



Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting
March 3rd, 2020 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Webinar

Participants

Jesse Barham, City of Olympia	Dave Peeler, DERT
Jeff Barney, Pierce County	Amy Hatch-Winecka, TRPC
Evan Bauder, Mason County	Tom Kantz, Pierce County
Leatta Dahlhoff, City of Tumwater	Krystal Kyer, Pierce County
Steven Hagerty, Mason County	

Meeting Facilitation

Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic
Mary Byrne, Ross Strategic

Meeting Summary

I. Allocation of \$100,000 in AHSS directed funding

- Like other Puget Sound Local Integrating Organizations, the Alliance for Healthy South Sound has the opportunity to recommend \$100,000 in funding under the EPA National Estuary Program to one local near term action (NTA) project this year. Recommendations must be made by April 30th this year. The Alliance Technical Team will review South Sound NTA projects that are submitted for consideration and make a funding recommendation to the Alliance Executive Committee. The Executive Committee decision about which project to recommend will be submitted to the appropriate state agency for consideration. We expect the state agencies to concur with our recommendation.
- Recommendation process:
 - All NTA project sponsors can apply for the \$100,000 in funding via survey
 - The Technical Team will consider all projects that applied. Draft scoring process and criteria based on the Technical Team's 9/26/18 meeting and updated at the Council's 3/3/20 meeting. The 2018 process can be found and downloaded on the AHSS website ([link](#)).
 - The Technical Team recommends project(s) to the Executive Committee
 - The Executive Committee recommends a project to PSP by April 30th.
- HSIAT has come up with 97 priority NTAs. There are several AHSS LIO NTAs on this list. If an LIO selects one of these 97 NTAs for their LIO \$100,000 direct award for FFY2020, the Habitat SIAT commits to investing up to an additional \$100,000, depending on the 2-year funding need of the NTA.
- AHSS project criteria for ranking NTAs:

Factor	Score
Consistency	Yes/No (inconsistent projects do not move forward)
Benefit	10 points possible
Opportunity	5 points possible

Likelihood of Success	10 points possible
Landowner/stakeholder support	5 points possible
Cost	5 points possible

Discussion:

- FFY2020 projects should aim for completion by the end of December 2022. PSP will be working with sub-recipients to get under contract in the Fall of 2020 to ensure a 2-year project duration if needed

II. WRIA 13 and WRIA 14 Fresh Water Strategy Update

Amy Hatch-Winecka shared an update on the WRIA 13 Fresh Water Strategy update.

- WRIA 13's 2005 strategy focused on freshwater. In 2007, WRIA 13 focused efforts on the selection tool.
- At the end of the WRIA 13 strategy update, WRIA 13 would like to have measurable, numeric targets and have a freshwater near shore selection tool.
- The freshwater strategy update money must be spent by June 2021. WRIA 13 is aiming to have the technical information due by the Fall. Committee members will help set targets.
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Evan Bauder shared an update on the WRIA 14 Fresh Water Strategy update.

- WRIA 14 is utilizing the coastal catchment analysis, AHSS strategy, and selection tool. The committee is investing lead entity capacity funding in the strategy update.
- In Phase 1 of the update, available data will be compiled and analyzed to identify critical data gaps and assess the existing conditions and threats to salmon habitat. In Phase 2, the data gaps will be filled and the recovery strategy will be developed. WRIA 14 envisions have a reach scale with measurable metrics.
- Through the data compiling, it was evident that there are some key data gaps, such as sediment size and complexity. The level of detail varies greatly by data set. There may be habitat surveys to help fill gaps.
- WRIA 14 has a draft existing conditions report, which is being reviewed.
- Phase II will like start in April or May.

Discussion:

- Q: How long did it take ESA (consultant) to pull the draft report together for WRIA 14?
 - A: It took about 11 months to develop the draft report. A good amount of this time was spent compiling data. Data is in so many forms/places. There are some expectations that we have a ton of information available, but some information is not synthesized in format that can be used.

III. Updates and Round Robin

- Jeff Barney: NTA on shellfish and climate impacts) has a contract in place. This is a partnership with UWT, PLU, coastal conservation, state parks and WDFW and TPCHD to examine the impacts of climate change to Olympia oyster and consider the feasibility of Olympia Oyster restoration.
- Tom Kantz– South Sound Science Symposium steering committee is meeting. The date of the symposium will likely be Spring 2021.

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- Amy Hatch-Winecka – Their lead entity is reviewing and ranking projects for funding conservation/restoration/planning projects. The funding amount is larger this year, as there are state and PSP dollars available.
 - Jesse Barham – There are several City of Olympia job openings around habitat work and stormwater infrastructure positions.
 - Dave Peeler – Shared and update on the Capitol lake and estuary issue. The consultant was able to complete part of the EIS last fall/winter. Luckily, the EIS process is not delayed as much as originally thought due to the PCB spill.
 - Evan Bauder – Mason County is preparing for WRIA 14 site visits that will occur on in late March. Nine projects are proposed in WRIA 14.

V. Next Steps

The council will meet again May 5, from 2-4 pm. If you have suggestions for agenda topics, please email Elizabeth, emcmanus@rossstrategic.com