

06.12.2013

Regional Open Space Strategy - Executive Committee Meeting Summary

Regional Scale:

Messaging & Outreach in partnership with Resource Media

Resource Media (RM) is a nonprofit PR firm providing assistance by executing a communications strategy and identifying how the ROSS can align with and support local and regional initiatives. RM presented on an early assessment for how the ROSS can reinforce work underway in the Puyallup-White watershed.

For more information, contact Brendan McLaughlin (brendan@resource-media.org)

Environmental Economics & Ecosystem Services Valuation

Environmental Economics Approach

Earth Economics presented on their effort to document the ecosystem services provided by green infrastructure systems in the Puget Sound and highlighted how this approach might benefit the ROSS.

For more information, see the attached “EE Systems Approach” presentation and/or contact Jennifer Harrison-Cox (jcox@eartheconomics.org).

ROSS Ecosystem Services Valuation / Analytical Framework

ROSS staff are working with expertise from the University of Washington, Portland State University, and private consultants to help depict the natural benefits provided by conservation actions using an analytical framework that integrates ecosystem services valuation, results from watershed characterization, and landscape ecology principles.

For more information, see the attached “ROSS Ecosystem Services” presentation and/or contact Critter Thompson (critttert@gmail.com)

Health/Equity Engagement

ROSS staff will begin to engage health agencies and advocacy organizations addressing social equity starting with a meeting of key leaders in July 2013. The work will center around the following activities:

- Input into ROSS from public health and equity organizations in the region,
- Introduce health/equity leaders to current activities among ROSS partners,
- Explore opportunities for shared analysis & action,
- Improve associated outreach efforts to reach all communities, and
- Leverage funding opportunities to affirm the link between public health environmental policy changes and open space planning.

For more information and an initial schedule, see attached “ROSS Summary Presentation” and/or contact Jeffrey Raker (jeffrey.w.raker@gmail.com)

Watershed Scale:

ROSS staff are developing a Watershed Open Space Strategy (WOSS) for the Puyallup-White (WRIA 10) and Snohomish (WRIA 7) watersheds.

For more information and the current project schedule, see attached “ROSS Summary Presentation” and/or contact Jeffrey Raker (jeffrey.w.raker@gmail.com)

Puyallup-White Watershed (WRIA 10)

Puyallup Watershed Initiative

The Russell Family Foundation (TRFF) has initiated a long-term commitment to the Puyallup Watershed, representing up to 10 years of investment. TRFF has partnered with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to provide direct support, proposal development, and collaborate with “communities of interest” in developing strategic plans that identify specific opportunities for project and programmatic investment. BEF provided a brief summary of this work and an initial outline for how the ROSS can support this work by linking local project proposals to broader regional efforts.

For more information, contact Robert Warren (rwarren@b-e-f.org) and/or see: <http://www.trff.org/puyallup-watershed/>

2013 Priorities for the Puyallup River Watershed Council

The Puyallup River Watershed Council (PRWC) works to restore, protect, and enhance the environmental, economic, and cultural health of our watershed from Mount Rainier to Commencement Bay. PRWC is made up of citizens and representatives of businesses, governments, and other groups collaborating to achieve clean water, healthy habitats, and thriving communities.

In 2011, the Puyallup River Watershed Foundation and the PRWC merged to create one 501(c)(3) entity with a 14-member PRWC Board. PRWC presented on current work being conducted in the watershed and highlighted how the ROSS initiative might support this work.

For more information, contact Bill Anderson (banderson@healthybay.org) and/or see: <http://www.piercecountywa.org/index.aspx?NID=1868>.

Snohomish Watershed (WRIA 7):

Application to Funders Network Local Sustainability Matching Fund

The ROSS has partnered with Snohomish County’s Office of Energy & Sustainability to acquire \$25,000 from The Funders Network Local Sustainability Matching Fund Program. These grant resources would leverage existing funds dedicated by The Bullitt Foundation to the Snohomish WOSS and allow for additional investment in regional initiatives. Awards will be announced on September 4th, 2013.

For more information, contact Jeffrey Raker (jeffrey.w.raker@gmail.com) and/or see: <http://www.fundersnetwork.org/participate/green-building/local-sustainability-matching-fund/>

Snohomish County Snohomish Basin Activities

Snohomish County will assist the ROSS in carrying out the Snohomish WOSS, starting in July 2013. The County’s Office of Energy & Sustainable Development presented on a number of existing activities underway to address land management/conservation and highlighted how the ROSS can support the county in its objectives for sustainable development.

For more information, see attached “Snohomish County WOSS” presentation and/or contact Lisa Dulude (lisa.dulude@co.snohomish.wa.us).

Partner Reports

The ROSS is currently expanding on its role as a forum for sharing best practices and enhancing collaboration among local and regional partners. Partner reports will become a regular item on the EC agenda to ensure that our partners are given an opportunity to share innovative work underway.

King County Parks Foundation & Parks Levy

King County has approved a measure for the August 6, 2013 primary election ballot to replace the current parks levies set to expire at the end of 2013. The County has identified regional-scale parks, trails, and open space that are targeted for acquisition and maintenance. In addition, King County Parks is partnering with Laird Norton Wealth Management and The Seattle Foundation to establish the King County Parks Foundation. The Foundation will seek to leverage private donations, including land, to connect existing green space and trails, grow parks and trails by supporting new acquisitions of land and easements and increase recreational opportunities across King County's parks and trails.

For more information, contact Bob Burns (bob.burns@kingcounty.gov) and/or see:

King County Parks Foundation:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/recreation/parks/partners/kingcountyparksfoundation.aspx>

King County Parks Levy – August 6th, 2013:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/recreation/parks/about/levy.aspx>