

Leadership Committee Summary

September 10, 2025

OVERVIEW

The SMF Collaborative Leadership Committee (LC) convened to advance the organizational structure, strategic framework, and policy timelines for the maritime energy transition in Washington State. The primary focus was aligning the Collaborative's goals with international regulatory shifts and state legislative cycles while formalizing governance through a shared Charter.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Governance & Operations

- **Charter & MOU:** The committee reviewed the draft Charter to establish transparent governance and decision-making processes for the Collaborative and LC. To avoid administrative red tape associated with the term "MOU," the group is exploring alternative titles for the document or signing the Charter directly.
- **Decision-Making:** The LC reaffirmed a consensus-first approach. If consensus cannot be reached, a formal vote may be called. The Secretariat (Maritime Blue) will provide detailed agendas and pre-reading materials for meetings to ensure the LC remains focused on high-level decision-making.
- **Transparency:** To balance public accountability with candid debate, high-level meeting summaries will be posted to a public website.
- **Funding:** Maritime Blue (MB) is working towards a two-year contract with the Department of Commerce. The LC supported MB's decision to decline grant or work opportunities with specific definitions of sustainable fuels prior to the Collaborative determining a stance.

New Subcommittees & Engagement

- **Regulatory Alignment:** The group discussed the upcoming IMO MEPC meeting regarding net-zero frameworks. It was agreed that while the U.S. may not adopt all international standards, global shipping trends will still catalyze the local transition, and the Collaborative should continue to track and align with international standards where possible.
- **Policy Timelines:** To have work products inform activity in the 2027 Washington State biennial legislative session, the LC recommended accelerating the timeline for policy-

related objectives. The goal is to begin policymaker education and awareness-building by Fall 2026.

- **Definitions & Scope Subcommittee:** A new subcommittee will be formed to discuss how to frame what constitutes an "SMF" and determine the geographic and vessel-type focus of the Collaborative. This will ensure a foundational consensus before launching the gap analysis work. Subcommittees are comprised of representatives from LC member organizations.
- **Membership Expansion:** The Community Engagement Subcommittee is finalizing a list of new LC nominees to ensure a broad spectrum of stakeholders are represented.
- **Tribal Engagement:** The Collaborative continues to prioritize Tribal outreach, exploring partnerships with organizations to ensure effective information sharing.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Collaborative will shift into its next phase by standing up a new Definitions & Scope Subcommittee this autumn to establish baseline geographical boundaries and technical fuel definitions for Collaborative work. In parallel, the group will utilize virtual review windows to finalize the structural Charter, so that each LC participating organization and its signatories are able to sign on and formalize their commitment to participating on the SMF Collaborative LC.



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