

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

***July 11, 2011, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
County-City Building, 930 Tacoma Avenue South; Tacoma, WA***

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE:

David Troutt (for Willie Frank)	Nisqually Tribe
Jeff Dickison (for Andy Whitener)	Squaxin Island Tribe
Pat McCarthy	Pierce County Executive
Sandra Romero	Thurston County Commissioner
Absent	Kitsap County Council
Absent	Mason County Council
Absent	Pierce County Council

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Al Schmauder	Chambers Clover Watershed Council
Amy Hatch-Winecka	Thurston Conservation District, Mason Conservation District
Andy Haub	City of Olympia
Chris Schutz	Pierce County
Dan Wrye	Pierce County
Dave Peeler	People for Puget Sound
Jeanette Dorner	Nisqually Tribe
John Bolender	Mason Conservation District
Kathy Peters	Kitsap County
Keri Rooney	Pierce County
Rich Doenges	Thurston County
Tom Kantz	Pierce County
Tristan Peter-Contesse	Puget Sound Partnership

Welcome and Introductions

Following introductions around the table, Executive McCarthy welcomed everyone on behalf of the Pierce County Executive's Office. Commissioner Romero applauded progress made by AHSS during its last meeting, and noted that she appreciates the opportunity to interface with a large group of people who all care about Puget Sound.

After a brief discussion of the minutes in which the group agreed to further define the role of the Work Group in the AHSS staff hiring process, the April 14, 2011 meeting summary was approved as final.

Executive McCarthy noted the recent upgrade of shellfish growing areas in Vaughn Bay, and that a key component of achieving that upgrade was addressing failing septic systems.

Action Agenda Update

Dan Wrye and Tom Kantz led the group through a discussion of AHSS' contribution to the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda update. Using a template provided by PSP, Tom has compiled a list of strategies, plans, and actions that support goals identified in the Action Agenda, and circulated it for review and comment among AHSS and other stakeholders in South Puget Sound. Ultimately, this information will be incorporated into the 2011 Action Agenda update. To this end, Dan noted the importance of AHSS advancing efforts to prioritize strategies and actions within its overall list, speaking regionally about which elements are of most importance collectively across the entire Basin.

An in-depth discussion followed. Concerns were expressed that the final list will likely be used to vet projects potentially eligible for grant funding from EPA and others, and that some mechanism should therefore exist to adjust the list even after it's submitted as part of AHSS' contribution to the Action Agenda. Concerns were also expressed that a long list of strategies and actions is hard for the public to relate to, and that AHSS should also work to articulate clear, simple priorities that get to the heart of issues in South Puget Sound.

A number of solutions were proposed around the table. PSP's recently finalized ecosystem pressure reduction targets were suggested as a tangible entry point for AHSS, in articulating where it might contribute to achieving Action Agenda goals. A science-based Work Plan – centered on the specific problems that the region is trying to solve – was also suggested as an effective means to drive prioritization. Some potential focal areas were described as 1) degraded marine water quality; 2) salmon recovery; 3) low survival of juvenile salmonids in South Puget Sound; 4) continuing the South Sound Science Symposium; and 5) convening a South Sound Science Institute.

As an overall summary of the conversation, it was suggested that AHSS needs to: 1) be the master of its own destiny; 2) make its work and message accessible to the community; and 3) strongly base its activities in science.

To move forward with articulating near- and long-term priority actions, the Work Group will meet as soon as possible to develop a proposed list for the Executive Committee. Tristan Peter-Contesse will help convene this meeting. As the overall Action Agenda update schedule has now been adjusted, edits and additions on the complete list of South Sound strategies and actions are now due to Tristan by *August 8*.

Invitation List

The group moved to a discussion of the Alliance invitation list. A question was raised on the process for selecting citizen representatives, and clarification provided that the intent is for county representatives to select citizens. Following this conversation, the invitation list was approved as final.

Work Plan and Staff Position Description

Executive Committee members opened conversation on AHSS' Work Plan for 2011-12, and the position description for an individual to staff the organization. Concerns were raised that the grant amount of \$75,000 is not sufficient to hire an FTE for one full year, and several potential solutions were proposed including the use of Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) capacity funds or county/tribal funds to increase available funding and attract a full-time

candidate. Regarding PSAR, additional concerns were raised that the intent of these funds is to specifically support salmon recovery. The Nisqually Tribe noted that its PSAR capacity allocation would not be available to fund AHSS staff.

Executive Committee members agreed to explore the possibility of locating additional capacity funding through county and tribal sources, and to report back at the Executive Committee's next meeting.

With regard to the draft position description for an individual to staff AHSS, concerns were expressed that the job title of "Executive Secretary" does not fully capture the nature of work that would be expected of the individual hired. It was noted that the first person hired should primarily accomplish three things: 1) keep the organization moving; 2) find additional resources to implement AHSS' Work Plan; and 3) explore the availability of additional funding sources to hire a lead scientist. With these considerations in mind, the Executive Committee agreed to send the staff position description to the Work Group to finalize.

The group then moved to discussion of the 2011-12 Work Plan. Some are concerned that the Work Plan as currently written is too focused on process-based considerations, rather than on moving forward with a science-based approach to accelerate restoration and recovery of South Puget Sound. Some are also concerned with moving forward too quickly on the organization's Work Plan before the full Alliance is in place to provide input. Following a discussion on how to balance the need to finalize the 2011-12 Work Plan with the need to include additional stakeholders in its development, the Executive Committee elected to send the Work Plan back to the Work Group for further development with the understanding that Work Group members would reach out to additional stakeholders during this process, to the extent possible. A motion was introduced and seconded to approve the process-based Work Plan elements, and to further flesh out science-based elements of the Work Plan under Task 4.

Standing Meeting

The group agreed that the third Thursday of the month, from 2:00-4:00pm, would likely be a good option for a standing meeting of the Executive Committee. Members also agreed that meeting every two months would sometimes be a better option than meeting once every quarter. With these considerations in mind, Thursday, September 15 was tentatively set as the Executive Committee's next meeting, to be held in Kitsap County.

Summary of Key Decisions Made

Action Agenda: Send comments and additions to the "South Sound Actions" spreadsheet to Tristan by *August 8*. The Work Group will meet at least once before then to discuss potential changes.

Invitation List: The Executive Committee approved the invitation list.

Work Plan and Position Description: The Executive Committee approved process-based elements of the Work Plan. The Work Group will convene to flesh out the Work Plan's science-based elements, and to finalize the staff position description.

Funding: Executive Committee members will explore whether additional funds might be brought to the pool of money available to hire AHSS staff.

Next Meeting: Subject to final confirmation from Executive Committee members, the next meeting will be held in Kitsap County on September 15, 2011, from 2:00-4:00pm.