**Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Executive Committee Meeting**

**May 24, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

**Mason County Public Works**

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| **Executive Committee Members:** | **Additional Attendees:** |
| Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Island TribeCommissioner Kevin Shutty, Mason CountyDan Wrye, Pierce County Surface Water Management and ECB Representative for South Puget SoundDerek Young, Pierce County Council | Jeff Barney, Pierce CountyJohn Bolender, Mason Conservation District Tom Kantz, Pierce CountyStephanie Suter, Puget Sound Partnership |

**Meeting Summary**

**I. AHSS Administrative Updates**

* The Executive Committee approved the March 2017 meeting summary.
* During its most recent meeting, the ECB asked Ecology for a briefing on the draft issuance of a municipal stormwater permit.
* Dennis McLerran has been appointed to the Leadership Council.
* PSP is interview various groups for the potential lead role for updating the South Sound chapter of the Salmon Recovery Plan. Pierce County Surface Water Management is one of the organizations that PSP will interview. Pierce County’s position is that unless all of the Lead Entities are consolidated, the current setup should continue.
	+ John Bolender noted that PSP interview the WRIA 14 stakeholder group and citizens committee and received several questions and concerns about the loss of ability to have citizen participation, and whether another organization has the infrastructure to handle consolidation of Lead Entities. Mason Conservation District’s position has always been to support whatever efforts best provide the opportunity to implement projects in the community.
	+ Stephanie commented that approximately two years ago PSP presented Phase I monitoring and adaptive management results, and the South Sound Lead Entities identified a lack of local salmon recovery chapter “ownership” as a major gap. PSP’s role is not to promote consolidation; PSP supports whatever will help identify the chapter owner.
	+ Jeff stated that PSP has not reached out to the group that wrote the South Sound Salmon Recovery Chapter, which is an important part of the process.
* Development of NTAs for the 2018 Puget Sound Action Agenda will occur later this year. PSP is currently working on the draft NTA solicitation.

**II. South Sound Shellfish Initiative**

Jeff provided background on how the South Sound Shellfish Initiative idea came about. At this point in AHSS’s organizational life, it seems useful to deploy an AHSS initiative that the organization and its members can own. The initiative could be some type of collaboration that takes advantage of regional entities while also providing the type of focus that attracts direct funding, and would give AHSS momentum if PSP funding were to cease. Shellfish is a natural fit because it is an area of interest for all AHSS jurisdictions, AHSS currently has some funding for it, and it could accomplish multiple goals. Shellfish is a significant part of South Sound and will continue to be threatened by development. Shellfish production in South Sound is noticeable, both in dollars and in production levels. Hood Canal Coordinating Council is considering a similar initiative.

Executive Committee Comments:

* Derek supported the idea of the initiative, noting that a small investment could have a large impact. Derek suggested emphasizing water quality as much as possible.
* Kevin noted that this is an opportunity to work with multiple counties that have a commitment to shellfish. Shellfish connects with the environment, economics, and recreation, all things that counties are interested in. It would also be interesting to hear from local commercial growers.
* Jeff commented on the educational need to talk about not just commercial shellfish production but also recreational shellfishing.

Next Steps

* Executive Committee will work on additional structure to the shellfish initiative, what the work could look like and potential funding approach.
* Executive Committee members will talk with their respective organizations about the proposed shellfish initiative.

**III. GAO Audit of Puget Sound Restoration Efforts**

GAO has reached out to various organizations connected to Puget Sound restoration efforts, including the AHSS. Jeff noted that GAO is asking for tribal feedback and he will likely be asked to contribute that in his capacity as Vice Chair of the Tribal Management Conference.

Next Steps:

* Derek agreed to represent AHSS as part of the GAO audit.

**IV. Applying the South Sound Strategy**

During the March meeting, participants commented that a brief summary of the South Sound Strategy, by geography, could be useful to local project implementers. Elizabeth and others developed an example of a short (1-page) document summarizing an inlet-island group - essentially a description of the condition in each group and what actions need to be taken.

Executive Committee Comments:

* The inlet-island group summaries seem like useful communications tools for the Strategy.
* There is a breadth of experience and knowledge on the AHSS Council that would add to the inlet-island group summaries.

Other Participant Comments:

* A brief summary of the South Sound Strategy, by geography, could be useful to local project implementers.
* AHSS could consider broadening its membership to include the business community; realtors, developers, etc. And demonstrate how South Sound project work positively impacts the local economy.

Next Steps:

* AHSS Technical Team will continue developing outreach materials for the South Sound Strategy.