

Proposal: Hood Canal Coordinating Council Local Integration Organization

Background: The Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) is a watershed-based Council of Governments, consisting of Jefferson, Kitsap and Mason Counties; Port Gamble S'Klallam and Skokomish Tribes; and State and Federal agencies. The Council was established in 1985 in response to community concerns about water quality problems and related natural resource issues in the watershed.

The Vision of the HCCC is that humans will benefit from and coexist sustainably with a healthy Hood Canal. The Mission of the HCCC is to work with partners, community groups and citizens, to advocate for and implement regionally and locally appropriate actions to protect and enhance Hood Canal's environmental and economic health.

The HCCC operates under several established authorities, including as a/the:

- Interlocal Agency (RCW 39.34)
- Public Benefit Corporation (RCW 24.03),
- Non-profit Corporation {IRS Code 501(c)3},
- Local Management Board for aquatic rehabilitation {RCW 90.88.030(1)},
- Inter-WRIA Coordinator for watershed planning {RCW 90.88.030(1)}, and
- Lead Entity and Regional Recovery Organization for salmon recovery {RCW 90.88.030(1)(a)}

Primary focal areas for the Council have included salmon recovery, water quality, aquatic rehabilitation (including low dissolved oxygen program), and watershed education and outreach. In an effort to integrate this work and to expand our role to meet our Vision for human and ecological systems in Hood Canal, the Council has undertaken the development of the Hood Canal Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP). The work will result in a public and technical involvement strategy, an inventory of existing plans and programs, a watershed assessment, and a management plan for the Hood Canal's natural and socio-economic resources. This work is closely aligned with the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda, and the Council has worked closely with Partnership staff to advance this work.

Proposal: The Hood Canal Coordinating Council proposes to the Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council to become the Hood Canal Action Area local integration organization for Action Agenda implementation.

Role and Purpose: The Hood Canal watershed and community already has functioning and effective ongoing efforts addressing issues surrounding the health and restoration of the marine, aquatic, and terrestrial habitats. The HCCC will serve as a hub in a manner that fosters coordination, collaboration, and integration of such efforts, and will help identify opportunities to advance the Action Agenda in

Hood Canal. The Council will work with its partners, community groups, and citizens specifically to provide a forum to:

- Prioritize actions and develop local strategies within the Action Area
- Foster collaboration and leverage various efforts in the Canal, increasing efficiencies and reducing duplication
- Evaluate and advance work on best scientific information available
- Discuss issues, present topics, and gather input on matters pertinent to the Hood Canal watershed and Action Agenda priorities, goals, and objectives
- Develop funding strategies with a common voice
- Advise and make recommendations to the Puget Sound Partnership on local Action Agenda priorities
- Connect with the Ecosystem Coordination Board and Action Area representatives, as well as the Leadership Council and other Partnership staff