**Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Executive Committee Meeting**

Draft 11/7/2017

**September 27, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

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| **Executive Committee Members:** | **Additional Attendees:** |
| Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Island Tribe  Commissioner Kevin Shutty, Mason County  Derek Young, Pierce County Council  *On the phone:*  Commissioner Bud Blake, Thurston County  David Troutt, Nisqually Tribe | 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  Evan Bouder, Mason Conservation District  Cindy Wilson, Thurston County  John Bolender, Mason Conservation District |

**Meeting Summary**

**I. AHSS Administrative Updates**

* The May AHSS Executive Meeting summary meeting summary was adopted by consensus.
* The July AHSS Executive Meeting summary was adopted by consensus.
* Dan Wrye provided an update on the Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB). The last ECB meeting was in August. The Washington State Department of Ecology is currently updating their internal policy for designating polluted waters (303d listings). They are currently considering using the Washington State Department of Health’s shellfish closure indicators as a means for adding marine waters on the 303d list. Tom Kantz and others will follow up with more information and an update at the November Executive Committee meeting.
* There were no updates from the AHSS Council, as the September meeting was cancelled because of low availability due to the Labor Day holiday. The Council will next meet in early October; they are focused on clean water/ clean shellfish and preparing for the upcoming round of near-term action solicitation for the 2018-2022 PSP Action Agenda.

**II. Clean Water Clean Shellfish**

The South Sound Shellfish Initiative effort is well underway. A number of draft products were prepared for the meeting, including: the draft Shellfish Workplan (Attachment X), craft Commercial Shellfish Harvest maps (Attachment X and X), and an inventory of shellfish celebrations in the South Sound (Attachment X). The plan is to create a new page on the AHSS website dedicated to this shellfish information, and to bring in further information about Resources for Septic System Owners, an inventory of ongoing activities and gaps in the shellfish work, and maps highlighting recreational shellfish opportunities.

Commissioner Shutty explained that he toured Taylor Shellfish with Elizabeth, City of Shelton Staff, Mason County Public Works Health staff, and members of the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC). They saw the growing conditions and discussed concerns about water quality. The HCCC also is working on a local shellfish initiative, and the idea is to coordinate their work with the South Sound Shellfish workplan. Commissioner Shutty also noted that the Washington State Shellfish Initiative will be moving from the Governor’s Office to the Department of Agriculture.

Executive Committee Comments:

* Jeff noted that we should look to additional potential funding sources for water quality and shellfish work and directed staff to follow up on this.

Other Comments:

* Dan Wrye provided a handout “South Puget Sound Action Area: Implementation of Existing Shellfish Protection Districts’ Response Plans” (attachment X). He explained that this is the program the AHSS endorsed in 2016 to address t existing shellfish downgrades in South Puget Sound. The Shellfish Partners Program was convened by Pierce County and includes nine components (listed in the spreadsheet). This program received initial funding under an NEP award and through direction of the local AHSS discretionary NEP money. The South Sound Shellfish Initiative will coordinate with this effort that is already underway to avoid overlap.
* Elizabeth explained that staff are beginning to look into three main ideas for funding sources:

1. Additional state funded grant programs: may be the best idea in the short-term
2. Private funding (e.g. foundations): this is challenging because the AHSS isn’t a stand-alone organization so we would need a fiscal agent
3. Propose a dedicated federal funding sources similar to the Northwest Straits: long lead time but could provide stable funding if it comes to fruition

Next Steps

* Continue developing clean water / shellfish resources and working with HCCC on a coordinated effort..

**III. No Discharge Zone**

This topic was discussed at the July Conference Call. Executive Committee members expressed concern that this effort is good in concept but will only work if there are viable pump out facilities across South Sound. The current distribution is inadequate. The Washington State Department of Ecology has not officially proposed the No Discharge Zone rule yet. The next step is to draft and circulate a comment letter expressing the Alliance’s concern.

Executive Committee Comments

* Jeff explained that there has been some friction around why the Alliance wouldn’t fully support this rule, so the group needs to be clear in articulating that we support the concept but are concerned about implementation viability.

Other Participants Comments

* Dan Wrye noted that a pump out program for South Sound might be a good thing to consider as an NTA proposal. This could take the form of an annual certification program and evaluation of distribution of pump out stations.

**IV. South Sound Salmon Recovery Chapter Coordination**

Decision about salmon recovery in Puget Sound are made by the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC), a group convened by the Puget Sound Partnership. Every watershed that includes a Chinook natal stream has a chapter in the Recovery Plan. The South Sound does not have a seat attached to a river, but there is a seat for the South Sound Geography which is comprised of all of WRIA 13, all of WRIA 14, and parts of WRIA 11, 10/12, and 15. Normally, the SRC doesn’t vote, they operate by consensus. There is now a need for the SRC to vote, and it has become clear that the South Sound geography doesn’t have a process for coordinating the vote. A call was held with all of the South Sound geographies to discuss how they would vote and agreement was reached to support the proposed Bold Actions, with some Counties abstaining from the decision. Either Cindy Wilson (Thurston County) or Amy Hatch-Winnika (WRIA 13 Lead Entity Coordinator) will cast the vote this time. However, a more formalized process needs to be discussed for the future. Under the Alliance bylaws, the Executive Committee doesn’t have a written role in coordinating the South Sound Chapter geography or the voting process. However, because the Executive Committee includes officials from most of the geographies represented by the South Sound Chapter, staff wanted to apprise them of the situation and see their guidance.

Executive Committee Comments:

* Jeff added that salmon recovery is a part of the AHSS mission so it’s important to think about how the Alliance interacts with the SRC. He suggested relying on members of the Technical Team and Council who attend the SRC meetings to bring relevant information and issues back to AHSS groups including the Executive Committee.
* David noted that this is a longer-term issue of owning the South Sound Recovery Chapter. The Executive Committee Could be instrumental in how the Chapter will be handled in the future. He suggested writing a job description about what it means to own the South Sound chapter. This includes developing a more systematic way of dealing with SRC items in the future.
  + The Executive Committee supported this notion. Evan Bauder and Tom Kantz were asked to work on a draft “job description.”

Other Participant Comments:

* Cindy said she would be happy to participate regularly in SRC meetings if that would be useful to the Executive Committee. Cindy is the official South Sound representative to the SRC, a position that was assigned to her when the former South Sound representative Thurston County Commissioner Sandra Romero retired; . However, she has not been regularly attending the SRC meetings.

Next Steps:

* Evan Bauder and Tom Kantz will work on developing a “job description” for an entity in charge of handling matters from the SRC.
* The group deferred any decision regarding the ECB representative. John Bolender will attend the November 9th ECB meeting as the alternate.

**V. Ecosystem Recovery Board Representation**

* Dan Wrye discussed that his retirement raises an issue with Ecosystem Recovery Board (ECB) Representation. The ECB appointment was to Dan as an individual, not his position with Pierce County. He does not intend to continue to serve in his capacity on the Board. John Bolender is the current alternate. ECB representation is a competitive recruitment process, but because Dan’s term expires in June 2019, the Executive Committee has three options:
  + Take no action and John Bolender would attend as the alternate
  + Propose John as in interim nomination, the Leadership Council would have to accept the nomination
  + Propose a member of the Executive Committee or someone else to serve as an interim representative, which the Leadership Council would also have to accept

**VI. PSP Tasks, Updates and Decisions**

Elizabeth handed out a diagram outlining the Key Dates for the PSP Action Agenda process. Key dates include:

* Mid-November: Request for Proposals for 2018-2022 Action Agenda expected to be released
* By December 22nd: Pre-registration through an online form for NTAs. This is a notice of intent with general information about the proposal.
* By February 6th: Full Draft NTA Factsheet due through the online form.
* By March 30th: Final Action Agenda proposals due. There will be a review process between the pre-registration and the formal proposals where the AHSS will be able to flag any actions that the Executive Committee may want to consider endorsing

Stephanie explained that the reason for preregistration is to alleviate the issue of reviewing over 120 NTAs, now it’s required, and a part of the scoring criteria, that regional entities coordinate NTAs ahead of time.

**VII. Capacity Grant Vote**

The Committee then voted to approve the acceptance of the capacity grant for 2018, adding the language of the Clean Water, Clean Shellfish work.

**VII. Thank you to Dan Wrye**

Dan Wrye will be retiring at the end of October. The group recognized and thanked him for his many contributions to the Alliance and extended best wishes into retirement.

**VIII. Wrap Up and Future Meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 29th, will need to ensure the group has a quorum, due to possible vacations surrounding the Thanksgiving holiday.

[Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm]

**Next meeting: November 29, 2017, Location TBD**