

# **Steps toward a Unified NWIFC/LIO National Estuary Program Fund Model**

## **Report to AHSS Executive Committee**

Alliance for a Healthy South Sound

December 12, 2014

Dan Wrye, Pierce County

Ecosystem Coordination Board, South Sound Representative

2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013: South Sound sent 4 letters expressing concern and offering process improvements for NEP funding to EPA

2012: EPA briefed Alliance on why they would stay with their "Lead Organizations" model

2012: Executive Committee conducted self assessment: needs to be value added. Value added is increased state and federal funding

2013: Executive Committee "started the discussion" with its legislative proposal

2014: Legislative proposal discussions

Summer 2014: EPA announces solicitation of comments on models for NEP fund distribution. Executive Committee develops list of "Desired Attributes" for any model following one on ones and whole Committee discussions

September 25, 2014: At Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting, Dan gives copy of "Desired Attributes" to Marc Daily, PSP, who forwards copy to EPA.

September 26, 2014: EPA hosts meeting for Local Integrating Organizations in Edmonds. David Troutt, Randy Neatherlin, and Dan Wrye represent AHSS and distributed list of "Desired Attributes" to PSP, EPA, and LIOs.

October 2014: Straits LIO emails a modified "EPA Model C: Single Lead Organization". Elizabeth and Dan edit Straits model to show direct LIO allocations

October 2014: Dan talks again with Marc Daily, PSP, explaining AHSS model and asking for PSP support.

October 13, 2014: Executive Committee conference call: AHSS Model, draft EPA letter, and Desired Attributes document package approved. Staff directed to seek support from LIOs and to schedule all-LIOs meeting. PSP contacted and encouraged to consider support

October 22, 2014: Elizabeth sends email and AHSS model to all LIOs and asks for dates for all LIO meeting.

October 31, 2014: San Juan LIO meeting in Padilla Bay. AHSS staff can't make it and call in not available.

November 3, 2014: South Central LIO meeting. Dan attends and presents AHSS model and asks for support. South Central convenes group to consider.

November 4, 2014: LIO Coordinators Conference Call: Support for AHSS model expressed. Commitments to discuss with local committees.

November 10, 2014: Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO meeting, Everett. Elizabeth attends and solicits support.

November 10, 2014: Island LIO conference call. Dan participates and solicits support.

November 13, 2014: At Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting, Dan shares AHSS model with Sheida Sahandy, PSP, and asks for PSP to sign AHSS letter to EPA in support. Sheida indicated they will not support any specific model but would rather stay at high principles level.

November 14, 2014: Straits LIO meeting, Sequim. Dan participates and solicits support. NWIFC releases draft alternative model. Both models are discussed at Sequim and are both very similar. Participates agree to merge. (Break through meeting)

November 19, 2014: Hood Canal Coordinating Council LIO meeting. Elizabeth coordinates with director to solicit support.

November 19, 2014: Executive McCarthy sends letter to South Central (King County) and West Central (Kitsap County) LIOs, as participating jurisdiction announcing Pierce County support for AHSS Model and encouraging their support.

November 20, 2014: Dan has conversation with Sheida Sahandy, PSP, who confirms they will not be supporting any specific model. She raises specific questions about AHSS model, which I said could be addressed if EPA approves the model.

November 21, 2014: West Central LIO meeting. Pierce County representative unable to secure support.

November 24, 2014: LIO coordinator meeting: Elizabeth and Andy gets list of LIOs that will sign our letter, those that will sign in support of our model separately, and those that will send other messages.

November 25, 2014: AHSS Executive Committee conference call: approves letter and Unified NWIFC/LIO model.

November 26, 2014: Elizabeth secures signatures from AHSS, South Central, Hood Canal, Snohomish-Stillaguamish, and Straits LIOs. Letter is emailed to EPA.

November 26, 2014: Elizabeth calls EPA and offers AHSS assistance in follow up discussions on LIO topics for consideration.

December 9, 2014: EPA distributes comments received.

December 10, 2014: Executive McCarthy sends letter to PSP Leadership Council asking for its support. Elizabeth hand delivers.

December 12, 2014: AHSS Executive Committee briefing.

**Analysis of Comments Received by EPA: Attached**

Summary of Input Received by EPA on FY16 EPA Funding Model  
Relative to AHSS Policy Preferences and Unified NWIFC/LIO Model  
Dan D. Wrye, Pierce County, S. Puget Sound Rep., ECB. December 10, 2014

	SUPPORTS AHSS/NWIFC MODEL	DIRECT LIO/REG. ALLOCATIONS	MAJ. OF \$ TO LOCAL PROJECTS	SINGLE AGENCY	PSP ROLE	RCO ROLE	SRFB- LIKE	LIKES EXISTING MODEL	DISSATISF- IED WITH EXISTING	CONCERNS W/ IMP. STRATEGIES	SUPPORTS IMP. STRATEGIES
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
AHSS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
South Central LIO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Hood Canal CC LIO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Snohomish-Stilliguamish LIO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Straits ERN LIO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Island Co. LIO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
San Juans LIO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
San Juan County Council	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Skagit River System Cooperative	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
WRIA 1 Boards (Whatcom LIO)		Note 3	Note 3						X		
Lummi Indian Business Council		Note 3	Note 3	X	X	X	X		X	X	
West Central LIO			Note 3	X	X	X				X	
Puget Sound Partnership	Note 1			X	X	X					X
PSP Science Panel				X	X	X					
Seattle Audubon Society										X	
US Fish and Wildlife Service				Note 2							
Conservation Commission									X		X
Dept. of Fish and Wildlife								X			X
Dept. of Natural Resources								X			X
Dept. of Ecology								X		X	
Dept. of Health								X		X	X
Count: 22 Commenters in 16 letters (Note 4)	10	12	13	15	14	14	11	4	4	15	5
% of 22 Commenters	45%	55%	59%	68%	64%	64%	50%	18%	18%	68%	23%
Specific support of NWIFC/AHSS Model											
Note 1: "give strong consideration to"											
Note 2: Single agency being EPA											
Note 3: Support of AHSS Critical Policy but without endorsing Model											

Note 4: EPA received 16 letters. Some of those letters were signed by multiple organizations. All of the LIOs are comprised of many organizations. Likewise, the NWIFC has 20 Tribes as members. The Skagit River System Coop also has multiple members. Thus, the "count" of comments understates the number of organizations that are represented as a single entity. Viewed this way, the vast majority of regional organizations are supporting the Unified NWIFC/LIO Model; regional allocations; and majority of funds to local projects.