

**Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting**  
**November 18, 2014, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
**LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Boardroom**  
**500 Adams Street NE, Olympia, WA**

**Participants**

Erica Bates, WSU Mason County Extension  
Marian Berejikian, West Sound Watersheds Council  
Cindy Callahan, Tacoma PC Health Dept  
John Bolender, Mason County Conservation District  
Bill Dewey, Taylor Shellfish  
Karla Fowler, LOTT  
Justin Hall, Nisqually River Foundation  
Amy Hatch-Winecka, Thurston Conservation District  
Andy Haub, City of Olympia  
Jack Havens, CLIPA  
Robert Johnson, Mason County Citizens Rep

Tom Kantz, Pierce County  
Neil McClanahan, City of Tumwater  
Sue Patnude, DERT  
Dave Peeler, DERT  
Joe Roush, City of Olympia  
Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe  
Stephanie Suter, PSP  
Jennifer Whipple, Taylor Shellfish  
Jim Wilcox, Wilcox Farms  
Cindy Wilson, Thurston County

Meeting Coordination:  
Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic  
Andy Chinn, Ross Strategic

**Meeting Summary**

**I. Council Administrative Items**

AHSS Website

- The new AHSS website is live ([www.healthysouthsound.org](http://www.healthysouthsound.org)). Some areas are still under construction but the majority of the site is ready and updates are being added regularly. Council members can send any suggestions for improvements, or additions to the events calendar, to Justin, Elizabeth, or Andy.

September Meeting Summary

- Council members approved the September meeting summary, which will be posted to the AHSS website.

NTA Progress Reporting

- AHSS coordinators submit quarterly reports on NTA progress to Puget Sound Partnership. PSP then uploads this information to the report card section of the PSP website. The most recent quarterly NTA submittal was in October. The AHSS coordinators will develop a status summary for South Sound NTAs and circulate the summary with the Executive Committee and Council.

## Upcoming Regional Meetings

- The next LIO coordinators meeting is December 5<sup>th</sup> in Edmonds. As per usual, the AHSS coordinators will circulate any agendas and materials for the meeting as soon as they are ready. Following the meeting the AHSS coordinators will update the Executive Committee and Council on key points.

## LIO Representation to PSEMP

- PSP recently requested nominees for LIO representation to the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP). The deadline for submission was 11/17.

## II. Squaxin Island Tribe Projects

Scott Steltzner from the Squaxin Island Tribe provided an overview of tribal projects in and around South Sound, including:

- Placement of large woody debris in the upper Deschutes watershed.
- Slowing erosion and bringing wood back into the system at the Weyerhaeuser Site.
- Capitol Lake, which was part of the PSNERP process to identify projects for Congressional funding. Capitol Lake did not make the final list of 11 funded projects.
- Restoration of the formal industrial area around Franks Tidelands.
- Removal of the Burfoot Bulkhead near Boston Harbor.
- A project in Woodard Bay headed by Capitol Land Trust.
- Removal of Evergreen Bulkhead near Evergreen State College (on hold).
- Adding large woody debris and spawning gravel to Skookum Creek Watershed.
- The Fletcher site near Skookum Creek, which the Tribe is attempting to purchase for riparian protection and restoration.
- Habitat restoration projects on McNeil Island.
- Whiteman Cove on Case Inlet.
- Collier Site at the head of Hammersley Inlet, the goal of which is to increase the biomass of Squaxin Island Herring stock.
- Monitoring of coho returns to Goldsborough Creek on Hammersley Inlet since removal of the 53' dam 2001.
- The golf course at Oakland Bay, which was sold to Capitol Land Trust.
- Restoration of estuarine and tidal habitat in West Oakland Bay in downtown Shelton.

A copy of Scott's presentation is available on the AHSS website [here](#).

## III. Update on EPA Funding Model

Elizabeth McManus noted that since the 9/26 EPA meeting to discuss Puget Sound funding models, the LIOs have been discussing a proposed funding model that all LIOs can support. This would be a joint submission to EPA by the end of the comment period on 12/1. AHSS has taken the lead on developing

the model and accompanying letter, and Elizabeth and Dan Wrye have been in communication with the other LIO coordinators to answer questions and revise the model as needed. The most notable aspect of the model is the inclusion of a local funding allocation element. Puget Sound tribes are also developing a funding model with many similarities to the LIO proposal, and Elizabeth and Dan are working through NWIFC to determine if the tribes and LIOs can consolidate their proposals in a single submission.

Elizabeth added two comments in response to AHSS Council questions:

- During its 9/26 meeting EPA did not include a model with a local funding allocation option because of concerns around federal rules regarding transparency and competition.
- Although it would seem that funding local projects will naturally lead to Puget Sound-wide recovery, there is a balance between taking a collective view of local actions at the regional level to ensure that local recovery actions are complementary and provide a cohesive path to Sound-wide recovery.

#### **IV. Action Agenda Implementation Strategies**

Stephanie Suter from Puget Sound Partnership noted that the topic of Action Agenda implementation strategies has been discussed in recent LIO coordinator meetings. The implementation strategies are the “bridge” between near term actions and recovery targets; the original Puget Sound funding model stated that projects would be funded based on whether or not they contributed to an implementation strategy. PSP and LIO coordinators are considering how to involve LIOs as implementation strategies are developed. This is also connected with the funding model discussion and the next steps will depend on EPA’s decision regarding the Puget Sound funding model.

#### **V. South Sound Shellfish History, Status, Challenges and Opportunities**

Bill Dewey, Public Policy and Communications Director for Taylor Shellfish Farms, provided a presentation that included:

- History of shellfish harvesting in Puget Sound, beginning with Native American harvesting and the first commercial shellfish harvesting and processing operations in Olympia.
- The current status of commercial shellfish harvesting in Washington State.
- Private tideland ownership laws in Washington State.
- Shellfish culture practices and seed production.
- Challenges such as water quality issues, regulations and permitting, and ocean acidification.
- Opportunities to address challenges through the Marine Resources Advisory Council and Washington Shellfish Initiative.
- Opportunities to meet demand by developing harvest operations in Canada, California, and Alaska.
- Governor Inslee’s Executive Order on climate change.

A copy of Bill's presentation is available on the AHSS website [here](#).

Mr. Dewey provided additional comments in response to participants' questions:

- Taylor Shellfish believes oxygen deprivation is a significant issue for aquaculture. Research demonstrates wide variations in marine oxygen levels. Bacterial decomposition of large algal blooms also contributes to low dissolved oxygen levels, which is further compounded when the dead organic material settles on shellfish beds.
- Hydrocarbon pollution is not as much of an issue for Taylor Shellfish because its operations are in rural areas.
- Shellfish harvesting in Budd Inlet is not allowed due to the mandatory closure zones around the LOTT treatment plant and local marinas.

[Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm]