



Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting
September 10, 2019, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Conference Call

Participants

Andy Deffobis, Thurston County
Dan Calvert, Puget Sound Partnership
David Troutt, Nisqually Tribe*
Cindy Callahan, Tacoma-Pierce County
Health Department
Evan Bauder, Mason CD

Jeff Barney, Pierce County
Jesse Barham, City of Olympia*
Karin Strelloff, Thurston County CD
Krystal Kyer, Pierce County/PWR-LIO
Merita Trohimovich, City of Tacoma*
Tom Kantz, Pierce County

*Participated remotely

Meeting Facilitation

Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic
Mary Byrne, Ross Strategic

Meeting Summary

I. PSP Updates

Dan Calvert provided several PSP updates:

- Larry Epstein is the new PSP Deputy Director. Larry previously worked at the Environmental Defense Fund. Kathryn Wyatt was hired as part of the Science and Evaluation team. Rebecca Hollander will join the Ecosystem Recovery Team to support the West Sound and Hood Canal. There is also a new PSEMP monitoring coordinator.
- PSP is developing the State of the Sound Report, which are produced biennially. This report provides a “big picture” summary of the state of Puget Sound recovery. The report will be mostly online and interactive and will include a series of case studies including the depave work in Pierce County.
- Dan and Elizabeth are working on getting the new Alliance contract in place.
- PSP is requesting feedback on the [2018-2022 Action Agenda](#). Responses to the questionnaire will directly inform and help to improve the 2022-2026 Action Agenda. Please complete this questionnaire by close of business Thursday, September 26: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ActionAgenda>
- A Vital Sign revisioning effort is ongoing. PSP set Vital Signs with targets with a 2020 end point, which was intentionally high bar. Unfortunately, most goals have not been met. There is a Vital Signs meeting on October 10th that includes the opportunity to provide input on biophysical targets.
- **Action:** Please submit NTAs. Contact Alex Mitchell (alex.mitchell@psp.wa.gov) with any submittal questions.

II. South Sound Strategy Updates

Elizabeth provided an update on the coastal catchment analysis mapping, strategy, and interim targets. Elizabeth noted that a center piece of the strategy is the maps. The maps for marine nearshore are built on two characterizations that pre-date strategy work. As the Alliance considers how to update the strategy, coastal catchment analysis may be a key item to update. Elizabeth also shared potential options for how the Alliance can develop interim targets. Elizabeth asked the Alliance to consider what updates to the strategy and mapping the Alliance would find most helpful to their work, and how/if they would like to pursue developing interim targets.

AHSS Council Comments:

Members provided the following suggestions to South Sound mapping updates:

- Direct queries to the strategies (e.g., intact feeder bluffs in relative to shoreline armoring) with narrative/explanation.
- Incorporate Coastal Atlas mapping (stream layer was specially mentioned) and topo on shoreline.

Members provided the following suggestions to strategy updates/interim targets:

- The Council discussed the utility and feasibility of assessing the status of the strategies. The Council agreed that a strategy assessment would be a useful communication tool and help prioritize resources, but that this type of undertaking may be burdensome to project sponsors (e.g., the staff/time needed to organize the data and determine impact) and may be difficult to measure consistently across programs.
- It was noted that setting interim targets has been somewhat of a challenge due to data inconsistency and the fact that rate of restoration is not constant (e.g., programs could spend years planning/acquiring funding and then execute restoration in months). It was suggested that it may be pragmatic to simply divide targets into manageable interim targets, rather than trying to develop interim targets via change analysis. **Action:** Ross Strategic will create a proposal for interim targets to share for Council review and input.

III. Updates on Ongoing Shellfish and Shorelines Work

- Shellfish bed analysis update – Ross Strategic has been working to estimate the change of shellfish bed categories (approved, conditional, and restricted). Barbara Ann Smelko at Clean Water Partners and the Department of Health (DOH) have helped provide data.
- Clean Water Partners Update – Jeff Barney shared several updates on behalf of Barbara Ann Smelko:
 - Agreements have been time consuming but represent significant progress in working relationships between counties and agencies.
 - Tom Kantz noted that this process has been delayed by unexpectedly burdensome agreements and thanked Barbara Ann for all of her coordination. Pierce County has received an audit from DOH which requires pulling financial records, policies for financial management, and meeting with the DOH financial office.
 - Thurston, Mason, and Pierce Health Departments already have already began some project activities, such as sampling, investigating, site visits, and workshops.

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- Pierce County, UWT, PLU, and Harbor WildWatch are partnering on a project to examine cyanotoxins in shellfish. Pierce County will also be partnering with WDFW on an Olympia oyster restoration project.
 - Shoreline Analysis Update – Ross Strategic is continuing to try to find more information on changes in shoreline armor in the South Sound using the WDFW HPA database. Ross is hoping to connect with staff at WDFW who lead the analysis for the Shoreline Armor change in the South Sound for PSP to confirm analysis methods and identify if information from the PSP analysis could be incorporated.
 - Shore Friendly Program Update – Karin Strelloff provided updates on the new Shore Friendly collaboration among the South Sound Conservation Districts.
 - The counties are close to finalizing the contracts (Pierce CD is serving as lead).
 - Pierce recently hired a new shoreline lead.
 - The CDs are sharing materials and resources and are already receiving calls from interested landowners.
 - NEP Funding Model and LIO Engagement - The Partnership is facilitating a meeting between EPA and LIO leadership to solicit feedback on the current NEP funding model and LIO engagement. Elizabeth will be working with the Alliance Executive Committee and Council to determine 2-4 LIO representatives to attend the meeting (Nov 20 from 10:00-12:30pm).

IV. Workplan for Next year

Elizabeth shared several updates on the 2019-20 AHSS workplan. Workplan duties include sharing funding opportunities, performance management (quarterly progress reporting), and communication/adaptive management. Elizabeth asked the Alliance to consider if they are interested in putting funding towards participating in regional implementation strategies.

2019-20 Meeting Dates

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
December 3, 2-4pm	In-person (TBD)
January 7, 2-4pm	In-person (TBD)
March 3, 2-4pm	Conference call
May 5, 2-4pm	In-person (TBD)
July 14, 2-4pm	Conference call
September 1, 2-4pm	In-person (TBD)

V. Updates and Round Robin

- Mason CD shared two staffing updates. Mason hired a small forest advisor to assist in developing forest plans for Mason and Thurston counties. The small forest advisor will also help with connecting individuals to EQIP funding and other forest health funds. Mason CD is also in the process of hiring a lead entity/shoreline coordinator. The position duties will split between WRIA 14 and the Shorefriendly program.

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- WRIA 14 is updating their strategy, which has not been updated since 2003. WRIA 14 may be able to give an update on this during a future AHSS meeting.
 - Thurston CD has hired new technical staff and outreach and support. Sara Moorehead was selected as the Executive Director of Thurston CD.
 - Pierce County Water Quality Surface Water Management will be recruiting for two supervisor positions. One will be in water quality monitoring and the other will be in the enforcement branch.
 - David Troutt shared that the Nisqually River Foundation presented Jim Wilcox with the Daniel J. Evans Nisqually Stewardship Award. Governor Evans helped present the award. David also shared that he recently participated in a Congressional staff tour of the South Sound. David shared with the staff the urgent need for salmon recovery and challenged staff to be ready for a request from Washington state for \$100 million a year state/federal funding for salmon recovery.
 - Orca Day is October 19! Pierce, Thurston, and Mason have planned activities.
 - There is a [Watershed Issues Forum](#) on November 20, 2:00-6:00pm at Pacific Lutheran University. The theme of this year's forum is lakes. The audience for this event is students, shoreline property owners, other residents, and recreational lake users. The goal is to raise the level of awareness and understanding of issues related to local lakes, and to inform people about how they can help protect, steward, and enhance our lakes.
 - There was a Don't Drip & Drive event at the LeMay car museum in Tacoma. The City of Tacoma partnered with the Automotive Society of Washington to check headlights and hosted activities related to stormwater and water quality.

VI. Next Steps

The Council will meet again on December 3, from 2-4 pm. If you have suggestions for agenda topics, please email Elizabeth, emcmanus@rossstrategic.com