



**Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Executive Committee Meeting
February 28, 2018, 2:00 – 3:00 pm
LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Olympia, WA**

Executive Committee Members:

Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Island Tribe
Commissioner Kevin Shutt, Mason County
Councilmember Derek Young, Pierce County

Additional Attendees:

Jeff Barney, Pierce County
John Bolender, Mason Conservation District
Tom Kantz, Pierce County
Barbara Ann Smolko, Pierce County
Stephanie Suter, Puget Sound Partnership

Facilitators:

Elizabeth McManus
Molly Spiller

Meeting Summary

I. AHSS Administrative Updates

- The January AHSS Executive Meeting summary was adopted by consensus.
- Councilmember Young provided an update on the Ecosystem Coordination Board from the February 15th meeting. He highlighted the board's desire to better align federal, state, and local efforts to reduce wasting resource and duplicative work. A subcommittee will be formed to bring more detail back to the ECB. He also reminded the group about [Puget Sound Day on the Hill](#) on May 23, 2018 in Washington, D.C.
- Tom Kantz provided the following highlights from the AHSS Council's February 6th meeting:
 - The Council discussed the NTA solicitation process, including a reminder that NTA proposals are due March 30th.
 - The Council heard an update on the South Sound Shellfish Initiative and a presentation from South Sound Clean Water Partners, similar to the one on the Executive Committee's agenda.
 - The group noted topics they'd like presentations on in the future, including results/updates from on the ground projects (e.g. Oakland Bay, Deschutes Estuary Planning); and a discussion about adding a temporal scale for recovery targets in the South Sound Strategy.

II. South Sound Shellfish (Presentation: [link](#))

Barbara Ann Smolko provided an update to the group on the South Sound Clean Water Partners project. The intent of this project is to provide a partnership approach to protecting and improving water quality, coordinate Pollution Identification and Correction Programs, recover downgraded shellfish growing areas, and prevent new growing areas from being downgraded.



The original shellfish bed restoration NTA (NTA 1.0) included Pierce County, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Pierce Conservation District, Mason Conservation District, and Thurston County Public Health and Social Services. The work, based on full implementation of each shellfish protection or clean water district's restoration plan, was estimated to cost \$5.6 million and received \$400,000 total funding. Because the amount of funding was small, the project geography and activities were reduced from the original proposal.

The current phase of the NTA (NTA 2.0) is a tiered proposal over three years that has received and additional \$732,000 funding from Washington Department of Health, and \$100,000 from AHSS. Mason County Public works was added as a new partner, and the geographic area of work was expanded. The goal for this phase is to address the largest gaps in need and complete anything remaining from the previous phase.

The next phase of this work will be submitted as an NTA for the 2018-22 Action Agenda. It adds the Squaxin Island Tribe as a partner and expands work to include prevention strategies to reduce the future potential for additional downgrading.

Barbara outlined the following program benefits and challenges:

- Benefits: shared expertise across jurisdictions; prioritize and address problems regionally; increased accountability; minimize administrative costs.
- Challenges: contracting; coordination across partners; steep learning curve.

Executive Committee Questions and Comments:

- Jeff Dickson commented that this work is becoming more and more important and is something the AHSS is beginning to focus on.
- Councilmember Young noted that while shellfish is a core reason for doing this work, clean water is critical for the region so the shifted focus on clean water from solely shellfish is a great idea.

Jeff added that due to some internal organization issues currently going on with Thurston Conservation District, extra attention may be needed to ensure they have the support they need to effectively participate in the work.

III. AHSS Shellfish Resources

Elizabeth provided a status update on the shellfish resources the Alliance has been working on, including the Homeowners Septic System Resource Guide, Shellfish Gardening Guide, and Recreational Shellfish Harvest map. These resources have been reviewed by the Council and shared with the Executive Committee, the next step is to package the resources for review by the County Health Departments. They will then be added to the Alliance website.

IV. Potential Additional Funding Mechanisms



During the January Executive Committee meeting, members expressed interest in examining potential funding mechanisms for the AHSS shellfish work. Potential options include becoming a nonprofit, becoming a Council of Governments, or pursuing the legislative recognition similar to the Hood Canal Coordinating Council and the Nisqually River Council. These options will be presented and discussed in more detail at a future meeting.

Executive Committee Questions and Comments:

- Jeff Dickison noted that a potential carbon tax, through legislation or a ballot initiative, could create funding worth pursuing for this work, if enacted.

V. Wrap Up and Updates

- The South Sound Science Symposium will be held on October 16th at the Squaxin Island Tribe's Events Center.

[Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm]

Next meeting: Thursday, May 10th 11am-1pm, LOTT Clean Water Alliance & Conference Call