



Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting
January 7, 2:00-4:00 pm
Webinar

Participants

Jesse Barham, City of Olympia
Evan Bauder, Mason County
Cindy Callahan, TPCHD
Leatta Dahlhoff, City of Tumwater
Andy Deffobis, Thurston County
Tom Kantz, Pierce County

Brad Murphy, Thurston County
Barbara Ann Smolko, Pierce County
Merita Trohimovich, City of Tacoma
Allan Warren, Pierce Conservation District
Amy-Hatch Winecka, TRPC

Meeting Facilitation

Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic
Mary Byrne, Ross Strategic

Meeting Summary

I. NEP Funded Actions and Progress

- Update on 2019 NEP funding – The AHSS Executive Committee decided to allocate \$100,000 of NEP funding to the Shore Friendly South Sound Initiative. This program engages landowners in shoreline stewardship with the goal of preventing and reducing hard armoring on Puget Sound shorelines.
 - The South Sound Shore Friendly Program scored highly in both rounds of Technical Team scoring in 2018 and was awarded the 2018 funding by the Executive Committee in November 2018. In addition to the AHSS 2018 funding, the Shore Friendly Program has received additional National Estuary Program funding award from the Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead as well as funding through the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program.
 - Contracting for the 2018 program funding has recently be completed and amending these contracts to add funding should be a relatively straightforward process compared to beginning anew with a different action. Staff are in place in the Conservation Districts and there is a clear path to using the 2019 funding, if awarded, to support additional on-the-ground technical assistance to shoreline property owners in South Sound.
- Barbara Ann Smolko, Pierce County, provided a presentation on the South Sound Clean Water Partners work which was awarded NEP funding 2017. Barbara's presentation is available [here](#). The South Sound Clean Water Partners is a partnership approach to protecting and improving water quality in South Sound shellfish watersheds that provides a coordinated response to all aspects of pollution prevention, identification, and correction to recover downgraded areas and prevent downgrades. Accomplishments of the Clean Water Partners to date include:
 - November 2019 – 172 acres of Oakland Bay upgraded
 - All agreements & QAPPs & amendments
 - Over 800 water quality samples
 - 27 failing septic systems identified
 - Over 90 ag technical assistance site visits
 - Inventory of Camping Club systems complete
 - 12 Workshops
 - 2 Water Quality Reports

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- Updated Closure Response Plans finished for Henderson Bay & Burley Lagoon
 - Mason – inventoried 430 septic systems
 - Mason – completed boat usage inventory
 - Quarterly meetings for Henderson, Burley, Filucy, Rocky, and Vaughn
 - Approximately \$350,000 spent

AHSS Council Comments:

- Coordination with state agencies and across counties has been a challenge. Partners are learning how to best sharing information and data with each other. One lesson learned is that liability language can be a bottleneck in the process (e.g., how contract language is written up can be a challenge to sort through).
- The Council thanked Barbara Ann for all the work she has done to coordinate the South Sound Clean Water Partnership.

III. State of the Sound Update

- Dan Calvert, PSP, provided an overview of the new State of the Sound report. The State of the Sound is a biennial report that provides a high-level summary of the condition of Puget Sound and recovery efforts. The report helps partners and decision makers better understand 1) how well the recovery effort is going, (2) ecosystem health and progress toward Puget Sound recovery goals, and (3) the role each partner can play in achieving Puget Sound recovery.
- There are two parts to the State of the Sound:
 - [State of the Sound Website](#)
The online version presents a Call to Action for recovery partners, an overview of ecosystem conditions, the status of the recovery effort, three stories of successful Puget Sound recovery projects, and messages from the Partnership's Executive Director, Leadership Council and Science Panel.
 - [State of the Sound Report \(PDF\)](#)
Required by state law, the State of the Sound Report includes most of the content included in the website and additional information on the status of the Puget Sound recovery effort, including detailed information on funding, Near Term Actions, ongoing programs, legislative and policy developments and a summary of citizen concerns.
- Dan's presentation is available [here](#).

AHSS Council Comments:

- Council commended PSP for making the human/community element of ecosystem recovery more present in the State of the Sound report. The State of the Sound is a good opportunity to bring people into more complex world through stories.
- The Council suggested a presentation on the State of the Sound could be provided at Puget Sound Regional Council/TRPC/other planning councils, for newly elected officials, League of Women Voters, city work sessions, etc.

IV. Updates and Round Robin

- Pierce County: Identifying projects to apply for stream flow restoration funding. Had meeting with Nisqually and identified a few projects. Project identification element is ending soon, but there are still opportunities if you know of good projects that would benefit streamflow and salmon.

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- Thurston County: Continuing WRIA with water availability information. WRIA 13 and 14, are behind WRIA 11 and Nisqually, but continue to work on getting project lists together.
 - TRPC: Has been trying to match up projects for stream flow, flood plan by design, and Salmon Recovery dollars to maximize grant funding going out.
 - Olympia: Update of near water stormwater is ongoing. This work involves source control and prevention, along with working with private businesses on prevention.
 - Mason: Working on grant writing season; looking forward to seeing what types of projects come forward this grant round.

V. Next Steps

The Council will meet again on March 3, 2-4pm. WRIA 13 and WRIA 14 will give a fresh water strategy update and there will be an update on interim targets. If you have suggestions for agenda topics, please email Elizabeth, emcmanus@rossstrategic.com