

# Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Executive Committee

## Meeting Summary

*Revised 9/22/2015*

*Thursday, June 18, 2015*

*9:00 – 10:30 a.m.*

*Snohomish County Campus, Drewel Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room 6A04*

### **Attendees:**

Allan Giffen, City of Everett  
Bill Blake, City of Arlington  
Christie True, King County, Co- Chair  
Heather Cole, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)  
Jason Walker, City of Duvall  
Joan Lee, King County  
Karen Stewart, Snohomish County, LIO Coordinator  
Kit Crump, Snohomish County  
Mary Hurner, Snohomish County  
Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District  
Perry Falcone, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum  
Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes  
Tom Stiger, Port of Everett

### **Welcome, Public Comments, Announcements**

Christie True, Acting Chair, opened the meeting and initiated introductions. There was no public comment.

Karen Stewart announced that the LIO had received a Technical Assistance RFTP from the Washington State Department of Commerce. Their Growth Management Services Unit has received federal funding to provide technical assistance to LIOs in support of PSP's Action Agenda. LIOs with a desire and capacity to work on identified land use issues at an inter-jurisdictional level between September 2015 to June 2016 can contact Heather Ballash at 360-725-3044, [heather.ballash@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:heather.ballash@commerce.wa.gov) for more information.

### **Expanding LIO Role**

Karen updated the group on the expanding role of the LIO being developed by PSP and the EPA in an effort to move projects forward more quickly and more effectively restore Puget Sound. Beginning in 2016, the EPA will be providing direct funding to LIOs to award to projects that support the 3 strategic initiatives and their associated sub-strategies and local NTAs. Before this occurs, the LIOs need to complete two planning activities:

- Develop a **5-Year Strategic Recovery Plan**, submitting it to PSP in two installments:
  - The first installment, due 9/30/2015, covers 4 – 6 priority Vital Signs and shows the LIO's contribution to meeting the 2020 PSP Vital Signs targets. Included are results chains, narratives and a schematic for each of the 4-6 Priority Vital Signs.
  - The second installment, due 9/11/2016, follows the same pattern and covers the remaining Vital Signs, so that all Vital Signs present in the watersheds in LIO jurisdiction are addressed.

- Develop a **2-Year Implementation Plan** - Near Term Actions for the 4 – 6 priority Vital Signs. Each NTA must include a description and location, expected outcomes, owners and estimated cost. This product is due 12/31/2015. In January and February of 2016, the LIO will be working with PSP to further refine these NTAs and reassess the actions to align with the 3 strategic initiatives and substrategies. The final version of this product is due 2/29/2016.

The Executive Committee discussed the goals behind the EPA's collaborative alliance with Puget Sound Partnership. Terry Williams stated that NW Fisheries met with President Obama and identified failures in meeting the trust obligations that are occurring in locations around the country. Discrepancies and gaps between regulations of different jurisdictions and agencies have been identified as key barriers to protecting tribal resources. The White House Council on Environmental Quality is encouraging jurisdictions to work together on a consistency approach to meet federal standards and harmonize regulations. As future projects emerge, reviewers will be looking at how they achieve federal standards and protect tribal resources. Christie stated that she appreciated the consistency with which tribal governments work on natural resource issues. Karen noted that the contribution to treaty rights could be considered in the decision regarding NTAs.

The Committee also briefly discussed the effects of climate change. Terry brought up modeling sea level rise and estimating its impact on habitat.

Mary Hurner briefly discussed the 2015-2016 DRAFT Work Plan (handout) and 2015-2016 Meeting Schedule, which listed meeting dates and times for all three LIO committees. She stated that the Work Plan is a work-in-progress, and will be modified as better information becomes available. Right now, it shows the key tasks that need to be completed by the committees in order to draft the deliverables, allow enough time for adequate review/revisions, and meet PSP deadlines. Mary emphasized that the project team would be communicating with committee members frequently – sending meeting invitations, agendas, summaries, and PSP information as it becomes available; and checking in with committee members to ensure all opinions are sought during the planning process.

### **Decision Support Framework**

Using a power point to illustrate, Kit Crump explained that results chains are used to map the logic between a strategy and its results, and track indicators that reveal if strategies are working. Kit stated that we will be using the results chains framework as a tool to develop our Local Strategic Recovery Plans. Results chains track progress in addressing identified pressures and stressors for the Vital Signs, and show where gaps in actions are present. Kit referred to a slide from Scott Redman's (PSP) presentation, which showed the high and very high pressures for the Puget Sound area, and stated that it is probably largely accurate for the Snohomish and Stillaguamish watersheds combined, due to their size and diverse geography. Perry Falcone agreed. Terry Williams noted how results chains could help us with scenario modeling and incorporating the major impacts of climate change in our decision-making process.

### **Selecting Priority Vital Signs for Local Strategic Recovery Plan**

The Action Agenda is updated every two years. This year, we will be developing NTAs to support the 4-6 Priority Vital Signs; a product that is due 12/31/2015. The Implementation Committee considered the list of 18 Vital Signs present in the LIO, and through a voting process, prioritized 4 of them: estuaries, land cover and development, freshwater quality and Chinook salmon. Due to a number of factors, floodplains and summer stream flows were added to the list of priority Vital Signs. The Implementation

Committee requested a consensus decision from the Executive Committee on these first 4 – 6 Vital Signs.

This process was set aside briefly to allow Monte Marti to introduce a group of guests from the NRCS who were studying what natural resource planning efforts were taking place in the LIO watersheds.

As the Executive Committee considered the six Vital Signs, Karen noted that the future funding will relate to the strategies we are developing for these Vital Signs. Heather stated that the LIO needs to document the process of choosing the Vital Signs, and include how the information from the Monitoring and Adaptive Management project feeds into that decision. Karen showed a crosswalk that identified the selection criteria developed by the LIO and the priority vital signs.

Christie asked for feedback from the Committee. Jason Walker stated that he agreed that having floodplains as a priority would be helpful. In general, he stated that he agreed with the 6 Vital Signs recommended by the IC, although he thought floodplains should have scored higher. He noted that shellfish can be addressed as a component of the other Vital Signs. Terry endorsed the high ranking of estuaries, and said that he too thought floodplains would have scored higher. He noted the effects of sea level rise in terms of losing aquifers near the shores. Christie reminded the Committee that they didn't have to prioritize, just provide a consensus decision to go forward with these six Vital Signs or another combination. After a short discussion, the Executive Committee reached a consensus decision to support the six Vital Signs recommended by the Implementation Committee.

### **Administrative**

There were three administrative matters on the Agenda, and the Executive Committee addressed them as follows:

- Proposal to expand membership of the LIO-Implementation Committee: The proposal to add seats for King ECO Net, STORM and WSU Extension was discussed. The question was raised regarding the federal agencies should also have role in the LIO, and if so, how. Due to lack of time, this discussion was tabled. Christie asked that the Committee be given the time to review the LIO charter again and have a lengthier discussion at the next meeting.
- Proposed policy and procedure for letters of support: The proposed policy was discussed and endorsed. Alan Giffen liked the approach of using the Implementation Committee to screen the requests. Bill Blake suggested that we add a request "link to full proposal, if available" under the project summary on the application.
- Letter of support for Snohomish Conservation District project: The letter, in support of the Regional Dairy Engagement Initiative, was supported, and Christie True, LIO Exec Committee Co-Chair, signed it.

In addition, Terry Williams requested time to talk about coordinated planning. Terry encouraged the committee to take advantage of all the programs available that identify risks from climate change impacts, as they are happening faster than we (jurisdictions and tribes) can move in our planning. Christie stated that King County will have information available this summer regarding where we are in our Climate Action Plans. As information becomes available, staff can forward it to the LIO Executive Committee. Staff took note of the Committee's desire to discuss climate change at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.