

**Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Executive Committee Meeting**  
**September 15, 2014, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**  
**LOTT Clean Water Alliance**  
**500 Adams St NE**  
**Olympia, WA**

**Executive Committee Members:**

Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Island Tribe  
Justin Hall, Nisqually River Foundation  
Executive McCarthy, Pierce County  
Commissioner Neatherlin, Mason County  
David Troutt, Nisqually Tribe  
Commissioner Romero, Thurston County

**Additional Attendees:**

John Bolender, Mason Conservation District  
Tom Kantz, Pierce County SWM  
Keri Rooney, Pierce County  
Chris Schutz, Pierce County SWM  
Stephanie Suter, PSP  
Cynthia Wilson, Thurston County  
Amy Hatch-Winecka, Thurston Conservation District  
Dan Wrye, Pierce County SWM/ECB Representative, South Puget Sound

**Meeting Summary**

**I. Upcoming Meeting with PSP and EPA to Discuss Puget Sound Funding Model**

On September 26, EPA will host a meeting at Edmonds City Hall to discuss potential models for distributing funding for Puget Sound recovery. The AHSS LIO Coordinator and South Puget Sound ECB Representative have been meeting individually with Executive Committee members to gather feedback and develop a list of AHSS key points and priorities to bring to the meeting.

ECB Representative Dan Wrye provided a verbal summary of Puget Sound funding sources and will develop a written version of this list as a resource for Executive Committee members. Dan also described a recent proposal to the ECB for a federal coordinated investment strategy. Previous similar models have been proposed but not implemented for various reasons. Senator John McCoy has moved forward a model coordinated investment strategy but there are concerns about the effect this would have on junior taxing districts. The most recent version included the ability for participants to opt out.

AHSS Executive Committee Members provided the following comments and questions:

- Jeff Dickison noted that the Squaxin Island Tribe does not have any objections to the draft AHSS priorities but also does not strongly support the process that has transpired. During the last year or so the tribe has attempted to revise the funding process to bring funds to the local level. Working through the legislature has not been successful, and EPA and PSP are working on their own to advocate for their preferred approach despite a blueprint provided by AHSS. Squaxin Island Tribe is not interested in listening to PSP and EPA and reacting to their proposal. PSP Director Sahandy spoke with the Executive Committee in June and was not responsive to the Committee's questions. Squaxin Island Tribe does not believe that the overall conversation is

moving in the right direction and the Tribe has substantial concerns about whether the funding proposal will meet its needs.

- Commissioner Neatherlin noted the importance of AHSS members standing together on issues such as this.
- Commissioner Romero commented that AHSS has provided a significant shake up to the system with respect to the current funding model, with the ultimate goal of improving the funding stream. AHSS should be open to both listening and conversing with EPA and PSP.
- David Troutt emphasized that the draft AHSS funding guidelines do not limit the parameters of the conversation at the 9/26 funding meeting.

## **II. Update to AHSS Website**

The LIO Coordinators pointed out the overall menu and various features of the new AHSS website and invited the Executive Committee to provide feedback.

- Jeff Dickison commented that AHSS should develop clear criteria that must be met before an item can be posted to the “Science” section of the website. Jeff also requested clarification of the types of projects that would go in the “Projects” tab.
- David Troutt noted that some general policies regarding website content are warranted.
- Executive Committee members agreed that the new site should have more photos.

## **III. Status of McNeil Island Long Term Planning**

Following the June meeting, the Executive Committee submitted a letter to OFM requesting an update on the status of the McNeil Island long term plan. McNeil Island long-term conservation and low-impact public access was submitted by AHSS as a regional NTA for the 2014 Action Agenda update. On August 25<sup>th</sup> OFM provided a response letter. Executive Committee members agreed that the tenor of the OFM letter implies that transfer of ownership is not anticipated at this time and state operations will continue on the island.

- The Nisqually Tribe noted that it is still interested in pursuing targeted habitat restoration on McNeil Island. Pierce County noted that is also still interested in work on the island.
- The Squaxin Island Tribe commented that it has been working with the state for access for shellfish-related activities and will continue to do so. It is unclear if OFM, in its letter, is communicating a definitive policy solution or is clumsily attempting to convey an outcome.

## **IV. Project success story: Pierce County Shellfish Partners**

Dan Wrye provided a presentation on the Pierce County Shellfish Partners program, which was designed to achieve high water quality in marine shellfish areas. The presentation included a description of shellfish acreage and growing operations in South Puget Sound, the three shellfish protection districts in Pierce County, sampling sites, creative solutions to reduce pollutants, issues with derelict vessels, and challenges.

## **V. Executive Committee Administrative Items**

## June Meeting Summary

- The Executive Committee approved the draft June meeting summary.

## Upcoming Regional Meetings

- A joint meeting of LIO Coordinators and watershed leads is scheduled for Friday, September 19 in Edmonds. The quarterly LIO Coordinators meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 30 in Edmonds. The AHSS coordinators typically attend these meetings as representatives of AHSS and will report back to the AHSS Executive Committee and Council on any significant items. Executive Committee members are encouraged to bring any issues to the coordinators' attention that they wish to convey at these meetings.

## NTA Financial Reporting to PSP

- During the past month the AHSS LIO Coordinators have collected financial information on the 18 NTAs submitted to PSP as part of the 2014 Action Agenda update. The financial information was forwarded to PSP; this information will be compiled with financial information for NTAs across Puget Sound to create an estimate of current funding sources and funding levels for Puget Sound recovery actions, estimated costs to complete the NTAs, and potential funding sources.

## Next Executive Committee Meeting

- Executive Committee members agreed to meet in October in order to debrief on the EPA/PSP funding model meeting. The Executive Committee will decide whether to meet in November based on the outcome of the October meeting.

## Future Executive Committee Meeting Topics

- Commissioner Neatherlin suggested that given the time of year, the Executive Committee should discuss South Sound projects or issues for the next legislative session.

## Standing Agenda Items

- Executive Committee members suggested holding time on future agendas for project updates and updates on AHSS Council activities,

## **VI. Summary of Action Items**

- ECB Representative Dan Wrye will develop a comprehensive list of Puget Sound recovery funding sources.
- LIO Coordinators will follow up with Councilmember Ladenburg on her participation at the 9/26 funding meeting.
- Tom Kantz will develop a draft policy for inclusion of science-related items on the new AHSS website.
- LIO Coordinators will schedule an Executive Committee meeting in October and an Executive Committee meeting in November.

- LIO Coordinators will circulate a list of potential standing agenda items for future Executive Committee meetings.

**VII. 2014/2015 AHSS Coordination Scope of Work**

**VIII. Coordinator Contract Selection Process**

[Note: LIO Coordinators excused themselves from these two sections of the meeting]