



Executive Committee Meeting Summary

Date, Time, Location	Tuesday, June 9, 2015. 2:00-4:00 PM; PSRC Board Room
Participants	See attachment A
Update on ROSS <i>(Nancy Rottle - GFL)</i>	<p>Nancy introduced new ROSS staff: Ikuno Masterson; Vera Giampeitro; and Janet Lee. Heidi Kandathil (not present) will be leaving to be replaced with Jonathan Childers (not present). Thanks to the generosity of the Bullitt Foundation and The Russell Family Foundation, the ROSS project will continue until mid 2016.</p> <p>The ROSS Team (mostly Heidi and Vera), led by John Own, is working hard on Phase I of the Green Duwamish Watershed Strategy and in the think of a listening tour with meetings with experts in the 5 regional challenge areas; 3 geographically-based open houses.</p> <p>We are beginning work on the Snohomish Watershed Open Space Strategy with the help of consultant, Abby Hook. We are also developing a “hot spot” analysis with UW’s Marina Alberti.</p> <p>We almost have the additional funding needed to continue development of the TPL web portal demonstrated at the last meeting. Guidance will be provided by the Ecosystem Services Committee chaired by Consultant, Tracy Stanton. UPDATE: Paul Kuntz noted that funding has been secured.</p> <p>The Open Space Valuation Report prepared by Earth Economics is almost ready to be released. The report indicates that open space contributes \$11.4-25.2 billion annually to the regional economy. We will have Earth Economics provide an overview at the next meeting. An abstract was provided as a handout.</p>
New Kitsap Forest & Bay/Water Trails/& Kitsap Happenings <i>(Charlotte Garrido, - Kitsap Co)</i>	<p>Ron introduced Kitsap County as the playground for those of us on the eastside of the big water. Charlotte indicates that they are now messaging Kitsap County as “The Natural Side of Puget Sound”. We have been looking at regional and local trails as well as connectivity and hoping for more connectivity despite the barriers of water.</p> <p>The County has 258,000 residents with 4 cities: Bremerton, Bainbridge, Port Orchard, Poulsbo but the majority of the population is in unincorporated areas. The primary employer is the US Navy who provides \$1.2 billion annually to the state economy.</p> <p>There are large blocks of healthy forest lands, 1.5 miles of contiguous saltwater shoreline, uncrowded beaches, 79 parks totaling about 7,000 acres, miles of trails, including water trails with over 150 water trail sites. With a limited budget, using mostly REET funds, we have only been able to do this with the help of partners – tribes, cities, land trusts, NGOs, community groups, and private timber companies. Charlotte described the Banner Forest; Kitsap Forest & Bay, East West Trail with Jefferson Co, and Chico Trail projects.</p> <p>Ron asked about impending threats and how ROSS can help. Charlotte mentioned that environmental education is critically important. Arno Bergstrom, Kitsap’s County Forester</p>

added that “loving our land too much” is the biggest threat. We need to remind people that we need to leave our open space and parks as pristine as how we found them. He also informed us about the monoculture nature of many of our douglas fir forests and the maintenance program Kitsap has been implementing to diversify them..

Steve Starlund, Kitsap County Open Space Planner, noted that stewardship groups do fund raising, and education might be an opportunity to connect with them. Discussion surfaced around workshops to provide broader understanding of the benefits open space in response to comments raised by Steve Whitney, Bullitt Foundation.

Introduction to Governance and Finance

(Sarah Shadid, Andrew Martin, Christopher Clark – Evans School Public Service Clinic)

Ron introduced the topic of another ROSS work programs – regional governance and finance. Students from the Evans School Public Service Clinic provided a summary of the report they prepared on the subject for the ROSS for their capstone project.

They conducted case studies on 5 different collaborative governance structure: the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program; Chicago Wilderness; Portland Metro Intertwine Alliance, and the Puget Sound Regional Council. They found that government led organizations may have a difficulty engaging with community-level stakeholders; non-profits seem to achieve a better level of community participation. Success at meeting overall goals was very context-specific.

Members discussed the topic of funding, centered around the minimal amount of dollars currently available to non-profits compared to governments and the importance not to threaten those funding streams; the need for clear goals and objectives and also for monitoring performance of grant funds. There was also a note that the chart in the report is representative only of a small portion of funding allocated for acquisitions and may not provide a complete picture of the funding situation.

The students the developed three different organizational scenarios for implementing ROSS activities: 1) create a non-profit advocacy coalition; 2) embed ROSS within PSRC; 3) create a new Puget Sound Open Space Council. These alternative span the spectrum from an all non-profit organization to a new government agency. The report compared the pros and cons of each. The Executive Committee thanked the students for their work and congratulated them on their impending graduation. The students were off to Azteca to celebrate.

Coordinated Investment Initiatives

(Paul Cereghino – NOAA)

NOAA and EPA have started the “Coordinated Investment” effort to better align federal efforts. Paul Cereghino introduced this as a way for governments to better support local projects. They have selected to focus in on the Snohomish Watershed as part of the President’s Resilient Landscapes Initiative. This is not a planning exercise but one based on the many planning activities that have and are going on in the watershed. Paul is looking for an archetypal floodplain or farm/urbanizing project.

Josh Baldi noted that Ecology has also been trying to better align the carrots & sticks of the state agencies to get beyond planning and get to implementation. Heidi Eisenhower mentioned that the Farmland Trust is doing something similar right now in Newaukum Creek matching federal and state dollars and agencies in the Green Duwamish watershed. Skip Swenson added that Forterra’s “Great Northern Corridor” project along the Skykomish is tying together conservation, recreation, and economic development. Christie True acknowledged this was a nice trend but hard

to sustain when community members get over extended, then that coordinated investment falls away. Ron agreed that we so often do 80% of the work and then we lose momentum and it takes forever to get that last 20%. He admitted he is getting impatient – we are making it too complicated.

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Governance & Finance

Discussion (*Ron, Ikuno & All*)

Great Segway into the next topic. Ikuno reported that the ROSS Governance & Finance effort has been launched with an initial meeting of representatives from agencies and non-profits. Our goal is to have a rough draft framework by the end of the year, for further refinement in the first half of next year.

Steve Whitney wants the ROSS to Governance/Finance effort to figure out a way to change how we do planning – illuminate actions that will put local actions in a framework of meeting greater regional needs. In terms of governance this could be a big “G” question and the small “g” question. ROSS has to keep the vision of multi-stakeholder, multi-objective work that can change this region. Erika Harris noted that as the comprehensive plans from local governments are coming into PSRC for their review, they are definitely seeing regional connections. Josh Baldi questioned how we better get those local efforts to scale. We have it for transit, but we don’t have it for green infrastructure. Tracy Stanton wanted to draw attention to Charlotte’s presentation on Kitsap County. It’s not just about Kitsap County, we really need to understand how critical Kitsap is to our regional ecosystem.

Ron emphasized that we need a better model than Chesapeake, better than the Everglades. We need an amazingly efficient and effective model before our resources disappear.

Next Steps & Close (*Ron*)

Ron thanked everyone for coming and closed with two things that are on his mind. What happens to the region when Ali Baba (global Amazon equivalent) moves here? What happens when we re-habilitate Interstate 5 (one lane north and one lane south will be closed for 7 years)? Everything will change and maybe not in match with our values. We have to have our treasures safe and secure or they will be lost.

ROSS Executive Committee Meeting
 June 9, 2015
 Attendees

1	Becca	Aue	Seattle Parks Foundation
2	Josh	Baldi	WA State Dept of Ecology
3	Laurie	Benson	WA State Dept of Natural Resources
4	Arno	Bergstrom	Kitsap County
5	Paul	Cereghino	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Agency (NOAA)
6	Heidi	Eisenhour	American Farmland Trust
7	Charlotte	Garrido	Commissioner, Kitsap County
8	Erika	Harris	Puget Sound Regional Council
9	Abby	Hook	Bullitt Foundation & Hook Environmental
10	Ken	Konigsmark	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
11	Paul	Kundtz	Trust for Public Land
12	Amy	Shumann	Public Health Seattle KC
13	Ron	Sims	Civic Volunteer
14	Tracy	Stanton	Urban Waters Federal Partnership
15	Steven	Starlund	Kitsap County Parks & Open Space
16	Skip	Swenson	Forterra
17	Christie	True	King County Dept Natural Resources & Parks
18	Steve	Whitney	Bullitt Foundation
19	Vera	Giampietro	ROSS
20	Janet	Lee	ROSS
21	Ikuno	Masterson	ROSS
22	John	Owen	ROSS & Makers Architecture
23	Nancy	Rottle	ROSS & UW Green Futures Lab
24	Sarah	Shadid	UW Evans School
25	Andrew	Martin	UW Evans School
26	Christopher	Clark	UW Evans School