



January 23, 2023

**To:** Alliance for Healthy South Sound Executive Committee  
**From:** LIO Coordinators – Elizabeth McManus and Andres Sheikh  
**Subject:** Guidance Needed on AHSS Priorities for 2023

### **Guidance needed**

1. What topics would be helpful to focus AHSS Council meetings and outreach around for 2023 to increase engagement? (Starter list from AHSS Council brainstorming provided.)
2. What direction or priorities does the Executive Committee have for moving forward with work around pursuing funding for projects consistent with the Puget Sound Action Agenda and advancing equity and environmental justice?

### **Topics to increase engagement in AHSS meetings**

To increase engagement and participation in LIO meetings we would like to host a series of “deep dive” conversations in 2023. Some of these can be at scheduled AHSS council meetings and some might be special meetings, such as the meeting we hosted with the WRIA 13 Lead Entity on the Thurston County site under evaluation for a regional airport. The goal of the deep dive meetings is to bring together presenters and information relevant to issues of interest and important work within the LIO geography. We would like Executive Committee guidance on topics that would be of interest.

The AHSS Council brainstormed the following potential deep dive topics at their recent meeting.

- Status and trends for shellfish in South Sound – Presentation by Department of Health and/or Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
  - o Growing area status, harvest status & value, ongoing work for growing area restoration
- Dam and estuary restoration challenges and opportunities in South Sound: [Chambers Bay](#); [Deschutes](#); [Nisqually bridge / I5](#) (this could be combined with a review of past South Sound dam removal and estuary restoration success stories including Kennedy Goldsborough, Oakland Bay, Mission Creek, and Nisqually).
- Regional stormwater action management planning (most jurisdictions are doing plans due in March) – Presentation by Local Stormwater Agencies
- Salmon fisheries in South Sound -- Tribal fisheries update on status and trends in Salmon populations in South Sound (if Tribes are willing to offer this)
- [Fish Barrier/Culver presentation](#) – South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group presentation on their South Sound culvert prioritization work
- Lake management challenges and opportunities; [harmful algal blooms](#) – Presentation by Department of Ecology or others
- Green stormwater technical assistance – best practices, existing programs, gaps, and growing new programs – Presentation by [Washington Stormwater Center](#)

Additionally, several LIO members have suggested that the LIO should host an in-person gathering sometime this year (as safely as possible). This could take place as a site/field visit of important work taking place in the LIO’s geography, an in-person training, or as part of a regular LIO Council meeting.

**1. What topics (from above or others) would be helpful to focus AHSS Council meetings and outreach around for 2023 in an effort to increase engagement?**

**1A. Do you have any direction on an in-person LIO meeting or gathering?**

**Focus for work related to pursuing funding and advancing equity and environmental justice**

For the 2022-2025 LIO Coordination Contract three Subtasks under Task 5 were chosen by the AHSS Executive Committee for the LIO to pursue in 2023.

The first (“5.03 – Catalyze implementation of high priority public engagement, awareness raising, behavior change, incentive, and/or compliance project and programs identified in the LIO ERP or the Action Agenda”) will involve a process to offer LIO partners an opportunity for \$10,000 in seed money for behavior change, incentive, and/or compliance project or program. LIO Coordinators will issue a call for funding applications in the next few months, applications will be reviewed and ranked by the AHSS Technical Team and a recommendation for funding will be brought to the Executive Committee.

The other two Subtasks would benefit from Executive Committee direction and guidance. There is not money for granting to projects associated with these Subtasks, but there is some LIO coordination money and if the skills/expertise that are of interest are not available from the LIO coordinators we could subcontract to bring in other support. The two additional Subtasks and the ideas generated to date are:

“5.05 – Pursue funding for 2022-26 Action Agenda implementation”.

- *Last year there were discussions of focusing this work on development of packages of projects to complement high-priority fish passage barrier correction projects (using the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group barrier prioritization). Is this still of interest?*
- *Other ideas or direction?*

“5.07 – Equity and Environmental justice”.

- *The AHSS Council suggested we consider hosting DEI Trainings for the LIO. Is this of interest?*
- *The Puyallup White LIO hosted panel discussions with Tribal representatives on Tribal history, Tribal culture, and current Tribal activities, initiatives and priorities in the watershed. Is something like this of interest if the Nisqually Tribe and/or the Squaxin Island Tribe were willing to offer it?*
- *Last year’s effort focused on identifying community groups to partner with; we could follow up on that by implementing the [LIO’s DEI Scoping Document](#) produced in 2022. Is this of interest?*
- *Other ideas or direction?*

**2. What direction or priorities does the Executive Committee have for moving forward with work around pursuing funding and advancing equity and environmental justice?**

**Next Steps**

LIO Coordinators will move forward to organization LIO “deep dive” conversations and work on the Subtasks related to pursuing funding and equity and environmental justice according to Executive Committee direction.

**Additional Information**

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