

Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Executive Committee Meeting
September 9, 2024, 3:30 - 4:30PM
Virtual Zoom Meeting



Executive Committee Members

David Troutt, Nisqually Indian Tribe
Jani Hitchen, Pierce County
Kevin Shutty, Mason County
Robyn Denson, Pierce County
Tye Menser, Thurston County

Additional Attendees:

Tom Kantz, Pierce County
Elizabeth McManus, AHSS LIO
Haley Morris, AHSS LIO

Meeting Summary

The Alliance Executive Committee met virtually on September 9, 2024. Five of six members were present. Discussion was as follows.

1. On Site Sewage Action Plan – Updates and identifying Hotspots

Alliance for a Healthy South Sound staff have worked with the Local Health Jurisdiction to discuss further direction on implementing one-time, \$180,000 funding available to each LIO to fund high-priority work with local partners coming out of the LIO OSS Action Plans. The following next steps for this supplemental funding were recommended to the Executive committee:

- The LIO Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator to provide the Executive Committee with a list of OSS projects that all of the LIOs are implementing to utilize this funding to better understand county priorities.
- The Alliance for a Healthy South Sound LIO will work with Nisqually and Squaxin Island Tribes as well as Mason and Thurston County Health Departments on providing enhanced operations and maintenance to support Tribal Treaty Harvest of shellfish in hotspots.
- Work with Tribal jurisdictions to identify a second hotspot in addition to Henderson Inlet. Vaughn Bay in Pierce County has been recommended as a potential hotspot area.
- Leverage the funding to provide outreach and education for those that do not have financial and technical resources to help with inspections.

2. South Sound Science Center

A [South Sound Science Center Briefing](#) was reviewed with the Executive Committee to provide an update on research that has been conducted on developing a process for a South Sound Science Center to support coordination and collaboration around scientific studies, the application of scientific information to the South Puget Sound, and salmon recovery work. A draft purpose statement, vision statement, initial objectives, and potential funding sources were presented to the Committee for initial input. The Committee discussed the need to include state and federal partners alongside Tribal government, local government, and non-profit organizations and to partner with academic institutions to create a synergy between non-profits and academic work to further capacity building.

Next Steps:

- Include the idea of federal engagement
- Research various programs through different skill centers and connect with agencies and organizations in the South Sound to understand if foundational science needs are currently being met. Identify key research questions that are currently being explored to determine gaps in data.
- Coordinate with faculty and students from local colleges and universities such as Pacific Lutheran University, University of Puget Sound, and Evergreen State College to learn how they can support how foundational science can be applied to recovery efforts in the South Sound.

3. Year Three Decisions for October 2024 – September 2025

A [summary table](#) for a year three contract amendment and proposed work was shared with the Executive Committee for input. Year two money will be carried over to year three, with year three having much of the same allocation between subtasks as year two. AHSS meetings will include four quarterly virtual meetings, and one in-person site visit combined with the PWR LIO. Year three will be focused on representing AHSS in the 2026-2030 Action Agenda update process, scoping of a South Sound Science Center, ongoing support for OSS pilot work, and support for exploration of potential community forest work.

4. Next meeting

- The Executive Committee is tentatively planning for an in-person meeting at Nisqually in late October or early November.