

Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting
January 19, 2023, 12:30 – 2:00 pm

Participants

Jeff Barney, Pierce County
Jacob Murray, Mason Conservation District/LE Coordinator (WRIA 14)
Desiree Radice, City of Tacoma
Karin Strelloff, Thurston Conservation District
Tom Kantz, Pierce County
Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe
Brian McTeague, Squaxin Island Tribe
Brad Murphy, Thurston County
Cindy Callahan, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
David Peeler, Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team
Emile Ancelet, Pierce County
Jani Hitchen, Pierce County Councilmember
Jeanette Dorner, Nisqually Land Trust
Jeremy Graham, City of Olympia
Jesse Barham, City of Olympia
Juliana Tadano, Puget Sound Partnership
Keith Underwood, Mason Conservation District
Kevin Shutty, Mason County Commissioner
Marco Pinchot, Pierce County
Renne Johnson, WSPER
Robyn Denson, Pierce County Councilmember

Meeting Facilitation

Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic
Andres Sheikh, Ross Strategic

Meeting Summary

I. AHSS South Sound Strategy Webmap Update - Brian McTeague, Squaxin Island Tribe

- Overview of updates for the Nearshore and Upland Maps – see [user guide](#) for more details on the updates and how to use the enhanced functions.
- Walkthrough of new map functionality including adding layers/shapefiles
- Feedback on improvements and query functions

Discussion

- Questions were raised about individual layers and what they are showing and where those data sets came from (particularly about shoreline management).

II. Federal Funding Updates, State Legislative Session

- Puget Sound SOS (Federal)
 - Elevates the stature of Puget Sound recovery nationally. Creates a Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office at EPA.

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- Coordinates alignment across AA, salmon recovery, Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, Coastal Non Point Pollution Control Program.
 - Serves as federal coordination point for Canada for Salish Sea
 - Codifies the PS Federal Leadership Task Force
 - Selected annual appropriations increases:
 - Puget Sound Geographic Program (\$19m increase, \$54m total) to support projects in alignment with the Action Agenda.
 - National Estuary Program: Additional \$100k.
 - Coastal Watershed Grants (administered by Restore America's Estuaries): Additional \$500k (\$2.5million total)
 - \$3 million to the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative
 - PSP Federal funding online reference
 - BIL Funding Tracker: List of upcoming Federal Grants ([Link](#))
 - Repackaged as part of LIO Email Updates
 - PSP legislative priorities
 - Support PS friendly GMA amendments and implementation (especially around salmon, climate, and population growth management)
 - Protect and restore riparian areas (pointing to Governor's stakeholder group recommendations)
 - Accelerate fish passage barrier correction implementation (greater state support for existing programs)
 - Protect and restore nearshore areas (strengthen monitoring programs, increase tools and incentives)
 - Fully fund capital grant programs for PS restoration (SRFB, BAFBRB, Centennial Clean Water Fund, PSAR, Floodplains by Design, ESRP)
 - Address toxic pollution from stormwater (6PPD/6PPD-Quinone)
 - Consider proposals for a rapid response capability to avoid or mitigate salmon die-offs (Salmon Recovery Council efforts in progress)

Discussion

- New EPA office will be located in Washington State
- DERT is asking the State Legislature for a grant to start up a Deschutes Watershed Council
- PSP is asking the State Legislature to fully fund this years budget request for grant program requests

III. The PSP Leadership Council is Coming to Town

- Background information on local forums, an opportunity for us to talk with the Leadership Council about our issues and showcase work in the watershed
 - Starting in 2020 - Rotating Conference for each LIO (ECB & LC) to meet in person with LIOs and Les to address the intersection of local and regional recovery priorities (~2 hours)
 - Objectives:
 - Expand local decision-maker engagement with the Puget Sound recovery community
 - Discuss local priorities, and determine how the LC and region can support action to address those local priorities
 - Discuss regional priorities, and determine how they might be supported at the local level
 - Topics should be specific asks of the Leadership Council (write op-ed, talk to Ecology, help us determine next steps to x,y,z). Topics should relate to strategy documents/LIO plans or Action Agenda, and unique to specific issues within the local area that could use further clarification or support at a regional scale..

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- Brainstorming – what we want to bring forward
 - Volunteers – to work on this with us and PSP between meetings

Discussion of Topics for the Local Forum:

- Fish passage barrier removal programs and progress in South Sound
- Dam removal and estuary restoration in South Sound – successes and opportunities
 - Goldsborough Creek dam removal (success)
 - Oakland Bay / Shelton Harbor restoration (success and opportunity)
 - Mission Creek (success)
 - Chambers Bay (opportunity)
 - Deschutes Estuary (opportunity)
 - Nisqually (success and opportunity)
- Shellfish programs in South Sound – success and challenges
 - Importance of South Sound as a growing area
 - Longstanding coordination
 - Challenges as development and population increases – WQ challenges, coordination challenges (more support is needed)
- Grant administration burdens and challenges
- Sea level rise challenges
 - Need for incentives to set back houses on unarmored shorelines
 - Climate resilience planning and coastal flooding
- Challenges of forest conversion and impacts of changes in upland forests on shorelines and nearshore (erosion, runoff); connection between what happens in the upland forests and the shoreline/nearshore; incentives for forest retention

IV. Lightning Round: Deep Dives for 2023

- What issues / topics / questions / ideas do you have that would be interesting and helpful to organize a meeting around in 2023
 - Riparian Priorities in the South Sound
 - Sea Level Rise Challenges and Opportunities
 - Deschutes Estuary Restoration Next Steps and Opportunities

Discussion of topics for future meetings:

- Washington DOH Shellfish Trends (harvest & value) – 2023 Conference for Shellfish Growers
- Pierce County chambers bay restoration and bridge replacement & potentially South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group/Forterra presentation Bay restoration project
- Bridge Replacement/Dam Removal (Chambers Bay, Deschutes Estuary, I-5)
- Sea Level Rise (King Tide) Flooding – Climate Change Adaptation Focus
- Pierce County Mobile Pumpout Program
- Stormwater Focus – NPDES Stormwater Management Action Planning (post march)
- Tribal Fisheries - State of Fish in South Sounds
- Ecology – Lake Management Program and algal bloom issues

V. Round Robin & Announcements

- Stormwater SIL – Thurston Regional Planning Council RFP for Road Retrofit Planning Study
- Pierce County Mobile Pumpout program is requesting grant funding.

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- Pierce County is recruiting for floodplain planner and water quality specialist positions.
 - League of Women Voters (Thurston County) reports of water resources and relationships with Tribal governments (open forum upcoming).
 - Thurston CD is also hiring a number of positions over the next few weeks.
 - Thurston CD is looking a program development around green stormwater development and assistance – looking for regional partners.

VI. Adjourn