

South Central Action Area Caucus Group Meeting Summary Notes

September 16th, 2013

Renton City Hall Council Chambers

Attendance:

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (WRIA 8), Kathy Minsch (Seattle), Susan Saffery (Seattle), Craig Goodwin (SCA), Doreen Booth (SCA staff), Erika Harris (PSRC), Leslie Ann Rose (Citizens for Healthy Bay), , Megan Smith(KC Exec office), Don Davidson(City of Bellevue/WRIA8), Bruce Wulkan (PSP), Jeffrey Raker(UW ROSS), Heather Trim(King County ECO-Net), Fred Jarrett (King County), Chair

1. Welcome and introductions

The meeting began with the introductions and recognition by Fred Jarrett on the successful Seahurst Shoreline Restoration Project that occurred just occurred prior to the meeting. Fred mentioned what a great program that was the result of hard work of Councilmember Joan McGilton in Burien.

2. Recommendations for refined Near Term Actions

Fred Jarrett began the first topic by providing some brief background on the process of refining the Near Term Actions (NTA).

He mentioned that Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) requested that we refine the current NTA as spelled out in the 2012-2013 Caucus Group work plan. The NTA recommendations were developed by the working group, a subcommittee of the Caucus Group.

The working group members were Jason Mulvihill Kuntz, Kathy Minsch, Megan Smith, Heather Trim, Doug Osterman, Sara Hemphill, Betsy Cooper, Brandy Reed and De'Sean Quinn. The group was advised by Bruce Wulkan.

Fred mentioned that as a caucus group we are responsible for reviewing and discussing the recommendations to make sure they reflect the interest and goals of our caucus group. The official deadline is October 30th.

Caucus members made the following comments on each NTA:

NTA 1 Supports state and local partnership to advance the Action Agenda

- Language taken from original action briefs – focus on items like Shoreline Master Programs (SMP), critical area ordinances, and comprehensive plans.
- Highlighted items are listed under state law requirements.

NTA 2 Identify and protect high-value salmon recovery habitat and lands at immediate risk of conversion.

- List is derived from WRIA 8 and 9 high priority area needs that are currently not funded.
- WRIA 10 will submit similar information in the detailed format.
- Question was raised to PSP if this meets the level of detail suggested by PSP staff. The response was affirmative.

NTA 3 Implement high priority projects from salmon recovery habitat protection and restoration actions listed in salmon recovery plans.

- Similar to above.

NTA 4 Improve South Central Shorelines by: limiting new residential shoreline armoring and overwater coverage, and promote “green” shoreline replacements.

- Interests in making sure NTA owners are comfortable in taking responsibility for these actions.
- Question if King Conservation District work with homeowners applies to all shorelines or just rivers and streams. Please add a sub strategy related to rivers and streams, if needed. .

NTA 5 Improve flood plains management by creating partnerships of interested parties (especially local governments and business community).

- Question regarding 4th performance measure (Compliance with FEMA Biological Opinion by local governments with significant floodplain area by June 2015). There was concern that this may be too specific.
- Question about how the partnership views the performance measures. Staff responded that this is something that will be asked about during reports.
- Interest in adding the Horseshoe Bend process to this NTA.
- There was concern raised about the number of listed owners for this NTA. An alternative could be to just list two or three.

NTA 6 Identify and guide stormwater retrofits. This action includes:

- 1.) Fund stormwater retrofits
- 2.) Fund operations and maintenance and improvements to existing stormwater infrastructure

- One major comment was an interest in completely separating Stormwater retrofits from operations and maintenance. The main concern is that jurisdictions should fund and promote the best practices activities.
- Other members expressed an interest that Actions listed under this NTA are important to highlight. Specifically adoption of improved maintenance and operational techniques for existing stormwater infrastructure such as flushing, vactoring and high efficient street cleaning.
- Members suggested a possible solution is to create a new NTA that focuses on operational and maintenance.

NTA 7 Serve as a forum to share information on low impact development /green stormwater infrastructure and to help facilitate the transition from conventional stormwater management.

- There was interest in adding a new performance measure that asks PSP to work in coalition with other state agencies to work towards innovative ideas.

NTA 8 Support the restoration of the voter approved local Model Toxics Control Account.

- Request by caucus member to replace restoration listed in the first action with “protect.” With the adjustment the action would read: Advocate and protect funds. Support the use of the Model Toxic Control Account for grants and programs that expedite multiparty cleanup efforts.
- Request to change both listed performance measures from “Letter to Legislature” to use verbs such as advocate and educate local and state government on benefits of local model toxics control account.

NTA 9 Keep toxics and excess nutrients out of the waste stream

NTA 10 Prioritize funding for restoration: Secure additional funding for increased capacity to implement priority fish and wildlife habitat and aquatic area enhancement projects.

- An interest in broadening the title to expand beyond areas listed

NTA 11 Complete Regional Alliances Project and share results to increase infill development in urban centers while meeting stormwater requirements and Growth Management Act mandates.

- Request to change date on performance measure that currently reads by January 2014 to remove January and to allow for completion of work. Develop a formal report to present findings and recommending next steps to Puget Sound Regional Council Growth Management Policy Board and Ecosystem Coordination Board.

NTA 12 Retain forest canopy cover and soils to attenuate stormwater runoff

- Interest in adding the Urban Waters Federal Partnerships to actions, owner and performance measures.

3. Regional Open Space Strategy(ROSS)

The presentation was given by Jeffrey Raker, University of Washington Regional Open Space Strategy (ROSS). The presentation focused on the efforts underway of building a regional open space system. (PowerPoint attached). The project was built upon the Action Agenda, Vision 2014, the Cascade Agenda, and Mountains to Sound Greenway. It implements policies for open space on Puget Sound Regional Council’s vision 2040 policy EN-8 and ENAction-2.

Following the presentation Caucus members discussed the information presented and provided a series of considerations and questions.

Fred Jarrett asked what how the project is currently funded and do they see the need to seek future funding to complete work.

Susan Saffery asked if the King Conservation District is involved in this effort.

Heather Trim inquired if (ROSS) is aware of efforts in King County that focuses on Equity.

Jeffrey Raker mentioned that he is extending the invitation to caucus group members and staff. If they are interested in participating in the work of ROSS, he will leave his contact information. The purpose is to continue to broaden participation and find opportunities for collaboration to help inform the work of the open space strategy.

4. New LIO Work plan Guidelines

De'Sean provided a brief check in on the status of the new Lead Integrating Organization (LIO) work plan. He mentioned that the agreement needs to be finalized by September 30.

The final signed work plan will be sent out to caucus group at the end of October.

5. Puget Sound Partnership Updates

Bruce began his presentation with a brief highlight of the Pressures process that will be implemented in the NTA of every LIO.

Bruce mentioned that the pressures that will be used were identified in 2010. However, starting in 2014 a development process will occur to identify new pressures that will be used for the 2016 Action Agenda update.

Bruce announced that the State of the Sound report will be coming out in November. The information highlighted is fundamentally a progress report on the status of implementing Near Term Actions (NTA's) and the current status of meeting the 2020 targets set by the Action Agenda.

Bruce also announced the Watershed Recovery Team will issue a request for proposals in October and November that focuses on Stormwater retrofits and improving habitat and land use planning.

6. Prep for Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB)

Fred began the discussion with the statement that it is our tradition; "I want to provide an opportunity to members to identify any messages that you would like me, as your representative, to carry to ECB."

- The next Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) meeting will be on Thursday, September 19, Kitsap County Administration Building.

Fred provided a brief summary of the ECB funding subcommittee that is currently in the final stages of hiring a consultant to identify gaps in funding need for the recovery of the Sound.

7. Updates and Announcements

**Next Caucus Group meeting will be November 18th at Renton City Hall Council Chambers
12:30pm-2:30pm.**

DRAFT