



Alliance for a Healthy South Sound Council Meeting
June 23, 2026, 10:00 - 11:30AM
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Participants

Amy Hatch-Winecka, WRIA 13 Lead Entity	Kristen Durance, PWR LIO
Audrey Coyne, WA State Department of Health/Shellfish SIL	Lindsay Larson, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Brandi Lubliner, City of Tacoma	Lisa Spurrier, Pierce County/WRIA 10/12
Brianne Blackburn, Pierce County	Matt Lurie, WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife/HSIL
Chanele Holbrook, Department of Ecology/Stormwater SIL	Melissa Ciesielski, Puget Sound Partnership
Daniel Einstein, Olympia Ecosystems	Michelle Deckard, Puget Sound Partnership
Emile Ancelet, Pierce County	Monea Kerr, Puget Sound Partnership
Kym Foley, City of Olympia	Rachel Latchford, WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife/HSIL
Jaal Mann, Pierce County	Vladimir Nekrutenko, Mason County Public Health
Jacob Murray, Mason Conservation District	
Kathleen Pozarycki, Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO	

Meeting Facilitation

Elizabeth McManus, AHSS LIO
Haley Morris, AHSS LIO

Meeting Summary

The Alliance for a Healthy South Sound Local Integrating Organization (AHSS LIO) Council met virtually on June 23, 2026. The meeting centered on the theme of Funding Opportunities and Grant Writing Support and featured a presentation from representatives of the Puget Sound Partnership Strategic Funding Team, updates from the AHSS LIO, and a round robin for members to share their own updates. The discussion proceeded as follows.

I. Puget Sound Partnership Strategic Funding Team Resources

Melissa Ciesielski and Michelle Deckard with the Puget Sound Partnership's (PSP) [Strategic Funding Team](#) (STF) provided an overview of funding and grant writing support that their team provides. Melissa described that the SFT has a dual focus on long-term systems change to address funding barriers and improve how restoration and infrastructure projects are funded in the Puget Sound region and near-term support to assist partners in accessing funding that is available. The SFT team works to address systemic funding barriers by aligning funding priorities with on-the-ground needs, improving coordination between sectors, and identifying obstacles such as mismatched priorities, burdensome match requirements, complex applications, and misaligned timelines. The team also provides hands-on technical assistance to partners by compiling current funding opportunities via the [Puget Sound Recovery Acceleration Funding Tool](#) (PS RAFT) and connecting partners to relevant opportunities.

Michelle shared SFT [grant writing support resources](#) to help partners take a more strategic and tailored approach to securing funding by developing comprehensive funding strategies that consider factors like project timing, eligibility, competitiveness, match requirements, partnerships, and organizational constraints. The SFT provides highly collaborative, hands-on technical assistance, which includes drafting applications, reviewing and strengthening existing proposals, evaluating funding opportunities for fit and eligibility, and helping manage the full application process with timelines and coordination among

contributors ([complete the Grant Writer Technical Assistance Request Form Here](#)). Michelle emphasized that successful support requires active partner involvement and some upfront project clarity (such as scope, sponsor, and problem statement) and noted that while the SFT team can help partners to secure and apply for funding, implementation and post-award management remain the responsibility of the applicant organization. Sign up for SFT emails [here](#) and contact the team at strategicfunding@psp.wa.gov. View Melissa and Michelle's presentation [here](#).

II. LIO Updates

- **Multi-LIO Shoreline Armoring & Permitting Assessment:** This project is supported by shoreline funding that was allocated to LIOs to fund projects outlined in Healthy Shorelines Action Plans. The purpose of this assessment is to better understand the extent of new shoreline development over the past ten years and to assess what percentage of the shoreline armoring is permitted. Results from the assessment will answer questions about the effectiveness of regulatory programs at protecting shorelines and nearshore habitats. Herra Environmental Consultants has recently been hired as the Technical Lead and will use a new [shoreline condition dataset](#) developed by Ecology to determine current shoreline status. A Technical Work Group (TWG) is currently being formed that will include representation from LIO coordinators, shoreline experts, and relevant state agencies to advise Herrera on methodology development, challenges that may arise, and interpretation of results. Staff from the Nisqually Tribe Natural Resources Department will represent the AHSS LIO on the TWG.
- **AHSS Floodplains & Estuaries Action Plan:** The next AHSS LIO Action Plan is Floodplains and Estuaries, marking the LIO's third Action Plan. The LIO's previous plans, on-site septic and healthy shorelines, have successfully leveraged funding to support local projects. Action Plans serve as a bridge between regional strategies and local priorities, ensuring that funding is directed to community identified needs. Each Action Plan is structured around topic strategies and actions from the [Puget Sound Action Agenda](#) to strengthen connections between local and regional efforts. The LIO coordinating team has reviewed various plans (e.g., Shoreline Master Programs, Flood Hazard Management Plans, Salmon Recovery and Watershed Management Plans, etc.) and connected with partners involved in floodplain and estuary work to begin identify barriers, opportunities, and projects which have been compiled in the [Draft AHSS LIO Action Plan](#). To ensure that all local and regional barriers, opportunities, and projects are included in the final plan, the AHSS Council was asked on June 23 to identify gaps and provide additional ideas in the draft Action Plan.

III. Round Robin

- [Medicine Creek Potlatch Journey](#) is from July 31 to August 5.
- [Floodplains and Estuaries](#) and [Land Development and Cover](#) Implementation Strategies are now open for public comment through July 16. Provide your comments [here](#).

IV. Next Steps

The next AHSS LIO Council meeting is on September 17, 2026. If you have suggestions for agenda topics or newsletter content, please email Haley Morris (hmorris@rossstrategic.com).