

Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Executive Committee Meeting
September 13, 2023, 4:00 - 5:00PM
Virtual Zoom Meeting



Executive Committee Members *(No Quorum):*

Tye Menser, Thurston County
Jani Hitchen, Pierce County
David Troutt, Nisqually Indian Tribe

Additional Attendees:

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

Meeting Summary

I. Welcome/Getting Settled

- The meeting focus is on the AHSS LIO contract year 2 transition, highlights of work completed in 2022-2023, focus areas for year 2 LIO work, and have Executive Committee members discuss and vote on the AHSS LIO contract support for year 2.

II. AHSS Contract Year Transition

- The contract between Thurston County and the Puget Sound Partnership to bring the LIO support funding to AHSS is a three-year contract.
- Next year will be year 2 (October 2023 – September 2024).
- No action is needed to renew or continue the Thurston County – PSP contract, it will automatically roll forward.

III. Highlight of Work Completed 2022-23

- Organized, facilitated and documented LIO meetings approximately every two months; focused meetings more on LIO topics of interest (e.g., airport discussions, Deschutes estuary).
- Organized, recruited speakers, and prepared necessary documents and other materials for the AHSS LIO Local Forum with the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council; attended the forum; tracked and managed follow up.
- Managed and prepared necessary documents for LIO ECB representation.
- Organized, managed and facilitated decision making about AHSS seed money investment for behavior change. Completed subcontracted with selected organization (Harbor Wild Watch).
- Maintained AHSS website.
- Coordinated with PSP, fulfilled PSP tracking and reporting responsibilities, represented AHSS interests in PSP coordination discussions, and brought items of regional interest (e.g., Sound Choices checklist) to AHSS for discussion.
- Tracked funding opportunities and other items of interest to the South Sound, sent regular compilations of these opportunities to AHSS (approximately 2/month).
- Began follow up on equity and environmental justice outreach; to be continued in 2023-24.
- Continued updates to the South Sound Strategy and web tools; to be continued in 2023-24.

IV. Budget/Spending Update

- Initial contract amount: \$115,739

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- Spending through August 30: approximately \$76,455
 - Anticipated spending in September: \$10,000 (for behavior change seed money invoice) + \$6,000 (Ross support) = approximately \$16,000
 - Anticipated roll over to 2023-24 contract year: \$21,113

V. Focus Areas for Year 2

Proposed Ideas/Activities

- Continue core LIO activities – LIO meetings and updates, maintaining the website, and representing the South Sound interests in PSP processes.
- Prioritize and complete updates to South Sound Strategy and related web tools.
- Work with South Sound partners to help identify and prepare project packages for funding opportunities, e.g., building on the WRIA 13 and WRIA 14 culvert inventories.
- Support South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group in updating WRIA 14 and as needed WRIA 13 culvert inventories (potential subcontract).
- Continue equity and environmental justice outreach work.
- Interview key AHSS partners for ideas about how AHSS can better serve South Sound; bring ideas to the AHSS Executive Committee.

Discussion of Additional Ideas/Activities

- Explore using new IRA/BIL funding opportunities in creating a Center of Excellence around South Sound Science – to build a more stable science network in the region. Building on the Science Symposium work (Tribal and State Staff are currently limited).
- Culvert removal on private land/roads – be part of the ongoing work on public roads. There is a need for a comprehensive culvert inventory (state, county, municipal, and private culverts) potentially focusing on specific waterways. The LIO could help develop a strategic approach (including exploring funding) supporting ongoing programs like the Brian Abbot Fish Barrier Removal Board or the Small Landowners Fish and Forest Culvert Program.

VI. AHSS LIO Contract Support

- Executive Committee members discussed how to support the AHSS LIO contract for Year 2 and agreed to have Brad Murphy communicate this portion of the meeting discussion to LIO Chair Commissioner Shutty who will then circulate an email to AHSS Executive Committee members, communicating whether to vote on the following options:
 - Continue with Ross Strategic (the current contractor)
 - Have a process to select a different contractor
 - Bring the LIO support functions “in house” to one of the LIO partner organizations and staff it that way.
- AHSS support contractors excused themselves from the meeting so the Executive Committee could have a candid discussion.
- After the meeting, Brad Murphy communicated that AHSS members who were present were comfortable continuing with Ross Strategic as the LIO support contractor for another year.
- Commissioner Shutty will reach out to Executive Committee members who were not present to understand their preference and communicate on follow up action to Brad Murphy.