



**Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Executive Committee Meeting**  
**July 25, 2017, 2:00 – 3:20 pm**  
**Conference Call**

**Executive Committee Members:**

Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Island Tribe  
Commissioner Kevin Shutty, Mason County  
Derek Young, Pierce County Council  
Commissioner Bud Blake, Thurston County

**Additional Attendees:**

Jeff Barney, Pierce County  
Dan Wrye, Pierce County & ECB Representative for  
South Puget Sound  
Tom Kantz, Pierce County  
Tiffany Speir, Pierce County  
Stephanie Suter, Puget Sound Partnership

**Meeting Summary**

**I. AHSS Administrative Updates**

- The May meeting summary will be sent out via email and added to the September agenda to either revise or approve.
- The Salmon Recovery Council is developing a report in response to the Chinook Implementation Strategy. The SRC report will include recommendations sent to PSP from the Tribal Management Conference. Some of the draft recommendations have generated concerns from local governments that they could impose requirements on local governments to increase regulation without additional funding; this is being worked out at the Salmon Recovery Council.
- Tom Kantz provided a summary of topics discussed at the last AHSS Council meeting, including the Action Agenda update and adding local context to the priorities, Ecology's proposed No Discharge Zone, and the South Sound Shellfish Initiative (topics that are on today's meeting agenda) and a proposed approach to creating summaries of inlet island groups, which was discussed in a previous Executive Meeting group.

**II. South Sound Shellfish Initiative**

Elizabeth explained that the South Sound Shellfish Initiative is continuing to gain support, spring boarding off conversations started in Mason County. The Hood Canal Coordinating Council has a small grant that will be used to convene parties around the Shellfish Initiative. AHSS will participate in that work and also will begin to independently inventory existing activities, identify gaps, and look at how to move this effort forward into something that can be shared across South Sound.

**Executive Committee Comments:**

- Kevin explained that this is something the Mason County Commission has discussed in the past, and is now being brought to the forefront. The Commission is looking into facilitating partnership opportunities within the framework of the Alliance for a Healthy South Sound and the Hood Canal Coordinating Council.

- Jeff suggested pursuing this work from multiple angles – coordinating with broader efforts while also seeking outside grant funding.
- Bud mentioned Thurston County’s excitement and support of this effort moving forward
- A number of Executive Committee members suggested looking into additional funding sources for shellfish protection.

#### Other Participants Comments:

- Dan Wrye noted that Pierce County has administered four shellfish protection districts and has a well-established program with recognition, support, and a coordinated county response involving multiple county departments.

#### Next Steps

- With the support of the Committee, Elizabeth will begin to start looking into potential funding sources. This will be included as an agenda topic for a future meeting.

### III. No Discharge Zone

The Washington Department of Ecology has a proposal to turn all of Puget Sound to a no discharge zone for vessels. The Council expressed concern that the for the No Discharge Zone (NDZ) to work, there needs to be viable alternative discharge options, and the current options are insufficient in the South Sound. The Council would like to write a letter in support of the proposal, with the caveat that the study identifying sufficient pump-out stations was incorrect, and there needs to be viable alternatives with sufficient capacity and maintenance.

#### Executive Committee Comments

- Jeff noted that the objective is worthy, but we need to be straightforward as to what it will take to accomplish. It sounds like the Committee will likely want to comment, but it may be too early.

#### Other Participants Comments

- Dan Wrye noted that some recreation boaters have onboard treatment systems that are often expensive, and that meet EPA standards for onboard treatment systems, but will not be considered compliant under the NDZ designation

### IV. South Sound and the 2018 Action Agenda Process

Elizabeth explained that the 2018 Action Agenda Process is underway, this next Action Agenda will run from 2018-2022. The Council is reviewing the draft Action Agenda process and the regional priorities document and will prepare a comment letter with six key points:

1. The current process proposal requires resubmittal of all the 2016 NTAs – AHSS objects.
2. The process is still very process-heavy, the complexity of the process is the results of the failure to set aside parts of the budget for various things.
3. The new 2018 process does not require the LIO to approve NTAs in their geography, it doesn’t guarantee that the LIO’s comments are considered – AHSS does not support this.

4. The priorities downplay the importance of on-the-ground work
5. The regional priorities for estuaries and streamflow leave out small estuaries and small streams – AHSS objects to that omission.
6. There are other problems, like septic tanks in urban areas, that the Council believes should be addressed.

Executive Committee Comments:

- Councilmember Young emphasized the issue of septic tanks in urban areas and asked if it's possible to determine the scale of impact to Puget Sound health associated with addressing the issue of septic tanks. He also indicated that he hopes this effort doesn't use a lot of staff time.
- A number of Executive Committee members expressed ongoing frustration about the Action Agenda process, the lack of support for LIO plans or for on the ground actions, and the multiple review and process steps associated with the Action Agenda.

Other Participant Comments:

- Dan Wrye noted that using modeling that has been done recently, it is possible to come up with a range of septic systems in proximity to the shorelines and determine what the loading from those systems is likely to be.

Next Steps:

- Elizabeth will draft a comment letter outlining the six topics mentioned above. She will then send to the group for review; Executive Committee members were comfortable with Jeff signing for the group.

**V. Wrap up and Future Meeting Topics**

- Topics
  - Decision on 2014-2018 PSP capacity grant is coming in September
  - 2018 Action Agenda discussion, including anything the Committee might want to move forward as actions
  - Clean Water – Clean Shellfish update and next steps
  - No Discharge Zone update

[Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm]

**Next meeting: September 27, 2017, Location TBD**