

**Regional Open Space Strategy (ROSS)
Executive Committee Meeting**



Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2016
Time: 5:30 –7:30+ PM
Location: The Bullitt Center, 6th Floor
<http://www.bullittcenter.org/visit/>

Address: The Bullitt Center
1501 East Madison Street
Seattle, WA 98122
Parking: Available on-street, in pay lots in the vicinity

Executive Committee Meeting Summary

- Participants** 24 members and guests in attendance (See Attachment A)
- Welcome** **Ron Sims** welcomed everyone and attendees introduced themselves. Ron also remarked how our ROSS transition reminded him of a relay race he ran in high school.
- ROSS Accomplishments** **Nancy Rottle** reviewed ROSS products over the last 5 years, demonstrating the linkages of Regional Challenges, Ecosystem Services, Ecosystem Valuation, the Watershed Open Space Strategies, and the development of the overall Regional Open Space Strategy. She announced the ROSS received an Honor Award for Analysis and Planning from American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). It will be published on ASLA’s website and likely in Landscape Architecture Magazine. She also noted that the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) has been awarded a \$200K grant from the US Endowment for Forestry & Communities to improve the health of our watersheds by incorporating open space into our regional planning.
- Strategy Overview & the Future** **John Owen** presented the Regional Open Space Strategy of 5 key actions:
- 1) Create a Dynamic Regional Vision - John described the Regional Vision Sketch, a preliminary start on an open space conceptual plan that can be used by PSRC in implementing the grant’s scope of work. He demonstrated how using existing information from comprehensive plans, watershed plans, and conversations with local experts, we were able to overlay a pattern of multiple benefits that would result from open space investments, many of these along river corridors.
 - 2) Establish an Integrating Regional Planning Structure – the strategy developed an example of a planning structure that more formally integrates salmon recovery planning with comprehensive planning, guided by multi-county planning policies.

Paul Inghram, PSRC, discussed how the Council will be able to focus more attention on the environmental and open space policies in VISION 2040 now with help from the grant, which will also be helpful as the region prepares for the update.

3) Expand and Streamline Funding - John described how funding for transportation is much more streamlined than funding for conservation efforts. The region needs to continue to encourage agencies to consolidate their funding to improve efficiencies and of course work to increase the amount of dollars for conservation efforts.

4) Advance Supportive Tools – the ROSS team experienced difficulty in collecting data consistent across the region, so there is a need to centralize information, as well as a need for research on information needed to inform decision making. **Paul Kundtz**, TPL, talked about the web-based open space assessment tool currently being developed to do just that. The tool is expected to go on-line this fall, and TPL and PSRC will coordinate training for local planning staff.

5) Convene a Collaborative Forum. The ROSS found that while there is a lot of great work being done by lots of great organizations, the good work could be compounded with a little more coordination among groups. **Steve Whitney**, Bullitt Foundation, described how there are models in other locations that have successfully been able to communicate more effectively among groups, bridge disciplines, build support with a larger public, and consequently, generate more dollars for open space investment.

Video & Wrap Up

Nancy expressed her appreciation to the Executive Committee, the Russell Family Foundation, the National Park Service and in particular the Bullitt Foundation, for their unwavering support of the ROSS over the last 5 years. She then launched the premiere of the ROSS video to everyone’s applause.

Ron reminded us that with the strategy phase almost behind us, it is all about execution. If we demonstrate we have a solid plan, with community backing, we would be well-positioned to pursue more funding and to receive more funding. We in the Puget Sound region have a record of successful practices that are often modeled in other regions, something that does not go unnoticed by federal agencies. We are also lucky to have a new generation of residents that appreciates the outdoors and understands the need to conserve open space for future generations.

Champagne Mingle

Most everyone stayed to toast the next iteration of locking down a regional open space plan, many expressing enthusiasm that PSRC would be able to focus more attention on open space with receipt of the grant. We enjoyed the fantastic views and great snacks and beverages generously provided by the Bullitt Foundation until after 8pm.

FYI - ROSS reports and Executive Committee meeting summaries have been posted on the ROSS web page at: <http://regionalspacestrategy.org/ross-approach>



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Attachment A – Attendance (Alphabetical order by last name)

In Person:

- Josh Baldi – Department of Ecology
- Zac Christin– Earth Economics
- Sherre Copeland – US Forest Service Region 6
- Kate Delavan – American Farmland Trust
- Diane Freeman – Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest
- Charlotte Garrido – Kitsap County
- Joanna Grist – Grist Public Affairs
- Erika Harris – Puget Sound Regional Council
- Beth Hintz – Trust for Public Land
- Jon Hoekstra – Mountains to Sound Greenway
- Abby Hook – Hook Environmental Consulting
- Charlie Howard – Puget Sound Regional Council
- Michael Hubner – Puget Sound Regional Council
- Paul Inghram – Puget Sound Regional Council
- Jamie Kingsbury – Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest
- Ken Konigsmark – Independent Grand Troublemaker
- Paul Kundtz – Trust for Public Land
- Scott Miller – Resource Media
- Dan Ronco - McKinstry
- Ron Sims – Civic Volunteer Extraordinaire
- Steve Starlund – Kitsap County
- Skip Swenson – Forterra
- Sean Watts – Seattle Parks Foundation
- Steve Whitney – Bullitt Foundation