

Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Executive Committee Meeting
January 27, 2023, 2:00 - 3:00PM
Conference Call



Executive Committee Members:

Jeff Dickson, Squaxin Island Tribe
Kevin Shutty, Mason County
Tye Menser, Thurston County
Robyn Denson, Pierce County
Jani Hitchen, Pierce County

Additional Attendees:

Tom Kantz, Pierce County
Brad Murphy, Thurston County
Juliana Tadano, PSP
Elizabeth McManus, AHSS LIO
Andres Sheikh, AHSS LIO

Meeting Summary

I. Welcome/Getting Settled

- Welcome to new AHSS Executive Committee members Councilmembers Denson and Hitchen

II. PSP Leadership Council Local Forum

- Background information on local forums, an opportunity for us to talk with the Leadership Council about our issues and showcase work in the watershed
- What other LIOs have done
- Guidance on what AHSS wishes to bring forward to the Leadership Council and on recommending a local venue for their meeting

Discussion

1. Shellfish in the South Sound
 - a. Historic and current status and importance of shellfish in south sound
 - i. Status of shellfish growing areas – and trends
 - ii. Tribal harvest / importance
 - iii. Non-tribal commercial
 - iv. Recreational harvest
 - v. Challenges of sea level rise for shellfish
 - b. South Sound innovations in shellfish management
 - i. Shellfish community gardens – for harvest
 - ii. Shellfish community gardens – for water filtration
 - iii. Olympia Oyster restoration
 - c. Failing Septic Systems and Difficulty with Dispersed Wastewater Management
 - i. Mobile Pump Out (success)
 - ii. Septic Systems (success and challenges in local management)
 - iii. Impacts of wastewater mismanagement to aquaculture
 - iv. Ask: More support for pump out stations and mobile services
 - v. Ask: Septic Grant Program
2. Nutrient Management Issues in the South Sound
 - a. Disproportionate impacts
 - i. Low Circulation of currents in South Sound

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- ii. South Sound ends up with nutrients from sources from outside the basin
 - b. Innovations in nutrient management
 - i. LOTT
 - c. Moving forward with nutrient management
 - 3. Shoreline protection/planning
 - a. Shoreline status and trends in South Sound
 - b. Successes and challenges and local tools for shorelines
 - i. South Sound GIS / coastal catchment analysis
 - ii. Shore Friendly in South Sound
 - iii. Ask: Ecology guidelines (or model/ordinance) on SMP, create a baseline standard and streamline process
 - 4. Prevention of Forest Conversion
 - a. Forest status and trends on South Sound
 - b. Local innovation and successes in forest protection
 - i. Acquisition
 - ii. Nisqually community forest?
 - iii. Carbon credits and forest conversion

III. Deep Divers for 2023

- Guidance on topics of interest for upcoming AHSS LIO meetings
- Guidance on priorities for AHSS LIO work on pursuing funding and on advancing equity and environmental justice.

Discussion

- Lake Management and Toxic Algal Blooms are a topic of interest for both Pierce and Thurston Counties
- Status and trends for shellfish in South Sound on growing area status, harvest status & value, ongoing work for growing area restoration
- Regional stormwater action management planning and increasing density impacts on water management particularly in rural areas
- Green Stormwater is also a related topic of interest

IV. Subtask 5 Discussion/Brainstorm

- 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
- 5.05 – Pursue funding for 2022-26 Action Agenda implementation
- 5.07 – Equity and Environmental Justice

Discussion

- Interest was expressed to reach out to underserved community groups to hear their environmental concerns and Action Agenda Implementation

V. ECB Representation

- Discussion of AHSS ECB Representation

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- Councilmember Denson nominated and approved by the AHSS Executive Committee to be the AHSS Representative for ECB, Councilmember Hitchen chosen to be the alternate.