

11.20.2013

Regional Open Space Strategy - Executive Committee Meeting Summary

Regional Scale:

ROSS Leadership + Communications Update

Jeff Raker (GFL) provided a brief summary of adjustments to the leadership and staff structure of the ROSS.

The Executive Committee will continue to provide a forum to share key activities among partners and highlight ROSS implementation options. A newly formed Project Leadership Team has been established to provide a more direct link with key staff among partner organizations to augment existing efforts to guide the operations of the ROSS initiative. A Watershed Advisory Group has been formed to establish links among partner organizations in the Puyallup-White Watershed and to ensure the ROSS builds on past and current activities as we work together to identify local priorities that merit regional attention and investment. The first two meetings were dedicated to identifying where the ROSS + WOSS might link with local activities and a review of a Background + Opportunities Report.

A group of key experts have been convened as the Ecosystem Services + Regional Prioritization Committee (ES Committee) to guide the development and testing of frameworks for evaluating ecosystem service benefits to convey values to be gained from open space policy and actions. The ES Committee will be informed by five Task Forces charged with the development of a set of White Papers and Action Strategies that highlight opportunities to articulate and measure the relationship between investments in open space and key regional challenge areas (climate change, social equity, economic development, human health, and biodiversity). The ES committee will synthesize the findings from these task forces in forming a framework for prioritization.

Finally, a staff level Communications Team has been established with Resource Media and National Park Service to finalize a communications strategy based on input from recent outreach to ROSS partners. More regular updates and summaries of relevant activities among partners will be delivered as part of an upcoming newsletter launch. In January, ROSS staff will be given final notification regarding the availability of additional resources for improvements to the website.

For information on the leadership and staffing structure, see the attached powerpoint or contact Jeffrey Raker (jraker@uw.edu). For information on communications activities, contact Ginger Daniel (gingerd@uw.edu) or Brendan McLaughlin (brendan@resource-media.org).

Ecosystem Services + Regional Prioritization

Ecosystem Services + Regional Prioritization Committee

As mentioned above, the Ecosystem Services + Regional Prioritization Committee will guide the development and testing of frameworks for evaluating ecosystem service benefits to convey values to be gained from open space policy and actions. The ES Committee will be informed by five topical Task Forces charged with the development of a set of White Papers and Action Strategies. Tracy Stanton (Earth Economics) will be taking a lead role in coordinating the activities of the ES Committee. The role of the committee will be to synthesize how the region develops frameworks for how we build a prioritization framework for OS decisions across the

region. As this work advances, the ES Committee will explore the best ways to position natural capital as a core part of regional infrastructure and planning. They will explore how to quantify benefits provided by the network of landscapes, optimizing benefits to people. Because of the preliminary nature of this work, focus will be placed on how to build a shared understanding of the values of the natural capital of the region and use the findings of the task forces to clarify the value proposition for investments in regional open space.

For more information, contact Tracy Stanton (tstanton@eartheconomics.org).

University of Washington Environmental Management Certificate Program: Ecosystem Services Analysis

The ROSS has the benefit of a partnership with the Program on the Environment and Geography Department at the University of Washington. Geography students are collecting GIS data and organizing it into a ROSS geodatabase. This data will augment information and proposals presented as part of the Puyallup-White Watershed Open Space Strategy (WOSS) and support future data inputs needed for regional scale efforts. Four graduate students from the UW Environmental Management Certificate program are developing a framework for evaluating ecosystem services related to the ROSS, identifying supportive models, and testing Natural Capital's InVEST models on the ten year priorities for open space established by the Pierce County Open Space Task Force in 2009. A pilot geography within the Puyallup-White (WRIA 10) is being selected based on the boundaries of the sub-watershed analysis units used as part of the Puget Sound Characterization Project. The set of early proposals identified as part of the Puyallup-White Watershed Open Space Strategy will then be tested by the students in UW winter term 2013-2014. This work will serve as a roadmap for future ecosystem services identification and valuation as part of the ROSS.

For more information, contact Nancy Rottle (nrottle@uw.edu) or Jenny Duggan (jduggan@uw.edu).

Watershed Scale:

Puyallup-White Watershed (WRIA 10)

Puyallup Watershed Initiative (PWI)

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. Holly Powers (TRFF) provided a brief update on progress among the communities of interest in the watershed and how this work is being coordinated with the Puyallup-White WOSS. ROSS staff will continue to coordinate with and incorporate input from key partners participating in this process.

For more information on the PWI, contact Holly Powers (holly@trff.org) or Jennifer Arnold (jarnold@b-e-f.org) and/or see the attached “TRFF_PWI_COIs” powerpoint. See the following website for more background on this work: <http://www.trff.org/puyallup-watershed/>

Puyallup-White Watershed Open Space Strategy Background + Opportunities Report

ROSS staff have prepared a Background + Opportunities Report as a first step in the development of a Watershed Open Space Strategy (WOSS) for the Puyallup-White (WRIA 10). This report incorporates input from the Puyallup-White Watershed Advisory Group, engagement with the Puyallup Watershed Initiative Communities of Interest, and other local partners contacted as part of an ongoing Watershed Listening Tour. Stakeholders were asked to identify

Desired Outcomes, Threats, Needs or Gaps, and Opportunities associated with their area of expertise. Local partners were also asked to shared opportunities among the various open space interests represented. The Executive Committee identified the need for this work to become exportable to other regions, putting an emphasis on social and environmental justice and attending to key messaging challenges for rural and resource lands. ROSS staff will work with its partners in addressing these issues and continue to reach out to additional local partners. In February 2014, the Watershed Advisory Group will be presented with a set of early proposals, guide the refinement of these proposed actions. Another meeting will be held in April 2014 to further refine these actions and proposals and the WOSS will be presented along with proposed next steps and implementation recommendations in June 2014.

For more information, contact Jeffrey Raker (jraker@uw.edu).

Puyallup-White Watershed Open Space Strategy (WOSS) Background + Opportunities Report: <http://rossgfl.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/pw-background-and-opportunities-reportwatermarked.pdf>

Partner Reports

The Nature Conservancy – Floodplains by Design

Chris Davis (The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Director of Conservation for Puget Sound) provided an update on the Floodplains by Design (FbD) initiative. Past work by TNC highlighted the potential for building the case for green infrastructure by advancing multiple benefit projects. The multiple benefit approach has been helpful in targeting conservation/restoration efforts beyond publically owned lands, building a broader set of stakeholders, and delivering a better return on investment that yields more benefits with limited public dollars. TNC is working with ECONorthwest to articulate the broader benefits from restoration (e.g. key material savings by taking a 5 year flood and using restoration to turn it into a 25 year flood).

In exploring how to scale up and take lessons from this previous work, TNC pursued a legislative strategy for a multi-year initiative dedicated to building a pipeline of projects that advance a range of services around the region. This involved leveraging \$1 million in support from NOAA, key support from TRFF, and securing \$50 million in appropriations to support the multiple benefit approach. The projects are seen as “proof of performance” for the multi-benefit approach, embodying and delivering on a whole suite of benefits to various stakeholders.

TNC hopes to return to the legislature in 2015 to advance on the project and approach major water infrastructure needs with DOE and PSP. The goal is to institutionalize and support this cross-disciplinary approach. TNC will be invited to provide additional information and highlight potential opportunities for the ROSS to reinforce or align itself with the FbD initiative at the next Executive Committee.

For more information, contact Chris Davis (cdavis@tnc.org) and/or see:

Floodplains by Design: <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/habitats/riverslakes/floodplains-by-design.xml>

Map and one page summary of projects in the CPS region:

[To be sent in future email]

Green-Duwamish (WRIA 9) + Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP)

The Green-Duwamish watershed (WRIA 9) joined the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) and work is proceeding to coordinate federal and local efforts to address salmon recovery along with a broader set of watershed interests. Many of the topical interests overlap with the task forces being formed as a component of the ROSS and there is a distinct opportunity for cross-pollination between these efforts.

For more information, contact Tracy Stanton (tstanton@eartheconomics.org).

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/news/2013/05/Duwamish-River.shtml>