoring and assessment community and to audiences specified in a new communications plan in order to improve access to and use of credible information in decisions about Puget Sound recovery efforts.

Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program Strategic Plan 2018-2022

- PSEMP is unique and effective because of its coordinated network structure that harnesses commitment across geographies and organizations to improve efficiency of monitoring to inform the Puget Sound recovery effort.
- This Strategic Plan articulates a renewed mission for PSEMP to convene a collaborative network of subject matter experts who organize, synthesize, and communicate scientific information from many monitoring organizations and different parts of the ecosystem to directly address foundational management and science questions critical to recovery of the ecosystem.
- PSEMP spans the boundary between science and decision-making to facilitate the exchange of knowledge among monitoring programs, the Partnership and its boards system, and others working to advance Puget Sound recovery.
- Scientific evidence and syntheses vetted through PSEMP are used broadly to guide decisions and inform policies about Puget Sound recovery at local and regional scales.

- The Partnership submitted a funding request to the Governor and Legislature, for the 2019-2021 biennium, to put this plan in motion, and meet a growing need for timely, relevant, and credible information that directly links scientific findings to management decisions.
- This plan will be reviewed biennially and updated in four years, and yearly work plans for the Steering Committee and work groups will enable adaptive management at a fine scale, to reach the objectives of this plan.



Discussion:

- It was noted that the marine water systems monitoring group does an excellent job synthesizing the monitoring findings and coordinating messaging. The group holds a conference once a year to talk about findings and gather input from other scientists. The discussions/outcomes from this conference are compiled into a report that synthesizes the findings.

III. Experimenting with Interim Targets

Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic, proposed the following potential interim targets for shoreline armoring:

1. *Identify highest priority drift cell/project for protection in each inlet/island in the South Sound.*
 - Look to areas within the priority protection catchments that do not have armoring
 - Use the Habitat Work Schedule and/or NTA lists and/or other project lists to identify active, proposed, and conceptual projects in those catchments to identify protection opportunities.
 - Prioritize opportunities which would have the most benefit for sediment supply and which are the most feasible
2. *Identify goal rate of restoration progress based on past work and projects "in the pipeline."*
 - Determine how much restoration has been accomplished in the past 10 years using the Habitat Work Schedule and other information sources (e.g., WA State of the Salmon Report, etc.)
 - Determine approximate funding amounts available over time and into the future (note: this would be rough estimate)

- Determine a theoretical amount of progress based on all the active, proposed, and conceptual projects in the Habitat Work Schedule and/or NTA lists and/or other project lists.
 - Work with the Council and project sponsors to set an interim target
3. *Potentially activity targets – (e.g., landowners contacted, contacts with real estate agents, feasibility studies completed, etc.)*

As a reminder, the South Sound Targets are:

1. Protect all drift cells with >80% intact feeder bluffs throughout South Sound, 92.5 miles, of which 61.7 miles are in the areas identified as a priority in the South Sound Coastal Catchment Assessment and/or the NPST for Juvenile Salmon.
2. Protect all intact shoreline throughout South Sound, 278.6 miles, of which 201.7 miles are in the areas identified as a priority in the South Sound Coastal Catchment Assessment and/or the NPST for Juvenile Salmon; and (2) Restore 73.1 miles of modified shoreline in the areas identified as a priority in the South Sound Coastal Catchment Assessment and/or the NPST for Juvenile Salmon.

Discussion:

- There is interest in identifying high priority areas for conservation and this information could be gathered from a variety of resources. However, the group noted that the determining a theoretical amount of progress made will be difficult and assumes a high level of database accuracy. It was suggested that the Habitat Work Schedule database may not be completely up to date.
- It was suggested that the four-year work plans would be a good resource to reference as they reflect current projects.
- More baseline information is needed to determine both the permitted and unpermitted shoreline armory in place.
- It may be helpful to work with flood plain managers to determine the properties that may be flooded with sea level rise. Flood planners will be aware of what properties can be purchase or what properties may require higher armoring.
- PRISM is another database that can be used.

NEXT STEPS

The council will meet again April 2, 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

Announcement: The Hirst watershed amendment was approved by Department of Ecology. Ecology wrote a memo that outlines high priority areas for the consumptive use of exempt wells.