

**Snohomish, Whatcom, Island, San Juan and Skagit  
(SWISS) Regional Partnership  
DRAFT Organizational Charter**

Mission and Purpose

The mission of the SWISS regional partnership is to identify and advance shared priorities that will improve the quality of life of the people who live in the region.

The purpose of SWISS is to:

1. Provide a forum for the discussion and review of issues consistent with the SWISS mission statement, and identify those issues where there is a shared mutual interest;
2. Create a unified, clear, and concise regional voice to our state and federal legislators and governmental agencies;
3. Be an advocate for our region as a whole in dealings with legislative, governmental and private entities upon those issues that the SWISS selects;
4. Assist partner organizations with their legislative advocacy on issues that align with SWISS priorities.

Nothing that SWISS does will interfere with the authorities and responsibilities of each member county or county elected official.

Membership

SWISS members are the elected county executives, and officials comprising the county legislative authority from Snohomish, Whatcom, Island, San Juan and Skagit Counties.

SWISS will work to build coalitions with other regionally significant entities.

All SWISS activities are subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.

Committees

The SWISS members may create ad hoc committees. In order to create an ad hoc committee the members must approve a mission statement and expiration date for the committee.

The Executive Committee will be a standing committee and shall be comprised of seven members including the two county executives (or their staff designees), and the chair of the county council or board of commissioners (or a designee from the council or board). The purpose of the Executive Committee is to develop recommendations for consideration by the entire membership.

Decision Making

Because the SWISS regional partnership is a collaborative effort to identify and make progress on shared regional issues, SWISS will make decisions by consensus. "Consensus" means that everyone actively supports or at least can live with the

decision. SWISS members will strive to solve each other's problems and look for opportunities to find consensus.

Meeting Frequency

SWISS will meet quarterly, unless circumstances necessitate additional meetings. The Executive Committee and ad hoc committees may meet more frequently as is needed.

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