



**Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Executive Committee Meeting
July 27, 2016, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
LOTT Cleanwater Alliance**

Executive Committee Members:

Commissioner Bud Blake, Thurston County
Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Island Tribe
Justin Hall, Nisqually River Council
Commissioner Randy Neatherlin, Mason County

Additional Attendees:

John Bolender, Mason Conservation District
Tom Kantz, Pierce County
Cindy Wilson, Thurston County
Dan Wrye, Pierce County SWM/ECB
Representative, South Puget Sound

Meeting Summary

I. AHSS Administrative Updates

- The Executive Committee approved the May 2016 meeting summary.
- AHSS Council Update: The AHSS Council discussed organizational structure and the South Sound Strategy on June 28.

II. Executive Committee Business

- Draft 2016-2017 LIO SOW: As part of the AHSS SOW, Puget Sound Partnership has a set of expected deliverables. The SOW has a significant amount of work included. AHSS Executive Committee members noted that the 2016-2017 SOW should be focused on implementation rather than meetings and process.
- Legislative update: AHSS proposed legislation in 2013 that included a provision that any state agency receiving NEP funding can direct such funding to LIOs. AHSS could revisit the proposed legislation and simplify as necessary. It will be difficult to predict what will happen in the next legislative session, especially given the election this fall. The JLARC report will also influence some of the thinking in the upcoming legislative session.
- LIO Meeting with PSP and Strategic Initiative Leads: The meeting in June was for the SI lead agencies to roll out preliminary ideas for how to spend the \$100,000 allocated to each LIO. The agencies all said that it would be for each LIO to determine project selection criteria. The agencies requested that LIOs provide an indication of which strategic initiative the *likely* funded project would fall under. Agencies also asked whether LIOs wanted to submit their priority project before the funding announcement for all other projects, or after.
 - Dan Wrye noted that 54% of commercial shellfish in Washington is from South Sound. Pierce County has good resources but not sufficient to fund a full PIC program. Mason and Thurston County lack resources. Dan suggested using the \$100,000 for Mason and Thurston shellfish programs.

- Jeff Dickison noted that EPA’s commitment is to provide \$100,000 for LIO implementation funding this year with the option to revisit the issues associated with distribution and funding level.
- JLARC Letter to PSP: Dan Wrye took JLARC staff on a tour of stormwater retrofit projects in Pierce County. Jeff recommended sending JLARC the AHSS letter and noted that it would not be useful to meet with them or continue providing tours of projects that AHSS partners have implemented.
- AHSS Organizational Structure: (Continuation of discussion) Executive Committee members noted that a 501c3 is a preferred organizational structure for pursuing grant funding or in-lieu-of funding, among other sources. Although AHSS can apply for such funding through any of the counties (as fiscal agents), there are other sources (e.g., foundations) that may or may not be obtainable via fiscal agent.

Next Steps:

- Thurston County will re-circulate the draft SOW and request comments from Executive Committee members.
- Technical Team will consider criteria for \$100,000 implementation funding and provide a recommendation to the Executive Committee.
- Randy will contact JLARC and set up a meeting with their staff at his office. Jeff will attend if available.
- Dan Wrye will finish the JLARC letter and send it.

III. South Sound Strategy

Elizabeth updated the Executive Committee on the Technical Team’s work toward a draft South Sound Strategy. The presentation described several emerging targets at the inlet-island group scale.

Discussion:

- A general interpretation of “protect” is “regulate”.
- Criteria for fish passage barriers is for adults and does not address juvenile passage.
- The tribal lawsuit on fish culverts only applies to state-owned culverts, not privately-owned culverts.
- WRIAs are prioritizing culvert removal so it would make sense to incorporate it into the South Sound Strategy.

IV. Other Business

- Tribes recently wrote a letter to PSP critiquing recent PSP operations. The letter has not been well received and a number of parties have requested copies of it.

[Meeting adjourned]