

Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Executive Committee Meeting
November 18, 2015, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Mason County Public Works
100 Public Works Drive
Shelton, WA

Executive Committee Members:

Commissioner Bud Blake, Thurston County
Justin Hall, Nisqually River Council
Executive McCarthy, Pierce County
Commissioner Randy Neatherlin, Mason County
David Troutt, Nisqually Tribe

Additional Attendees:

Evan Bauder, Mason Conservation District
Jack Havens, CLIPA
Tom Kantz, Pierce County
Chris Schutz, Pierce County SWM
Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe
Stephanie Suter, PSP
Merita Trohimovich, City of Tacoma
Dan Wrye, Pierce County SWM/ECB
Representative, South Puget Sound

Meeting Summary

I. AHSS Administrative Updates

- The Executive Committee approved the September meeting minutes.
- A recent meeting at the WSU Stormwater Center (Puyallup) focused on the toxic effects of stormwater on salmon.
- On November 12 the ECB met. Dave Sommers, newly elected Snohomish County Executive, stepped down as the ECB Chair; Will Hall was voted in as his replacement. There appears to be renewed effort to make the ECBs more effective. PSP Director Sahandy discussed the recently proposed federal legislation on Puget Sound, and PSP reviewed its schedule for adopting Action Agenda projects into a single, prioritized list of actions.
- PSP recently released its 2015 “State of the Sound” report. Contact Stephanie Suter for hard copies; the report is available on the PSP [website](#).
- Executive Committee members reviewed the AHSS NTA quarterly status update and noted that there was a significant lack of detail in the publicly available status report.

II. South Sound Proposed Near Term Actions

Elizabeth reviewed the number, scope, and financial totals of NTAs submitted by project sponsors. Elizabeth will call each project sponsor during the next 2-3 weeks to review the results of the Technical Team’s NTA scoring. Although some projects were below the designated cutoff criteria, the Technical Team is recommending to the Executive Committee that all projects be provided the opportunity to move forward, if the project sponsors so decide. The Technical Team will work with project sponsors to fulfill the criteria for submitting their projects to PSP.

Executive Committee Discussion:

- Details on the funding stream for NTAs is not available but it is estimated that no more than \$10 million will be available across Puget Sound.

- The Deschutes Estuary Restoration NTA mentions removal of the 5th Avenue Dam and bridge, a major transportation corridor between two communities; community input on this NTA would be helpful.
- The Technical Team reviewed the NTAs based on their potential to affect ecosystem outcomes throughout Puget Sound, and therefore the NTAs might not line up with specific jurisdictions' priorities.
- During the September meeting the Executive Committee discussed whether more expensive projects should be included in the list of proposed NTAs; the Committee decided that it was better to be more inclusive. PSP also instructed the LIOs not to prioritize actions, because the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams (SITTs) would prioritize.
- The current suite of shellfish NTAs and proposed NTAs tends to focus on restoring shellfish beds; Committee members should consider whether an NTA needs to be developed on protection of existing shellfish beds.
- If any project has a significant connection to the 2015 State of the Sound report it should be noted.
- Recent versions of the Action Agenda for Puget Sound have included non-capital NTAs, such as ensuring regulatory frameworks are aligned with restoration efforts. A possible AHSS-owned NTA could concentrate in this area.

The Executive Committee approved the recommendation to move all NTA proposals forward.

Next Steps

- Elizabeth will contact NTA project sponsors to discuss whether they want to move forward with the PSP submittal process.
- The Technical Team will brief the AHSS Executive Committee on the NTA proposals and next steps.
- The Technical Team will provide feedback from the Executive Committee to NTA sponsors.
- Elizabeth and David will develop an NTA that addresses issues with existing regulatory frameworks that could impede Puget Sound restoration.
- Elizabeth will notify the Executive Committee if project sponsors significantly alter the scope of their NTAs.
- Any new proposed NTAs will be scored by the Technical Team and put before the Executive Committee for approval.
- Elizabeth will submit the complete set of proposed NTAs to PSP on behalf of the Executive Committee.

III. South Sound Recovery Strategy Development

- In October the Technical Team provided a presentation to the SITT on South Sound Vital Signs, pressures, and recovery strategy work. The full document on which the presentation was based is posted on the AHSS [website](#). The SITT asked questions related to project rankings and funding strategies. During the next few months the Technical Team will be shifting toward finishing the South Sound strategy.

Executive Committee Discussion:

- Committee members discussed whether AHSS should be reorganized to take better advantage of funding opportunities for South Sound recovery actions. Committee members noted that AHSS was organized to fit a desired purpose and outcome and now that the organization has

operated for several years, it might be time to revisit the organizational structure to ensure that it is most effective for its members.

- AHSS has no officially articulated role or statutory authority, which leads to the question of whether and how the organization would like to articulate its role.

The Executive Committee endorsed the concept of a one-day retreat in spring 2016 to discuss the organization's role and structure.

VI. Other Topics of Interest

- The timeline for applying to become a Lead Organization under the new EPA Puget Sound funding model is approaching.

[Meeting adjourned]