



**Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting
November 3, 2:00 – 3:30 pm
Webinar**

Participants

Jesse Barham, City of Olympia
Dan Calvert, PSP
Andy Deffobis, Thurston County
Amy Hatch-Winecka, TRPC
Tom Kantz, Pierce County
Krystal Kyler, Pierce County
Dave Peeler, DERTS
Scott Selzner, Squaxin Island Tribe
Barbara Ann Smolko, Pierce County
Karin Strelloff, Thurston CD
Ahren Stroming, PSP

Meeting Facilitation

Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic
Mary Byrne, Ross Strategic

Meeting Summary

I. GIS Updates

- Updating data layers within the AHSS Web Mapping Tools (Near Shore & Upland mapping tools) to current data. Including the addition of carrying attribute information behind map layers for informative and illustrative purposes (pop-up info boxes). Also allows for data layer(s) query functionality.
- Adding Query functionality within AHSS Web Mapping Tools.
- Adding 'add your own data layer' functionality.
- Updating maps within the AHSS Strategy Document.
- Updating AHSS Strategy Excel data tables and change analysis for AHSS map summary targets (Shoreline Armoring, Intact Feeder Bluffs, etc.)

Discussion:

- The scope of the off-the-shelf queries have not yet been defined; if you have thoughts on how the queries should be developed, please be in touch.

II. Salish Sea Nearshore Program Conservation Credits Presentation

Ahren Stroming, PSP, provided a presentation on mobilizing funding for Puget Sound recovery.

- The vision for the Salish Sea Nearshore Program (SSNP) is ensure there is no adverse impact for ESA listed resources from permitted development in the nearshore ecosystem; Strengthen the status quo for permitting with a streamlined process, and an expanded programmatic with new conservation requirements; and Diversify and increase funding sources for Puget Sound recovery.

- In this program, PSP would supply conservation credits. PSP would set the credit price; sell credits and assume conservation responsibility; select conservation projects; track conservation projects; and report to NOAA.
- NOAA has developed a calculator to determine the points of an application for permits requiring an offset. The conservation calculator quantifies the adverse impacts of permitted work and the beneficial effects of restoration projects. The calculator ensures conservation fully offsets ESA impacts from permitted projects in the nearshore.
- RCO receives funds from applications and disperses funds to sponsors per direction of PSP.
- DNR/project sponsors implement the conservation project.
- Restoration work must happen within the same NOAA service area.

Discussion:

- The calculator is calibrated so that the closer a conservation project is to the impact site, the more favorable the conservation project scores. Alliance members noted they would like a briefing from NOAA on how the calculator works for impacts and credits.
- The program is operated through NOAA. PSP is in the process of working out a MoU with NOAA to recognize authority.
- Alliance expressed some uneasiness around the “apples to oranges” aspect of mitigation (e.g., removing creosote structures to mitigate loss of marine marsh habitat may not be equivalent) and would prefer to see like-for-like impact mitigation. Members asked if crediting could be adjusted so that applicants were buying enough credits to implement habitat improvement projects rather than just offsetting impacts.
- PSP would have 3 to 6 years for projects to be executed. PSP can lump credits to implement bigger projects.

III. PSP Policy Solution Subcommittee

- LIO coordinators felt that the concept of funding efforts to define and implement policy solutions is highest priority for the LIO support funds.
- PSP is developing the concept and feasibility around management of this idea. A LIO policy subcommittee is solicited to further brainstorm and define this concept as a proposal to the Partnership for funding.
- The subcommittee will meet 2x month on Thursday mornings for 1 hour with an expected 30 min prep time and will present and discuss proposal to LIO coordinators during winter LIO coordinator meeting. Propose to Partnership spring of 2021.

Discussion

- There is about \$22,000 available among the LIOs to fund regional projects (i.e., funds could likely not be used for individual WRIA freshwater strategy updates). EPA has some sideboards on what the funds can be used for.

IV. Action Agenda 2022-2026

- Priority pressures for South Sound:
 - Housing & Urban Areas, Commercial & Industrial Areas, Tourism & Recreation Areas, Annual & Perennial Non-Timber Crops, Runoff from Residential and Commercial Land
 - Roads & Railroads (Including Culverts)

- Freshwater & Marine Levees, Floodgates & Tide gates, and Freshwater & Marine Shoreline Infrastructure, Dams
- Agricultural & Forestry Effluents
- Onsite Septic System (OSS)-Domestic and Commercial Wastewater to On-site Sewage Systems
- Partnership has tried to be mindful of critiques people have offered on past Action Agendas and is trying to make the AA more focused and have clearly identifying priorities for the next 4 years.
 - This AA seeks to reduce double solicitation by using AA to set priorities and strategies and let SI do project calls for specific projects.

V. NTA seed money – process

The Alliance for Healthy South Sound has an opportunity to recommend up to \$20,000 in seed money to local near-term action(s) (NTA) project this year. To be eligible, projects must be included in the 2018-2022 Action Agenda and must be in South Puget Sound.

- Seed money can only be used to catalyze implementation, eligible activities include:
 - Complete feasibility and preliminary design
 - Complete inventories and/or assessments
 - Complete planning strategy
 - Secure partnership agreements, memorandums, or other pre-requisite work necessary
 - Complete outreach activities
- Sub contracts will need to be completed no later than September 30, 2021. Thurston County will be working with sub-recipients to get under contract in the Fall of 2020 to ensure completion by September 30, 2021.
- Application Process: Ross Strategic creates and disseminates a survey to understand interest in NTA seed money. . All eligible NTA project sponsors can apply for the seed money funding via survey.
- Recommendation and decision process:
 - The Technical Team will consider all projects that applied. Project scoring considerations can be found on the AHSS website ([link](#)). (This step is dependent on number of NTAs that apply)
 - The Technical Team recommends project(s) to the Executive Committee.
 - The Executive Committee determines project(s) to be awarded funding

VI. Updates and Round Robin

- Key Peninsula-Gig Harbor-Islands Watershed Council will have a state of the watershed meeting November 5 from 3-5pm: www.piercecountywa.gov/kgi
- Chambers Clover Creek Watershed Council is having annual Watershed Issues Forum on Storm water issues on Nov 18 from 2-5: www.piercecountywa.gov/ccwc
- Ryan Williams, formally of Mason CD, has taken a position in Wenatchee. Mason CD is hiring for a senior projects manager.
- Thurston County is deep in the process of implementing a shoreline master program update.

VII. Next Steps

The council will meet again January 12 from 2:00-3:30pm. If you have suggestions for agenda topics, please email Elizabeth, emcmanus@rossstrategic.com