

Leadership Committee Summary

March 11, 2026

OVERVIEW

The SMF Collaborative Leadership Committee (LC) convened to finalize the criteria, scope, and timeline for its upcoming regional fuel deployment study. With foundational governance wrapping up, the Committee shifted focus to active market evaluation, standardizing technical targets, and streamlining operational budgets. The LC approved the upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) parameters, clearing the way to commence contracting for the upcoming study and to deliver data-driven policy pathways ahead of upcoming state legislative sessions.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

PNW SMF Impediments & Policy Analysis: development update and project focus area summaries

The LC finalized and approved the foundational framework for the *Pacific Northwest SMF Impediments & Policy Analysis* study, authorizing Maritime Blue (MB) as the Secretariat to complete final drafting and release the RFP by the end of March. A selection committee consisting of LC volunteers was established to assist MB in evaluating proposals.

The study is structured across three primary operational tasks:

1. **Literature Review:** A comprehensive baseline assessment incorporating the LC's existing study inventory to eliminate research redundancy
2. **Impediments Analysis:** An evaluation of technical, regulatory, infrastructure, economic, and social barriers, supported by two external outreach events
3. **Policy Analysis:** A desktop review of state-level policy levers, paired with a public workshop

Key technical directives and adaptations established by the LC for the contractor include:

- **International baseline alignment:** To prevent a regional "patchwork" of conflicting rules and maintain cross-border market competitiveness with Canada, the study will favor the International Maritime Organization's fuel-agnostic target carbon intensity standard for SMF as a starting point for the study.
- **Social & community considerations:** Recognizing historical local friction surrounding regional infrastructure builds and energy projects, the contractor must evaluate public, educational, and social considerations.

- **Accelerated policy timeline:** To ensure LC members have adequate time to reach consensus on policy analysis findings and recommendations for the legislature, the contractor must deliver a preliminary suite of options ("policy menu") by September 2026. This allows some time for policy socialization ahead of the 2027 legislative session, while the formal, comprehensive report will be finalized later in the fall.

Budget

The Collaborative is finalizing its 18-month WA Department of Commerce contract alongside a newly secured philanthropic grant. The LC approved in principle a budget scenario that prioritizes direct stakeholder engagement. By way of governance, the LC holds final budget approval authority for the SMF Collaborative. A virtual budget review period will be utilized next to finalize the budget.

Community Engagement Spring Workplan

The LC approved the Community Engagement Subcommittee's spring workplan, which includes LC recruitment, finalization of the engagement plans, and supporting study outreach planning.

LOOKING AHEAD

Following the official release of the PNW SMF Impediments & Policy Analysis RFP at the end of March, the Collaborative will spend the spring diving into community engagement and communications planning, reviewing technical bids, and standing up its newly authorized Policy Subcommittee to start developing legislative strategy for the policy analysis findings.



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