

January 23, 2023

To: Alliance for Healthy South Sound Executive Committee

From: AHSS LIO Coordinators – Elizabeth McManus and Andres Sheikh

Subject: Guidance Needed on AHSS Local Forum Presentation to PSP Leadership Council in June 2023

Guidance needed:

1. What topics/asks should the AHSS LIO prioritize for the June 7/8 Local Forum presentation to PSP's Leadership Council? (Starter list for consideration based on AHSS Council input is below.)
2. What is your guidance on selecting a venue for the Local Forum?

Overview – Local Forum Briefing for the Leadership Council

Each year the Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council (LC) meets four separate times, with two of these meetings being two-day meetings. Beginning in June 2020, one day of each two-day meeting includes a conversation with local leadership, including Local Integrating Organization (LIO) and Lead Entity (LE) leadership and committee members, to address the intersection of local and regional recovery priorities. The Leadership Council is made up of Governor Appointments and is also the most influential of PSP's Boards. (See here for a list of [Leadership Council members](#).) It has the ability to impact not only PSP decisions but also directly influence the decisions of other State agencies and the State Legislature.

PSP's purposes for the twice-yearly local conversations (also known as the "Local Forum") are to:

- 1) Expand local decision-maker engagement with the Puget Sound recovery community, especially with those elected officials who are not currently designated members of the Management Conference boards (i.e., Leadership Council, Ecosystem Coordination Board, and Science Panel) and Salmon Recovery Council, or already members of their respective LIO or LE committees;
- 2) Discuss local priorities, and determine how the LC and region can support action to address those local priorities; and
- 3) Discuss regional priorities, and determine how they might be supported at the local level.

AHSS Responsibilities for the Local Forum

AHSS has two main responsibilities for the Local Forum. (1) Develop a briefing / presentation for the Leadership Council and (2) provide input on and help arrange for an in-person two-day meeting venue.

Local Briefing Presentation. The AHSS LIO is tasked with organizing a two-hour presentation to the Leadership Council on either **June 7th or 8th** (exact date has yet to be determined), on critical issues, successes and challenges in the LIO geography. PSP offers the following guidance on selection of topics for the local presentation:

- Action Items – Topics should be specific asks of the Leadership Council (write op-ed, talk to Ecology, help us determine next steps to x,y,z)

- Chronic or Acute Barriers – Topics should relate to strategy documents/LIO plans or Action Agenda
- Uniqueness – Are there specific issues within your local areas that could use further clarification or support at a regional scale?

The Leadership Council is focusing its 2023 workplan on the following areas: (1) Nearshore Protection and Restoration (2) Shellfish Challenges (3) Transportation and Restoration. The PSP Boards Team has recommended the LIO chose topics related to the 2023 LC workplan. So local topics that intersect with those priorities may be of particular interest. Attachment 1 provides a summary of the topics and “asks” of the Leadership Council other LIOs have presented. Attachment 2 provides a brainstormed list of potential local topics from the AHSS Council.

1. What priorities and guidance do you have for topics to address in the Local Forum? Are there any specific “asks” you would like to make of the Leadership Council?

Local Venue for the Leadership Council meeting. AHSS is tasked with making recommendations to PSP on a local venue for the Leadership Council meeting. Ideally the venue will hold at least 40 participants, with room for a table of approximately 12 and will have audio visual capabilities or at least a big wall for projection and plentiful outlets. Plentiful parking near major roadways is a help.

2. Do you have suggestions for a venue for the Leadership Council meeting? Anyone interested in hosting?

Next Steps:

LIO Coordinators will organize a small group of LIO members to further develop the topics / asks that you direct, identify and make arrangements with speakers, draft presentations and briefing memos, and coordinate with PSP. There is a significant review / coordination responsibility with PSP with individual topic-specific briefing memos required. Further review of these draft briefing memos will be needed, in the March or early April timeframe. AHSS Executive Committee members are welcome to attend the Leadership Council meeting in South Sound and to participate (i.e., deliver) the briefings.

Additional Information:

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Attachment 1: Other LIO's Presentations to PSP Boards

As an example, other LIOs have brought up the following topics in previous PSP Board Meetings:

Whatcom LIO to Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB)

- South Fork Nooksack Chinook Disaster
 - Ask: Acknowledge the SF Nooksack Chinook mortality event as another indicator of the salmon habitat crisis. And ECB state and federal caucuses work with Lummi Nation, Nooksack Tribe, and other members of the Tribal Conference to outline a framework for a regional crisis management team
- Regional Involvement in Salmon Recovery and Permit Streamlining
 - Asks: Near-Term: Expedited review process. Longer term: Reduce burden to practitioners, provide technical assistance, update policies and mapping practices, harmonize federal law with treaty rights
- Transboundary Coordination
 - Ask: Bring attention to a relative gap and may help identify opportunities for progress

Island LIO to Leadership Council

- Case Studies: Island County Lead Entity Success Stories and Challenges in ecosystem restoration and funding
- Grant Administrative Burden and Requirements
 - Asks: Work with state and federal agencies to reduce or eliminate grant matching requirements where possible to increase the pace and magnitude of ecosystem restoration work. And Streamline or eliminate duplicative application and reporting requirements. And Commit to creating and maintaining regular pathways of communication between agency decision-makers and Align group representatives

PWR LIO to Ecosystem Coordination Board

- Carbon Credit Opportunities
 - Asks: Ensure state grant programs allow use of funds to support incorporating carbon market accreditation into restoration projects. And Create a statewide model based on City Forest Credits or carbon market programs. And Have a regional operator (state or NGO) to manage credits and fund ongoing stewardship programs that can cross ownership boundaries
- Grant Timelines and Administrative Burden
 - Asks: ECB write a letter of support to the Leadership Council encouraging them to:
 - 1. Take up the multiple concerns LIOs have raised around grant program design and administration, including the concern about time frames for grant agreements described in memo
 - 2. Work with funding agencies to identify opportunities within existing authorities to address these concerns as soon as possible.

Attachment 2: Potential Topics Brainstormed at the January 19th AHSS Council Meeting

- Fish passage barrier removal programs and progress in South Sound
- Dam removal and estuary restoration in South Sound – successes and opportunities
 - Goldsborough Creek dam removal (success)
 - Oakland Bay / Shelton Harbor restoration (success and opportunity)
 - Mission Creek (success)
 - Chambers Bay (opportunity)
 - Deschutes Estuary (opportunity)
 - Nisqually (success and opportunity)
- Shellfish programs in South Sound – success and challenges
 - Importance of South Sound as a growing area
 - Longstanding coordination
 - Challenges as development and population increases – WQ challenges, coordination challenges (more support is needed)
- Grant administration burdens and challenges
- Sea level rise challenges
 - Need for incentives to set back houses on unarmored shorelines
 - Climate resilience planning and coastal flooding
- Challenges of forest conversion and impacts of changes in upland forests on shorelines and nearshore (erosion, runoff); connection between what happens in the upland forests and the shoreline/nearshore; incentives for forest retention