

Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Implementation Committee

Meeting Summary

Tuesday, June 30, 2015

1:30– 3:30 p.m.

Snohomish County Campus, Drewel Building, 1st Floor Public Meeting Room

Attendees

Bill Blake, City of Arlington, Stillaguamish Watershed Council
Chris Betchley, Stillaguamish River Clean Water District
Chrys Bertolotto, Snohomish-Camano Eco-Net
Daryl Williams, Tulalip Tribes
Erik Gerking, Port of Everett
Glynis Casey, Tulalip Tribes
Gregg Farris, Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Janell Majewski, Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Karen Stewart, LIO Coordinator, Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Kit Crump, Snohomish County Surface Water Management/ Stillaguamish Basin Co-Lead Entity
Mary Cunningham, City of Everett
Mary Hurner, Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Tribe
Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District
Perry Falcone, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum/King County
Ralph Svrjcek, Washington State Department of Ecology
Robert Sendrey, Sound Salmon Solutions
Scott Powell, City of Seattle
Stef Frenzl, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, STORM
Tim Miller, Snoqualmie Tribe
Tom Hoban, Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee

Introductions, Announcements and Public Comments

Bill Blake, Sno-Stillly Implementation Committee (IC) Chair, opened the meeting and introductions followed. Members approved the 5/26 meeting summary. There were no public comments or announcements.

Report from the June 18 LIO-Executive Committee Meeting

Karen Stewart, LIO Coordinator, reported on the Executive Committee's decisions regarding three business items presented at their 6/18 meeting:

- Approval of the Implementation Committee's recommendation of six priority Vital Signs for the LIO to begin working on, The six are Chinook, estuaries, land development and cover, floodplains, summer stream flows and freshwater quality.
- Approval of the Implementation Committee's recommended process for LIO letters of endorsement.
- Tabled until the next Executive Meeting was the Implementation Committee's request to expand representation on the Implementation Committee to include King County ECO Net, STORM, and WSU Extension. The Executive Committee requested time at their next meeting to review the LIO charter again and have a lengthier discussion about expanding representation on both committees.

Karen also updated the Implementation Committee on the Subcommittee Meeting of 6/18. She explained that the LIO support staff had to change course in project planning on 6/17, when they learned that PSP will be providing prototype results chains for the next step in the planning process and the LIOs will not have to generate their own. PSP's prototype results chains will not be available until 7/15. The Subcommittee Meeting agenda was revised from working on results chains to a presentation on results chains by Kit Crump. The presentation is available on the project webpages at <http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/3048/LIO---Implementation-Committee-Subcommit>. Karen agreed to send a link to the slide presentation out to the group.

In another update, Karen shared information from the LIO Coordinator's Meeting that took place that morning. PSP has a new planning manager, who was introduced at that meeting. She explained that some of the changes in the planning process are because PSP is trying to align with the EPA's timelines and consistency requirements.

Karen noted that as PSP provides more specificity on timelines and deliverables, our LIO planning process and timelines will be adjusted accordingly but we will try to streamline the process as much as possible. We appreciate the dedication of our LIO members, which was evident as most of the IC members chose to be a part of the Subcommittee. As we try to pare down the planning process to keep the meetings manageable for everyone and still meet our deadlines for the deliverables through the end of 2015, we determined that we would complete the planning exercises during Implementation Committee meetings and eliminate the Subcommittee level for now. Therefore, the Subcommittee Meetings planned for 7/7 and thereafter have been cancelled.

Overview of LIO Strategic Recovery Plan and NTAs

Karen provided an overview of the LIO Strategic Recovery Planning Process and the work products for 2015 and 2016. She stated that the process we would be following to develop NTAs this time around would be different in several ways from the process we followed to prepare the NTAs for the 2014 Action Agenda. With the new EPA funding approach, the structured decision-making process to identify the most effective NTAs will involve several new products and processes.

The first product we will be working on is the Local Strategic Recovery Plan for 2015 – 2020. The plan will cover as many Vital Signs as we think are relevant to our watersheds, but will begin with an initial installment for the 6 Priority Vital Signs that is due on 9/30/2015. This work will be supported by supplemental funding from the EPA. The Partnership is currently working on guidance documents and will provide prototype results chains for local review and modification. We will revise our meeting schedule to allow for the Partnership to complete their work through July. The next meeting of the LIO-IC will not occur until August 4 as indicated in the revised meeting schedule. Thanks for your flexibility and enjoy a short break during July while staff prepares materials for your consideration in August.

Beginning in October, we will have an aggressive timeline to develop the second product – the 2-year Implementation Plan Near-Term Actions for the 2016 Action Agenda – which is due 12/31/2015. The EPA will have NEP funds available for the NTAs. Some will be distributed to the LIOs and other funds will be subject to a competitive grant process.

Robert Sendry, Sound Salmon Solutions, asked for clarification on what could be funded. Karen replied that, for the next two years, this funding would only be for NTAs associated with the priority Vital Signs and aligned with one of the three strategic initiatives (Stormwater, Shellfish and Habitat). Kit noted that the Education for Lawmakers (an outreach effort of Sound Salmon Solutions) is tied to floodplains and habitat (of which estuaries are a part.)

Another change in the process, will be appointment by PSP of three Strategic Initiative Transition Teams (SITT). The SITT will review our NTAs against yet-to-be-identified criteria for inclusion in the 2016 Action Agenda. As the

schedule indicates, the LIOs will work with the SITT to revise NTAs to produce a final list of NTAs, which are due on 2/30/2016. PSP expects to release the NTA review criteria in October 2015.

PSP will make \$170,000 available to each LIO for planning work support, and/or cover the expenses for LIO members associated with serving on LIO partner teams. These funds are available to LIOs that submit a detailed contract/work plan following PSP standards. These funds are also available to offset expenses (ferry fares, mileage) of LIO members participating on any of the regional planning groups. For more details, please contact Karen or Heather Cole, PSP, Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator.

Karen announced that PSP has begun posting new documents and updated documents on “the Box,” an online file storage area. Mary Hurner distributed a handout showing what information was available there right now, with a link shown on the bottom of the page, <https://pspwa.app.box.com/LIO-Recovery-Planning>. The Partnership also has an Action Agenda webpage and Snohomish County is hosting our LIO webpages. LIO-IC members are encouraged to follow up and take a look at these sites for further information and materials.

In follow up to Robert’s comment earlier about the NTAs, Gregg Farris said that if we have some NTAs which have not been completed, it is his understanding that we just have to be able to link to the strategies and sub-strategies and reach a consensus as to whether or not to carry them forward.

Ralph Svrjcek asked about the NTA due date of 12/31/2015, stating that he thought these were supposed to be submitted in September. Karen explained that this is a transition year and that March 2016 would be the earliest date for direct funding for NTAs through the NEP.

2015 – 2016 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule

Mary Hurner reviewed the revised work plan through 9/30/2015 with the Committee. She stated that the LIO planning team had hoped to provide a work plan and meeting schedule through 12/30/2015, but decided to follow a “first installment” approach by listing the steps to the first deliverable due 9/30/2015.

Mary noted that, in today’s meeting, we are going to work on summarizing the priority pressures, but our work on the results chains needs to wait until we have received the prototype results chains from PSP, which are expected on 7/15. Staff is planning for the next meetings of the Implementation Committee accordingly (on 8/4 and 8/18) to discuss the prototype results chains for 3 Vital Signs at each of the meetings. Results of these discussions will be drafted by staff for Implementation Committee review and consensus via email, and Executive Committee consideration at their 9/22 meeting.

Mary emphasized that the planning team wants to be able to guide the Committees in a manner that aligns with PSP’s and EPA’s standards and timelines, so we are waiting for clarification before we can provide a work plan for the period 10/1 – 12/31/2015 covering the second deliverable. To continue to develop the deliverable due on 12/30, the LIO needs PSP guidance on (1) developing new and revising existing results chains, and (2) developing NTAs and performance measures, which PSP’s schedule indicates will be provided in October and November. Mary said that this may necessitate an all-day workshop for the Implementation Committee in November, but she will keep everyone posted as new information becomes available.

Mary summarized by saying that the handout distributed today outlines the meetings we expect will be needed prior to September, and encouraged anyone with questions to contact Karen.

Small Group Discussions

In this next part of the meeting, the Committee broke into three small groups for discussion and consensus on a product. The purpose of this exercise was to apply PSP’s Puget Sound Pressure Assessment (PSPA) to the

Stillaguamish and Snohomish watersheds to develop a prioritized list of local stressors and ecosystem pressures for the priority ecosystem components (vital signs). The groups/six priority vital signs were divided as follows:

- Group 1: Chinook, estuaries
- Group 2: land development and cover, floodplains
- Group 3: summer stream flows, freshwater quality

Three handouts were provided: (1) an outline for the group's consideration and consensus, (2) definitions from the Action Agenda using standard sound-wise terminology, and (3) a worksheet. The worksheet consisted of a table with two columns on the far left – one a list of the highly rated stressors for the Snohomish and Stillaguamish Watersheds (taken from the *2014/2015 Action Agenda*, Section 1, Page 1-8), and the other a list of the stressors rated as "high" or "very high" (taken from the *2014 Puget Sound Pressure Assessment*, p. 6). Next to those columns, for each group, was a column for each of the two Vital Sign the group would be considering.

Through discussion, the groups identified a prioritized list of local stressors and associated ecosystem pressures, as follows:

Utilizing the information presented in the PSPA, the highest priority pressures (sources) for each Vital Sign were identified, with links to what stressor(s) they were addressing. The groups discussed the High and Very High ranked stressors and made revisions based on local knowledge and application. Next, the groups discussed the sources of these stressors and ranked the five highest pressures were ranked for their subset of the Priority Vital Signs. No new pressures were added at this time but that may happen in the future as additional Vital Signs are evaluated and sub-strategies and NTAs identified.

The group discussions continued so that there was not time for reporting out to the entire committee.

Next Steps

Bill Blake wrapped up the meeting by stating that staff would compile the results from each of the three group discussions and send this draft to the Implementation Committee for review/comment. Committee members supported having the Snohomish and Stillaguamish Basin technical committees weigh in on these results as well, so staff will also request their review. This draft will serve the LIO Committees as they begin working on sub-strategies and NTA development in the coming months.

The next meeting of the Implementation Committee is on August 4th from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the 1st Floor Public Meeting Room.