

**Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Executive Committee Meeting**  
**November 16, 2016, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**  
**Pierce County Executive's Office**

**Executive Committee Members:**

Commissioner Bud Blake, Thurston County (via phone)  
Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Island Tribe  
Justin Hall, Nisqually River Council  
Executive Pat McCarthy, Pierce County  
Commissioner Randy Neatherlin, Mason County  
David Troutt, Nisqually Tribe  
Dan Wrye, Pierce County Surface Water Management and ECB Representative for South Puget Sound  
Derek Young, Thurston County Council

**Additional Attendees:**

Jeff Barney, Pierce County  
Terri Blair, Pierce County  
John Bolender, Mason Conservation District  
Tom Kantz, Pierce County  
Keri Rooney, Pierce County

**Meeting Summary**

AHSS Executive Committee Chair Randy Neatherlin presented Pierce County Executive McCarthy with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of her service on the AHSS Executive Committee. Executive McCarthy officially resigned from the AHSS Executive Committee, as her term as Pierce County Executive had ended. The Executive Committee congratulated Pat on her election as Washington State Auditor.

**I. AHSS Administrative Updates**

- The Executive Committee approved the September 2016 meeting summary.
- The ECB meet on November 10 and heard presentations from the Strategic Initiative leads on the NTAs submitted for funding consideration. The only AHSS NTA recommended for future funding was the shellfish protection district NTA. The ECB also discussed how the next Action Agenda will be updated. The ECB also received an update on the recently released federal memorandum of understanding on Puget Sound recovery.
  - Given the change in presidential administration, the goal is to have a draft action plan based on the MOU by the time President Obama leaves office.
- The AHSS Council confirmed that Tom Kantz will change roles from Vice Chair to Chair and Evan Bauder will be the new Vice Chair.
- The Executive Committee confirmed that Jeff Dickison will change roles from Vice Chair to Chair and Bud Blake will be the new Vice Chair.
- The Executive Committee approved the 2017 meeting schedule.

**II. Allocation of Direct NTA Funding**

The South Sound Shellfish Protection District NTA was the only south Sound NTA selected for funding through the Strategic Initiative Implementation Team process. Dan Wrye reported that the organizations affiliated with the NTA are considering ways to scale the NTA based on the \$400,000 funding level (the NTA was originally proposed at over \$5 million in funding).

**Executive Committee Comments:**

- Many water quality problems in South Sound bays and inlets come from a limited number of septic systems, so a small amount of funding could have a big impact.
- The question that should be asked for any South Sound project is: Is it worth trying to get off the ground with an insufficient amount of funding?
  - This would require asking each project how much they would be able to accomplish with limited funding.
- Tribes will need to have a role in the decision making process for the project before they will agree to move forward.

**Next Steps and Decisions:**

- Executive Committee members agreed that the South Sound Shellfish Protection District NTA should be approved for the full amount of \$400,000 (\$300,000 as recommended by the SIATs and \$100,000 in direct funding).
- Dan Wrye will develop a straw proposal for the Executive Committee to review.

### **III. South Sound Strategy**

The Technical Team, with contractor support, continues to work on finishing the South Sound Strategy by December 31. Contractors with ESA are working to develop the GIS viewer that will help South Sound organizations develop project proposals.

### **IV. Legislative Priorities**

**Executive Committee Comments**

- The Executive Committee should lend its voice to those actions that support Puget Sound recovery.
- PSP is proposing a specific change to its enabling legislation, to lengthen the Action Agenda development cycle.
- Given the timing of the 2017 legislative session, Executive Committee members will schedule ad hoc meetings as appropriate to determine whether and how to influence/support PSP legislation.
- Executive Committee members should send letters of support for those elements of the governor's budget proposal that track with our priorities (and/or provides objections to some of the governor's funding proposals).

### **V. Wrap Up**

- As a reminder, the proposal to dissolve the South Central LIO remains on the table, including proposed alternatives such as incorporating elements of that LIO into the AHSS.

[Meeting adjourned]