



Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Executive Committee Meeting
April 13, 2023, 4:00 - 5:00PM
Conference Call

Executive Committee Members:

Tye Menser, Thurston County
Jani Hitchen, Pierce County

Additional Attendees:

Tom Kantz, Pierce County
Brad Murphy, Thurston County
Barbara Ann Smolko, Pierce County
Jesse Barham, City of Olympia
Juliana Tadano, PSP
Elizabeth McManus, AHSS LIO
Andres Sheikh, AHSS LIO

Meeting Summary

I. Welcome/Getting Settled

- This meeting will primarily focus on updates to the planned Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council Local Forum to be held at LOTT on June 7th and will be streamed on TVW (but there wont be a hybrid option).

II. PSP Leadership Council Local Forum

- Overview:
 - Date – Morning of June 7th for 2 hours (exact timing TBD)
 - Leadership Council meeting will meet all day on June 7th and 8th
 - Location – LOTT Board Room (in-person meeting) – in Olympia (near Historic District)
 - Topics – Marine Quality Issues in South Sound
- Topic #1 Shellfish Challenges and Success Stories
 - Status and importance of South Sound shellfish to the region
 - Innovative approaches – shellfish gardens, Olympia oyster restoration, and mobile pump out work
 - Other success – Work of Clean Water Partners (have received 1.85 million dollars in NEP funding in 2023)
 - Challenges/Asks –
 - Need for more resources for expanding mobile pump out/floating restrooms
 - Better approaches for difficult to fund septic repairs and replacements, particularly in urban growth areas which is a big issue in the south sound.
 - Additional Asks are being explored by regional partners focused on marine water quality
 - Looking to finalize speakers – could include: Olympia Oyster Restoration (Small Grower), maybe someone from Squaxin Island Tribe (to talk about recreational, subsistence, and commercial harvest and historical shellfish, Jeff Barney (mobile pumpout), and Barbara Ann Smolko (Clean Water Partners)
- Topic #2 Nutrient Management Showcase
 - LOTT's watershed approach to nutrient management

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- Investments in treatment facilities
 - Beneficial outcomes to South Sound ecosystem and communities

Discussion

- Thurston County Board of Health have gotten an update on shellfish protection districts. More robust septic management program that has shown good results. This could fit right in with septic repair and replacement, if additional topics are needed (Jane would be the person to reach out to).
- Clean Water partners could talk about what work that has been done so far and the anticipated work with newly acquired funds (shellfish emergency response plan).
- Pierce County has a similar program as Thurston County, but would make more sense to focus on mobile pumpout program.
- Nutrient topic has been controversial for different local agencies, and there should be coordination to make sure there are all nutrient stakeholders are well briefed and on board with the presentation/memo.
- Audience of the meeting is the Leadership Council is the top board for PSP. Puget Sound Partnership and other agency staff will likely be there, the meetings are public.
- The goal of the presentation is to better inform the Leadership Council on local jurisdiction concerns and issues. The asks to the Leadership Council will help streamline restoration topics, and to remind folks operating at the regional level that work being done at the local level and help fund the work needed.
- Shellfish protection funds usually are tied with downgrades, but would be helpful to find a mechanism to get protection funds before the downgrade occurs.
- Barbara Ann offered to reach out to identify speakers from Mason County. Elizabeth will reach out to Squaxin Island Tribe and Nisqually tribe to see how they want to engage as part of the presentation.