

**Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Executive Committee Meeting**  
**April 11, 2022, 9:00AM -10:00AM**  
**Webinar - Zoom**



## **Meeting Summary**

1. We did not have a quorum and no decisions were made.

2. There are some representation updates:

- Pierce County Councilmember Young is leaving the Executive Committee. Councilmember Ryan Mello will be the new Pierce County Council representative to the Alliance Executive Committee. The LIO coordination team will draft an appreciation for Councilmember Young and send it around for signature. Councilmember Young was the Alliance representative to the Ecosystem Coordination Board so a new representative will need to be identified. (**Next step:** Elizabeth will send some information on the ECB representative commitment so Executive Committee members can consider whether they are interested in serving.)
- Pierce County Councilmember Hitchen is representing the Pierce County Executive on the Alliance Executive Committee.
- Mason County Commissioner Shutty, who is the AHSS Executive Committee Chair, and Councilmember Mello were recently appointed as the Washington State Association of Counties representatives to the Puget Sound Ecosystem Coordination Board.

3. Updates were provided on the following LIO capacity initiatives which are underway for 2022:

- The focused update to the South Sound Strategy. Emphasis will be on updating to include new plans and new scientific information as well as to update the projects listed. The Technical Team will lead with input from the AHSS Council. The Executive Committee will be provided updates along the way and an updated strategy should be available for review / decision making in September.
- Alliance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work. Emphasis this year is on scoping-type activities, determining groups / meetings underrepresented communities already lead or area a part of and beginning to understand possible areas of overlap and beginning to build relationships.
- Puget Sound Action Agenda. Is out for public review and comment, with comments due on April 15. The Alliance Council and Technical Team members have had multiple opportunities to review content and provide comments as the Action Agenda draft was developed. A final workshop for Alliance members will be given tomorrow (4/12) and any final comments compiled and submitted.
- People and organizations also can provided individual comments, through the [Action Agenda website](#). They are due April 15.

4. The Executive Committee discussed the opportunity to provide up to \$15,000 in funding to a South Sound behavior change project in the awareness building, incentives, or compliance categories.

- This is one-time funding and the maximum increment for any single project is \$10,000 (so to award the full \$15,000 we would need to two projects).

- So far one project proposal has been submitted – to incentivize proper wastewater management in compliance with the Puget Sound no discharge zone by extending mobile pumpout services to Mason and Thurston counties in high-use areas such as Hope Island and McMicken Island. Education and awareness building on the no discharge zone and proper wastewater management would be provided to boaters during the pumpout service. These services are already provided in Pierce County.
- Executive Committee members who were present did not express concerns about this project proposal. Some support for the importance of proper wastewater management was expressed.
- It was noted that to keep individual funding amounts under the \$10,000 cap the project could be divided geographically or by activity type (pumpout services v. awareness building services).
- Other project proposal could be submitted, through this week.
- **Next step:** If other projects are submitted the South Sound technical team will review them and provide a recommendation to the Executive Committee. If no other projects are submitted, the mobile pumpout project will come to the Executive Committee for decision making. Given the difficulty in scheduling decision making will be by email.

5. The Executive Committee discussed the new \$100,000 / year over 5 years additional capacity funding for LIOs.

- This additional capacity funding will be issued by PSP as a separate agreement with LIOs and will require a fiscal agent (ideally the same entity as the fiscal agent for the base capacity award, which is currently Thurston County).
- The purpose of this capacity is to support local coordination around “operationalization” of Puget Sound implementation strategies. So this might include things like local jurisdictions and organizations coordinating to describe what needs to happen, where, in what sequence to, for example, improve water quality or improve salmon habitat.
- Details are still being worked out but the hope is that the new agreements will be in place, and spending can start, by October 1, 2022.
- LIOs are participating in discussions about this new capacity and can provide requests / suggestions for the types of additional capacity activities that would be most helpful in their service areas along the way, with the hope that those types of activities could be explicitly included / authorized in the agreements.
- Jeff Dickson (Squaxin Island Tribe) described an idea for consideration as follows. Additional capacity money might be used to develop a more coordinated approach to fish passage barrier work. Currently work tends to focus on county culvert removals, however there are multiple other passage barriers as well as related supportive work (riparian restoration, etc.) that is needed to gain the full benefit of removal of the county culverts. Work in this area might focus on identifying all the barriers in each system and on coordinating to bundle and/or sequence barrier removals and supportive projects to ensure the most beneficial impact. Support also could be provided to prepare project descriptions and proposals, match them to funding sources (e.g., state and federal infrastructure funding, salmon recovery funding, private/local government funding), and prepare grant applications.
- Other Executive Committee members were interested in this idea and supportive of further exploration. Juliana Tadano (PSP liaison) did not see any immediate red flags with this idea, even as we all acknowledged that the details of the requirements for the additional capacity funding are still emerging.
- **Next step:** Elizabeth and Andres will follow up with Jeff and others at Squaxin as well as other Executive Committee members and their staff to continue to flesh out the idea. Updates on the new capacity funding will be provided to the Executive Committee by email as they emerge, and a

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meeting will be scheduled for later in the Spring to discuss details and make decisions about what AHSS would like to put forward.