

# Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Implementation Committee Workshop Summary

*Tuesday, October 27, 2015*

*9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.*

*City of Edmonds, Brackett Room*

## **LIO-IC Members**

Bill Blake, City of Arlington, Stillaguamish Watershed Council  
Chrys Bertolotto, WSU Snohomish-Camano ECO Net  
Daryl Williams, Tulalip Tribes Natural Resources  
Deborah Knight, City of Stanwood  
Elise Gronewald, Port of Everett  
Gregg Farris, Snohomish County Surface Water Mgmt.  
Glynis Casey, Tulalip Tribes Planning  
Jacqueline Reid, Snohomish County Planning & Development Services  
Kirk Lakey, Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum  
Kristin Kelly, Futurewise/Pilchuck Audubon  
Mary Cunningham, City of Everett  
Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Tribe  
Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District  
Pat Stevenson, Stillaguamish Tribe  
Perry Falcone, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum  
Rodney Pond, Sound Salmon Solutions  
Tom Hoban, Snohomish County MRC  
Stef Frenzl, Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities

## **Participants**

Bob Landles, Stillaguamish Clean Water Advisory Board (pending confirmation)  
Cindy Dittbrenner, Snohomish Conservation District  
Kate Riley, Snohomish Conservation District  
Paul Clampitt, Snohomish County MRC  
Kathleen Herrmann, Snohomish County MRC Staff  
Michael Cawrse, City of Edmonds  
Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes, Snohomish Lead Entity  
Tim Miller, Snoqualmie Tribe  
Tom Stiger, Port of Everett

## **LIO Staff**

Ann Bylin, Snohomish County Surface Water Management  
Beth Liddell, Snohomish County Surface Water Management  
Mary Hurner, Snohomish County Surface Water Management  
Kit Crump, Snohomish County Surface Water Management/ Stillaguamish Basin Co-Lead Entity  
Michael Sheehan, Snohomish County Surface Water Management  
Karen Stewart, LIO Coordinator

## Welcome, Introductions, Purpose of the Workshop

Bill Blake, Sno-Stilly Implementation Committee (IC) Chair, opened the workshop and introductions followed. Bill outlined the purpose of the workshop is to work together to generate a list of local Near Term Action (NTA) proposals that should be developed into full proposals for consideration for the 2016 Puget Sound Action Agenda. The Implementation Committee will also be establishing an NTA Technical Review Subcommittee to review and prioritize full NTA proposals to recommend to the LIO-Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will conduct their review, and then send the recommended NTA proposals to PSP for SITT review.

## Background for the NTA Workshop

The LIO Coordinator, Karen Stewart, reviewed the meeting agenda and the October 8<sup>th</sup> submittal to the Puget Sound Partnership of the LIO's Five-Year Ecosystem Recovery Plan--First Elements report (included in the workshop packet). Karen briefly discussed the planning steps the Sno-Stilly LIO followed in developing this local profile and report (identifying priority vital signs, priority pressures and strategies for addressing them). Karen noted that NTAs are expected to implement the approaches outlined for the initial six priority vital signs. Comments on the report from the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams (SITTs) are expected by Nov. 20. The LIO will revise the ecosystem recovery plan to address SITT comments and prepare a Two-Year Implementation Plan (2016 NTAs) due to the Partnership by the end of the year.

The focus of today's workshop is to review the nearly fifty NTA Pre-proposals that have been submitted in terms of how complete they are, whether or not they address local and regional priorities, and based on those two factors, whether or not they should go forward to be developed into NTA full proposals.

The NTA full proposals will be further scrutinized by a NTA Technical Review Subcommittee (to be formed at today's workshop) for a recommendation to the LIO Executive Committee. The LIO Executive Committee will review the recommended NTA Full Proposals and determine which ones should be submitted as our Two-Year Implementation Plan, with comments from the SITTs incorporated into a refined Five-Year Ecosystem Recovery Plan for Six Vital Signs.

## Existing NTAs: Alignment and Gap Analysis

Kit Crump reviewed a table in the packet which outlined the 16 2014 NTAs, including their performance measures, owners, and progress. He explained that the main purpose of the table was to help the Committee determine which 2014 NTAs should be advanced as (2016) NTAs. Kit noted that the 2014 NTAs are still viable until new NTAs are adopted in the 2016 Action Agenda. Committee members provided the following input (listed by NTA number):

- SNST1 – Regulatory Effectiveness. The Tulalip Tribes requested 10 days to prepare a pre-proposal focusing on one action. One of the problems that hampered progress on this NTA was that there were several different actions listed and several different owners, with the relationship between the two and the associated performance measure not being clearly connected.
- SNST3 – Agricultural Runoff. The Snohomish Conservation District clarified that they will be the owner of this action. This will be submitted as a regional NTA.
- SNST5 – On-Site Septic Systems Maintenance and Retrofit. The Committee agreed that the Snohomish Health District (SHD) should own this NTA, and that it has not been completed. One Committee member suggested that it might make sense for the SHD to propose a new NTA focused on developing stable funding for the district.
- SNST9 – Fisheries/Watershed Ecology Education for Decision Makers. This NTA was erroneously marked as not completed, although it has been completed. Sound Salmon Solutions clarified that the 2014 NTA was only phase 1 of the project. Phase 2 of the project – implementation – is being proposed as a 2016 NTA (#31).

- SNST10 – Inspections and Maintenance of Stormwater Facilities. Gregg Farris stated that the purpose of this NTA was to allow cities to pool their money so that they can address more stringent water quality standards. Representatives of the cities of Arlington and Stanwood expressed interest in working together as fiscal agents (pooling funds) to implement a higher level of inspections and maintenance within their respective jurisdictions.
- SNST11 – Continued Education & Outreach Leading to Behavior Change. Chrys Bertolotto stated this general NTA should not be continued. New NTAs are being submitted.
- SNST12 – Knotweed Control and Elimination in Riparian Corridors. This should be a continuing/new NTA proposed by both King and Snohomish Counties. Knotweed control continues to be a problem in our watersheds.
- SNST13 – Salmon/Multi-Species Recovery Plans. Bill asked if salmon recovery projects on the 4-Year Work Plan (4YWP) – or at least those vetted by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board – can automatically be adopted as NTAs, and therefore qualify for NEP funding. Kit reported that he has forwarded several questions to Puget Sound Partnership seeking clarity on the interface between Forum/SWC salmon recovery projects on the 4YWP and NEP funding. If 4YWP projects are adopted by reference into the Action Agenda, will NEP funding be available? Kirk Lakey noted that many projects on the 4YWP don't receive a lot of vetting; some of the projects are undeveloped and unsponsored. If these undeveloped projects become eligible for NEP funding, they will be competing with developed projects with committed sponsors. Kit stated that he will continue to seek clarity from Puget Sound Partnership on this issue.
- SNST14 – Port Susan Stewardship Area Conservation. Kathleen Herrmann stated that this NTA is not yet completed. Gregg commented that the NTA proposal for this project needs to be more specific about what MRC will do in the next two years.
- SNST15 – Low Impact Development. The chart should be changed to show that this NTA has been completed. It will not be updated and proposed as a 2016 NTA.
- SNST16 – Groundwater Study. This needs to be completed but Snohomish County has no capacity for it. The Tulalip Tribes and the Stillaguamish Tribe are considering a new NTA to address base flows and groundwater.

Other comments:

- SNST7 (Floodplain Management for Farm-Fish-Flood), SNST8 (PIC Project) and SNST9 (Watershed education for decision makers) are all moving forward in various forms as new NTAs.
- Kit stated that anyone can adopt any of the 2014 NTAs and submit Full Proposals by the deadline. (Pre-proposals aren't needed unless major revisions are made.)
- We should keep a list of NTA gaps (e.g., no owner identified for an NTA, no project identified for a specific sub-strategy) and try to fill them.
- If we identify a need for an NTA and a potential owner, we could engage that potential owner and see if they would be willing to pursue it.
- If a gap is substantial, we should have the LIO work with potential owners to build capacity.
- We should post the list of NTA gaps on the LIO website (i.e., "priorities with no owners").
- Habitat has more NTAs associated with it, compared to shellfish or stormwater. A gap analysis might help others expand their focus on these areas.

During this discussion, and the small group discussions that followed, LIO-IC members listed several topics on the "parking lot" sheet posted on the wall and marked "Gaps":

- Groundwater study
- Programmatic Elements of Salmon Recovery Plans
- OSS education/technical support stable funding
- Integrate "Easement Program" into FFF/KC and SCD 100' buffer NTAs
- Contact Snohomish Health District and/or King Environmental Services re: OSS O & M

### **Small Group Discussions: Feedback on the NTA Pre-Proposals**

The LIO-IC broke into four small groups with Karen, Kit, Bill and Ann Bylin serving as facilitators.

Using the handout, “LIO Screening for Pre-proposals for 2016 Draft NTAs,” the assignment for each group was to screen approximately 12 of the 52 NTAs received to date to ensure that the pre-proposal applications are fully complete and reference local priorities and pressures. At the end of the small group discussion, they should have reached consensus on which NTA pre-proposals were ready to be developed as full proposals by the owner. In addition, the small groups should provide any comments or questions for consideration when writing the proposed NTA full proposal to go forward for consideration by the NTA Technical Review Subcommittee and the SITTs.

Following the small group discussions, each of the groups reported out to the Implementation Committee as a whole. The information they provided has been integrated into a “Revised – LIO Screening for Pre-proposals for 2016 Draft NTAs” handout. Referring to the proposals noted by the groups as lacking information in some way, Karen stated that NTA owners have until November 4<sup>th</sup> to re-submit their pre-proposals for screening by the NTA Technical Review Subcommittee.

Morgan reminded the Committee that the NTA proposals were intended to support a more comprehensive funding universe, rather than just serve as a request for NEP funding. Bill requested that, as proposals are refined, they clearly indicate if they support multiple sub-strategies.

### **Full Proposal Instructions for 2016 NTAs**

Referring to the NTA Full Proposal Instructions (draft) for 2016 – 2018 handout and draft score sheet in the meeting packets, Karen discussed the process the NTA Technical Review Subcommittee will follow to ensure consistency with the LIO’s Ecosystem Recovery Plan—First Elements:

- Staff will email the LIO-IC the completed spreadsheet summarizing the screening of the NTA pre-proposals and any comments from the small group discussions. Any additional NTA pre-proposals will also be sent out to the entire committee for review and comment.
- The NTA Full Proposal instructions will be emailed to the LIO-IC by Friday, November 6 and incorporate comments received by Nov. 4.
- Several questions relating eligibility of NTAs to implement projects in the 4-year work plans for salmon recovery and for activities mandated by the GMA will be forwarded to the Puget Sound Partnership for their advice.
- A local NTA prioritization process will be implemented by the NTA Technical Review Subcommittee.

### **NTA Technical Review Subcommittee**

Mary Hurner, LIO support staff, explained that a technical review subcommittee was being established by the LIO today to evaluate the 2016 NTA proposals received for recommendation to the LIO-Executive Committee. She stated that the Subcommittee members would need to commit to 3 -4 hours to independently read and review approximately fifty local NTA proposals, and then another 3 – 4 hours to meet and reach consensus on the recommended prioritized list to forward to the LIO-EC.

For practical reasons, a small group with expertise in all key areas was proposed. The Committee weighed in on the number of proposals received to date (52) and the prospects for a few others after the 2014 NTAs were re-envisioned, and decided that the workload required a few more members than the original proposed seven. As a result, the Subcommittee positions were proposed as follows:

- One person from the TAG (Stillaguamish watershed): Frank Leonetti (Snohomish County)
- One person from the Tech Com (Snohomish watershed): Micah Wait (US Fish)

- Two people with expertise in shellfish: Francesca Perez (Stilly), Kathy Stanley (Tulalip)
- Two people with expertise in stormwater: John Herrmann (Snohomish County), Kate Riley (SCD)
- Two people with expertise in habitat: Perry Falcone (King County, Snohomish Forum); Kirk Lakey (WDFW)
- One person with expertise in outreach and education: Chrys Bertolotto (WSU Extension)
- One person representing tribal interests: Matt Baerwalde (Snoqualmie Tribe)

A number of the LIO-IC members expressed interest in attending the NTA Technical Review Subcommittee meeting. After a brief discussion, the Committee agreed it should be open to all interested.

### **Next Steps**

- LIO staff will send out a workshop summary and completed spreadsheet showing all the local NTA pre-proposals with comments from today's workshop. Any additional pre-proposals received by Nov. 4th will also be sent out.
- By Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, LIO staff will email the instructions for the NTA full proposal incorporating any comments received by Nov. 4.
- Schedule changes:
  - Local NTA Full Proposals are due to the LIO staff by noon on November 24<sup>th</sup> and will be emailed to LIO-IC the next day.
  - The NTA Technical Review Subcommittee of the LIO Implementation Committee will meet on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30 p.m. in the Surface Water Management Conference Room to review and prioritize recommended local NTAs for the 2016 Action Agenda.
- The LIO Executive Committee will meet on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. to consider and reach consensus on the recommended NTAs to send to the Puget Sound Partnership by the end of 2015.