

**ALLIANCE FOR A HEALTHY SOUTH SOUND  
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

***April 14, 2011, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.***

***Thurston County Courthouse, 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW; Olympia, WA***

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE:**

Charlotte Garrido	Kitsap County Commissioner
Jeff Dickison (for Andy Whitener)	Squaxin Island Tribe
Lynda Ring Erickson	Mason County Commissioner
Pat McCarthy	Pierce County Executive
Sandra Romero	Thurston County Commissioner
Stan Flemming	Pierce County Councilmember
Absent	Nisqually Tribe

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Al Schmauder	Chambers Clover Watershed Council
Amy Hatch-Winecka	Thurston Conservation District, Mason Conservation District
Andy Haub	City of Olympia
Bob Simmons	WSU Extension – Mason County
Chris Schutz	Pierce County
Dan Wrye	Pierce County
Doug Mah	City of Olympia
Emmett Dobey	Mason County
Kathy Peters	Kitsap County
Keri Rooney	Pierce County
Rich Doenges	Thurston County
Ryan Dicks	Pierce County
Tom Kantz	Pierce County
Tristan Peter-Contesse	Puget Sound Partnership

**Welcome and Introductions**

Commissioner Romero welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Olympia Mayor Doug Mah. Mayor Mah welcomed the group to the City of Olympia, noting a range of projects in which the city and county are involved to improve water quality, restore habitat, and educate the public on the importance of environmental protection. Following Mayor Mah's remarks, Commissioner Romero invited meeting attendees to introduce themselves.

The group approved the draft December 17, 2010 meeting summary as final.

**Public Comment**

No public comments were provided.

### **Election of a Vice Chair**

Commissioner Romero opened discussion on the election of a Vice Chair. Members agree that, given the group's leadership structure with co-chairs, they will not elect a Vice Chair.

### **Organizational Bylaws**

The Committee reviewed the draft bylaws for approval. Members had several recommended changes to the bylaws:

Additional language was proposed in Article 1.7, clarifying the Executive Committee's voting rights. The new sentence will read: "Consensus is the desired method of decision making, but in the event that consensus cannot be reached, the Chair(s) may call for a vote *of the Executive Committee*".

It was suggested that water and sewer district representatives should be added to the Alliance membership. The group discussed the means by which this would be done. In Article 5.1, the new sentence will read: "The Alliance membership will include...(5) one from LOTT Alliance *and others*".

The group approved the bylaws, as amended.

### **Invitation Letter and Invite List**

The Committee moved to consideration of a draft AHSS membership invitation list, and associated letter of invitation. Discussion followed, with Committee members proposing and agreeing to the following changes:

Invitations will be extended to Port Commissioners, rather than Port Executive Directors. Not all Ports will be included.

The group affirmed that in general, the intention for selecting specific Alliance members is to have associations select appropriate representatives from amongst themselves (e.g. the Master Builders' Association will identify its representative). The idea is for groups and associations named as members in the bylaws to "self select", rather than for AHSS to identify those specific individuals.

To expand participation, the group proposed that three, rather than two, representatives of the NGO caucus be included in AHSS' membership. The bylaws will be modified to reflect this decision.

Under "NGO caucus", the line "Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group" (Phil Anderson) will be deleted because that interest would already be captured by a representative from "South PS Salmon Enhancement Group".

Committee members would like to encourage participation from a wide range of citizen groups in South Puget Sound. Accordingly, members will send Tristan Peter-Contesse a list of additional invitees representing community clubs and other similar citizen groups within their jurisdictions. Invitations will be extended to representatives from the Northwest Eco Builders' Association and the Master Builders' Association. The bylaws will be modified to reflect this decision.

WRIA 13 and WRIA 14 will be referred to separately on the invite list and in the bylaws.

Several colleges with strong aquaculture programs are not currently included in the list of college/university invitees. All colleges/universities within South Puget Sound will receive a membership invitation, and self select.

A new version of the invitation letter was introduced, and approved by the group.

With the changes listed above, the group agreed to move forward with the invitation process.

As a matter of general practice, the group also agreed to strive for consensus as the model for decision making.

### **Work Plan and Staff Position Description**

The Committee moved to consideration of a 2011 Work Plan and AHSS staff position description. There is broad concern within the group that the level of funding for 2011 will not provide for sufficient staff capacity, in terms of both administrative and scientific functions.

Puget Sound Partnership continues to work with EPA on developing a contract, deliverables, and fiscal agent guidance for Local Integrating Organizations across Puget Sound. Until a contract is finalized, the amount of funding available to hire an AHSS staffer is unknown. PSP will continue to provide administrative support to AHSS until a contract is in place.

The Committee has concerns about one proposed funding structure for LIOs – on the basis that it creates a disincentive for cooperation across watershed boundaries – and will send PSP leadership a letter to express those concerns. Tristan Peter-Contesse will support this process.

An in-depth discussion followed, regarding the merits of hiring either a) Alliance staff trained primarily in administrative and coordination functions; or b) Alliance staff trained primarily in science. There is some disagreement within the group as to whether a set of administrative skills or a set of scientific skills is more important for AHSS staff.

Ultimately, the Committee agreed that the ideal AHSS staffer will play an administrative and coordinating role for the organization, but have a very firm grasp of science. The Squaxin Island Tribe would like to be closely involved with the hiring process for AHSS staff.

Concerns were also raised that the 2011 Work Plan is currently driven by process-based considerations, rather than science-based considerations.

The Committee agreed that the staff position description and Work Plan need additional revision, based on the discussion captured above. Tristan Peter-Contesse will convene the Work Group in order to make these revisions.

### **Ecosystem Coordination Board Nomination**

It was proposed that Dan Wrye – current South Sound Action Area ECB representative – be re-appointed for a second term. Several Committee members expressed a desire to discuss this issue with their Boards prior to making a decision. These members agreed to report back to the full group, once they'd received guidance.

### **Fiscal Agent**

The Committee elected to identify its fiscal agent by secret ballot. Votes were evenly split between Pierce County and Thurston County, and after a coin toss, the Committee elected Thurston County as the AHSS fiscal agent.

### **Next Meeting**

The Executive Committee's next quarterly meeting will be hosted by Pierce County, at a time to be determined.

### **Summary of Key Decisions Made**

**Chairs/Vice Chair:** With Commissioner Romero and Commissioner Ring Erickson serving as Co-Chairs of the Alliance for a two-year term, a Vice Chair will not be elected.

**Organizational Bylaws:** With amendments as noted, the Executive Committee approved the organizational bylaws.

**Invitation Letter and Invite List:** The Work Group will revise the invite list to reflect the Committee's discussion, and send out invitation letters before the Committee's next meeting.

**Work Plan and Staff Position Description:** The Work Group will revise the Work Plan and staff position description to reflect the Committee's discussion, before the Committee's next meeting.

**Letter to PSP Leadership:** In advance of its next meeting, the Executive Committee will draft a letter to PSP leadership expressing its concern over a proposed funding structure for LIOs.

**Ecosystem Coordination Board Nomination:** Executive Committee members will discuss options with their Boards, and report back to the full group.

**Fiscal Agent:** Thurston County was elected as AHSS' fiscal agent.

**Next Meeting:** The Executive Committee's next meeting will be held in July 2011, at Pierce County's offices.