

Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Executive Committee Meeting
January 25, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
LOTT Cleanwater Alliance

Executive Committee Members:

Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Island Tribe
Commissioner Kevin Shutt, Mason County
Dan Wrye, Pierce County Surface Water
Management and ECB Representative for South
Puget Sound
Derek Young, Pierce County Council (via phone)

Additional Attendees:

Jeff Barney, Pierce County
John Bolender, Mason Conservation District
Jack Havens, CLIPA
Tom Kantz, Pierce County
Sherri Nehls, Thurston County
Al Schmauder, Chambers-Clover Watershed
Council
Tiffany Speir, Pierce County
Stephanie Suter, Puget Sound Partnership

Meeting Summary

Introductions

Mason County Commissioner Kevin Shutt introduced himself as the newest member of the AHSS Executive Committee. Commissioner Shutt takes Commissioner Neatherlin's place; Dan Wrye developed a certificate of recognition for Commissioner Neatherlin's service.

I. AHSS Administrative Updates

- The Executive Committee approved the November 2016 meeting summary as amended.
- The AHSS Council met on January 3 and heard a presentation on Puget Sound restoration funding for WRIA 13. The Council also discussed roll-out of the South Sound Strategy.
- PSP is considering the recommendations in the JLARC report. The JLARC report did not identify a need for any legislative changes to PSP.
- Update on proposed WRIA 10 reorganization: One of the proposals related to the WRIA 10 reorganization is to create a separate Puyallup-White River local area. The Puyallup Watershed Council could serve as the administrative organization for that area; Pierce County is considering this option but does not yet have a position.

II. South Sound Strategy

The Technical Team met recently to discuss rollout of the South Sound Strategy. The Technical Team is considering development of outreach materials (presentation, etc.).

Executive Committee Comments:

- The GIS tool can be used for multiple purposes and as it is regularly updated can be an effective part of the bottom-up effort to restore South Puget Sound.
- If possible, Technical Team members should video record their presentations on the South Sound Strategy and post them to the website.

III. Pierce County Shellfish Partners NTA

Pierce County was awarded \$300,000 for the shellfish partners NTA, out of a total budget request of \$5.7 million. During its November meeting, the Executive Committee added \$100,000 from the supplemental NEP funding, with a request that Pierce County provide a spending plan.

Executive Committee Comments:

- The draft spending plan includes an option to fund Squaxin Island Tribe work in Vaugh Bay.
- Mason County staff have indicated that they may not need the \$48,000 set aside for the county in the spending plan; however Mason County Commissioner Jeffreys has inquired about the possibility of directed funding for shellfish work.

Action Items and Next Steps:

- Commissioner Shutty will follow up on Mason County's interest in funding for shellfish work.

IV. AHSS 2017 Priorities

Executive Committee members reviewed AHSS activities and milestones during the previous year and discussed possible 2017 priority work.

Executive Committee Comments:

- In November 2016 the Executive Committee discussed possible legislative strategies. PSP is requesting the legislature amend the Action Agenda cycle to move from 2 years to 4 years; by opening up the bill that describes the Action Agenda and PSP, the possibility of additional legislative changes is on the table.
- In 2014-2015 AHSS suggested revisions to the fiscal strategy for distribution of Puget Sound funding; however, this did not result in the outcome that AHSS was looking for. In the current political and fiscal climate there seems to be little interest in revisiting this question.
- The AHSS organizational structure, and interest in finding independent funding sources, are still possible avenues for AHSS to explore.
- Given the current legislative session is already underway, and given what is occurring in the session, it does not make sense for AHSS to pursue a legislative strategy.
- The Executive Committee can request that the Technical Team and/or Council recommend priorities for the Executive Committee to consider.

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.

Action Items and Next Steps:

- AHSS Technical Team and Council will develop recommended priorities for consideration by the Executive Committee.

V. Wrap Up

- The PSP Summit is scheduled for March 3 in Olympia and will include opportunities for LIO participation and interaction with funder agencies.
- PSP is requesting LIO feedback on a new approach to developing the Puget Sound Action Agenda. For LIOs a point of emphasis in the new approach is creating an integrated set of regional and local priorities.

[Meeting adjourned]