

Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting

March 16th, 2012

Greetings and welcome were delivered by Alliance Co-Chair and Thurston County Commissioner, Sandra Romero.

(INTRODUCTIONS) In Attendance:

Lance Winecka, South Sound Salmon Enhancement Group

Greg Vigoren, City of Lakewood Stormwater Manager and Chair of the Chambers-Clover Watershed Council

Sue Patenude, People For Puget Sound Board and Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team Board

Alex Smith, Port of Olympia, , Environmental Program Manager

Rich Doenges, Thurston County, Stormwater Management

Karla Fowler, LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Community Relations and Environmental Programs,

Dan Wrye, Pierce County, Surface Water Management, Water Quality Manager,, and PSP Ecosystem Coordination Board

Jeff Roberge, Harstine Island Community Club

Patti Case, Green Diamond Resource Company

Bob Simmons, Washington State University and Eco-Net

Justin Hall , Nisqually River Foundation, Executive Director

John Bolender, Mason County Conservation District

Andy Haub, City of Olympia, Water Resources, for Councilmember Julie Henkins

Jeanette Dorner, Puget Sound Partnership, Director of Ecosystem and Salmon Recovery

Al Schmauder, Chambers-Clover Creek Watershed Council

Chris Schutz, Pierce County, Surface Water Management

Sandra Romero, Co-Chair of the Executive Committee of AHSS, and Thurston County Commissioner

Tristan Peter-Contesse, Puget Sound Partnership

Gabby Byrne, Program Manager, Alliance for a Healthy South Sound

Amy Hatch-Winecka, Lead entity Coordinator (Deschutes, and Kennedy/Goldsborough Lead entity)

Debbie Riley, Mason County, Environmental Health Manager and Shellfish Protection Districts

David Troutt, Nisqually Tribe, Natural Resources Director, AHSS Executive Committee

Joe Kane, Nisqually Land Trust, Director.

Jennifer Hopper, Taylor Shellfish, Education Manager

Julie Henkins, City of Olympia, City Council

Tiffany Spiers, Pierce County Masterbuilders

Understanding the broad focus of this Council's goals – discussion led by David Troutt. David gave some background on the development of the Nisqually River Council (NRC). AHSS could potentially emulate NRC in terms of broad community representation and hearing all voices. Ultimately we have a lot more in common than not. We're looking at sustainability throughout the environmental and socio-economic aspects of the Sound. The goal is to take on the issues in an aggressive, but reasonable way that's meaningful and impactful. We can work towards sustainability through discussion and actions regarding the region as a whole, through vibrant economy, healthy communities and functioning ecosystems. To accomplish this we will need help and the voice of your constituency.

Dan Wrye gave background on the formation of the Alliance for a Healthy South Sound. The vision of the Council, from a pragmatic view, was to get into the depth of issues (economic, cultural, and environmental) in order for the Executive Committee to make informed decisions reflecting where we want to go. There's a call to action for organizations and individuals for a yet developing vision. This is the group that can frame that vision.

David elaborated on the Partnership's formation of the Lead Integrating Organizations (LIOs). The County's and the Tribes formed an executive committee to respond to the Action Agenda update and to respond to the desire of the PSP to have local coordination of the organizations and regions. We are that entity for the South Puget Sound. The Executive Committee was formed to begin that process. There's a desire to turn much of the decision making process over to the Council, particularly in areas such as the development of a stewardship plan. The current structure is available on the web site: www.healthysouthsound.com

Discussion of the goal of the Council led to consensus that any sustainability plan developed for South Puget Sound would need to represent and advocate for South Sound interest and highlight the role and unique issues for South Puget Sound.

Highlights of that discussion included:

The plan should additionally determine what our portion of obligation is on a larger regional scale.

The Alliance For a Healthy South Sound is the advocacy group for the South Puget Sound in a regional context. The Executive Committee recently approved a draft list of priorities and that is food for thought in terms of moving forward.

South Puget Sound is relatively undeveloped. We need economic development and have an opportunity to do it right.

The ultimate product is a sustainability plan. The Council should take a systemic approach, going through a system of costs and benefits, incorporating the different aspects of the whole system - developing those principles of function.

There's a need for action on the ground together with deliberation and vision. In the process of working together and learning what's important to each voice, we can get to a place of knowing what actions are most important and that the group can get behind.

PSP is going through its Action Agenda Update as we speak. There has been a list of interim priorities developed, with the urgency of those updates. The development of a sustainability plan has no timeline – it's up to us how and when we want to do it.

The Alliance for a Healthy South Sound has a working mission. The Council can adopt this mission as it currently exists, or alter it. South Sound has a history of working together and collaborating, and that's what we're trying to build on. We can easily come up with lists, but we should focus on outcomes – ways to know that we've succeeded. Without that outcome based approach, stating where we want to end up, we won't have a bottom line.

The presumption is that there's a problem that needs to be solved. The Puget Sound Partnership has taken great pains to establish and identify indicators where the trajectory would indicate a path to a healthier Puget Sound. There's not a specific role spelled out for South Puget Sound, nor have the socio-economics that are unique to the South Sound been spelled out or integrated.

We also need a way to factor in and identify not just what is already happening on the ground, but also the aspirational programs. Are we willing to look at what is currently happening and align those programs with our mission, goals, vision and make changes? The same is true for regulatory programs and funding structures. One option would be to come at the sustainability plan from those areas of challenge.

The Executive Committee, the Council and any working groups are all The Alliance. The mission, vision and the decision making capacity are all evolving, but there is a totality there. That Alliance is needed and has purpose regardless of the connectivity to the Puget Sound Partnership. Some of these questions are addressed in the Alliance by-laws, so that can give us the intent at least. It's important to keep the process streamlined, moving into the vision and goals quickly. Looking at the specific problems as seen from each organizational stand-point to help guide the vision and sustainability plan and specifically where the socio-economic niche is.

Council should meet, initially, on a monthly basis, but revisit that in about 6 months. Meetings should be moved around to different locations.

What's different about where we are now, with this new group, is that we are now part of an organized network. The Puget Sound Partnership wants to take our local view and roll it up into a regional level, and then they can be the advocate for us at the local level whether it's policy work or funding. The advantage is that if we can be on the same page, it can move forward more quickly.

Decisions and Actions

The Council had consensus on the idea that there would be a consensus based decision making process – suggesting a thumbs-up, middle and thumbs-down (red, yellow, green light) with the potential for minority reports, if necessary.

The Council needs to review gaps in community representation. Mentioned in particular was that the connection with the legislature is missing. It might be good to have a local legislative panel come in and exchange ideas and background on what needs to happen.

Adopting vision goals would be a useful step.

Council members requested a packet of background information be developed. Gabby will do this and send out, along with a doodle poll for the next Council meeting.