

Alliance Executive Committee Agenda May 29th 2pm – 4pm
Pierce County-City Building, Rainier Conference Room
930 Tacoma Ave. S., 7th Floor

Welcome, Introductions, Approval of April meeting summary

Attending:

Executive Pat McCarthy, Chair
Commissioner Charlotte Garrido, Vice-Chair
Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Island Tribe
Commissioner Randy Neatherlin, Mason County
Commissioner Sandra Romero, Thurston County
Council Member Connie Ladenburg, Pierce County
Justin Hall, Nisqually River Council, Alliance Council Chair
Jennifer Joly, Pierce County Government Relations
Dan Wrye, ECB Representative
Tom Kantz, Pierce County, Alliance Technical Subcommittee Chair
Keri Rooney, Pierce County
John Bolender, Mason Conservation District
Stephanie Suter, Puget Sound Partnership
Chris Schutz, Pierce County
Denis Curry, Capitol Lake Improvement & Protection Association (CLIPA)

Action:

Minutes – approved with recommended edits.

Council Update, Council Chair, Justin Hall

Council met, heard about and discussed the 2014 legislative strategy. They fully support moving forward with that strategy. Tom Kantz also presented an early draft of the South Sound Recovery Strategy. Council members were asked to take the lead on providing more project information for that Strategy in relation to the Alliance Priorities. The Council also reviewed suggested changes to the Alliance bylaws and the proposal for adding/changing seats. They asked that we move those forward to the Executive Committee today.

Bylaws discussion:

- Bylaws relating to the Council defined a quorum as 50% of all seats. We still have a number of empty seats and with such a large group, haven't had that attendance yet.
- Strike 4.1 as redundant?
- Squaxin Island Tribal representative, Jeff Dickison noted that he was not comfortable with recommendations being made by the Council for changes to the bylaws. He recommended only making changes to those sections relating to the Council itself. He also noted that he opposes removing the Council quorum requirement as it may be necessary down the road for them to make formal decisions.

- The Council Chair pointed out that with the quorum rule as it stands the Council cannot make recommendations as the 50% of all seats requirement was not met.
- Commissioner Neatherlin suggested that the quorum rule stay, but that it be altered such that a quorum is 50% or more of the seated members.
- The Committee referenced the Council seat change/proposal which notes that if a member misses a certain number of meetings, a replacement can be sought.
- Commissioner Neatherlin stated his view that the authority to make decisions should remain with the Executive Committee.
- The Committee recommended that all delegation language be struck until the EC decides what decision making capacity they would like for the Council. Section 2.2 : Strike everything in blue (after the word Council).
- It was noted that at the organization's inception, there was a discussion about being a non-profit. Prior to the formation of the formal Alliance they were successfully using an informal decision making method. Later, the Puget Sound Partnership urged formalization of the process.

Actions:

Justin will make small approved changes to Council section only.

Gabby will continue to work at filling empty seats and coordination with Council members to find alternates.

Justin will send out a proposal to add seats to the Council – a second Community Organization seat and a seat specifically for a Health Department.

Alliance Executive Committee 2014 Legislative Strategy Update

Discussion of further details on the development of the Alliance legislative strategy. Dan Wrye provided an update on legislative strategy.

Discussion:

- Gabby and Dan met with Puget Sound Partnership to discuss partnering on the Alliance 2014 Legislative Strategy. The reception was very positive. They indicated a willingness to work with the Alliance. A meeting between the Partnership and the Alliance Chair and Vice-Chair will be scheduled for June.
- Commissioner Neatherlin recommended an advice and consent model for working with the Puget Sound Partnership.
- Dan Wrye requested input from Jeff Dickison regarding NWIFC's potential view of the Alliance strategy. He responded that the funding structure through EPA, along with their unwillingness to modify it has been a source of frustrations and that introducing it as a legislative context is a different approach.
- Jeff Dickison noted that there is a current opportunity to start touching base with these folks right away. Some of the legislators have returned for special session and may be available.

Actions:

- Commissioner Garrido will schedule an Alliance meeting with the EPA.
- Commissioner Romero requested that Alliance members meet Keith Phillips, policy advisor for Governor Inslee. Gabby will make that appointment with Keith Phillips.
- The Legislative Strategy matrix was filled out matching Alliance Executive Committee members with legislators who they will be contacting.
- Staff was directed to come up with a 2 page public information document for use when they make those contacts.
- Commissioner Romero recommended that the legislative code reviser be included in the list of contacts.
- Jennifer Joly recommended that a list of stakeholders who approved the proposal be provided to the Executive Committee members.

Approve moving forward with the 2014 Legislative Strategy as recommended?

Motion to approve the legislative strategy as amended, seconded and approved.

Alliance Ecosystem Recovery Strategy Update

The Council technical subcommittee will update the committee on the development of the recovery strategy – led by technical committee member, Tom Kantz

Discussion:

A South Sound Recovery/Implementation strategy for the Alliance Interim Priorities is in development by the Council technical subcommittee.

The Recovery Strategy is based on the salmon recovery lead entity template – the strategy that they use for salmon recovery. The salmon strategy identifies the stock. The Lead Entity group summarizes the limiting habitat factors, identifies high priority areas (spawning areas etc.) then identifies and prioritizes actions that address the limiting factors for those stocks. They review and go back and update that every year as well as addressing emerging issues.

In the case of the Alliance Recovery Strategy, we are extrapolating that for the ecosystem. We will identify and prioritize our ecosystem components – indicators of ecosystem health, then use the previously identified targets (vital signs) from the Puget Sound Partnership. For each of those vital signs there are recovery targets. We have also identified a list of potential South Sound specific targets. Lastly, we will look at what the South Sound component of each target would look like or what contribution South Sound makes to the recovery of the Puget Sound as a whole, if a given target is met.

One example is herring. The herring target set by the Puget Sound Partnership is Puget Sound wide. Our focus would be on a herring targets in the South Sound. Some targets will be more relevant to South Sound than others (e.g.; Orca)

Next section of the Recovery Strategy would be determining watershed limiting factors by inlets and watershed. Each inlet may have different threats. That information was summarized in a science workshop in 2008 for the core group Action Agenda update.

We will then identify high priority areas. Much of that has already been developed through the Squaxin Tribe and Pierce County. Tom is updating to reflect the process of prioritizing the projects. A straight forward, effective prioritization was developed where we looked at geographic scope and intensity and how much of the vital sign is addressed.

Once the draft is done – in the next few weeks, it will be sent out to the Executive Committee and Tom will present that at the next committee meeting.

The Executive Committee noted that the Recovery Strategy is the core story of what we (the Alliance) will do and how we will be accountable as it relates to the 2014 Legislative Strategy requests.

Adjourn

Next meeting of the Alliance Executive Committee is on July 31st from 2-4 at the Mason County Public Works building.