

Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Executive Committee Meeting Summary

Thursday, June 30, 2016
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Snohomish County Campus, Drewel Building, 6A04

LIO EC Members

Allan Giffen, City of Everett
Beth LeDoux, King County (Alt)
Jason Walker, City of Duvall/ Snoqualmie Watershed
Pat Stevenson, Stillaguamish Tribe (Alt)
Tom Stiger, Port of Everett
Will Hall, Snohomish County

Participants and Guests

Dan Calvert, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)
Erik Stockdale, Snohomish County
Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District

LIO Support Staff and Anchor QEA

Kit Crump, Snohomish County
Lynn Turner, Anchor QEA
Mary Hurner, Snohomish County

Welcome, Introductions, Public Comments, Announcements

Co-Chair Will Hall opened the meeting, and introductions followed. Will announced that the 2016-2018 Action Agenda was adopted yesterday (June 29th) at the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council meeting.

Update from Puget Sound Partnership

Our Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator, Dan Calvert, added that the new Action Agenda has been characterized as leaner and more focused, with less funding required for the adopted projects. He stated that it is not clear at this point how the implementation money will be distributed. Some of the LIOs are like our Sno Stilly LIO and have already ranked their Near Term Actions (NTAs). Those LIOs are ready to get started awarding funding to a NTA, while others are in the process of prioritizing their NTAs.

Dan stated that recently PSP received the good news that the EPA will continue funding PSP and the implementation of the Action Agenda for 2016. This will be reconsidered in 2017, when a new RFP for ecosystem recovery work will be issued. The EPA will also provide \$5 million for the SIATs (Strategic Initiative Advisory Teams). Strategic Initiative leads will be finalizing the distribution plan. Some level of administrative costs will be extracted to support SIATs members' time and reimbursement will be available through the SITTs, rather than individual LIOs. SAIT Teams will develop the contracts, which will be available in fall or early winter.

Dan noted that the EPA's recent budgetary shortfall that led to a 20% reduction in staff at PSP has been widely publicized. Dan went over the staff cuts and stated that he was picking up some extra duties as the Puyallup River PSP Lead Entity. Will pointed out that there have been other funding cuts related to ecosystem recovery, as the federal salmon dollars from the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) were also reduced. In addition to projects and monitoring, this money is used to support Salmon Lead Entity capacity. Puget Sound Partnership received a number of letters in regard to the ultimate effects

of these cuts, and a letter from Shawn Yanity of the Stillaguamish Tribe was brought to the attention of the Leadership Council by Martha Kongsgaard at their most recent meeting.

Report on Ecosystem Recovery Planning Process

Lynn Turner, Anchor QEA, updated the Committee on the planning team's accomplishments since the March 31st meeting, which resulted in three key recommendations by the Implementation Committee (IC) brought forward to the Executive Committee for consideration during today's meeting:

- The prioritized list of components/Vital Signs
- The prioritized list of pressures impacting the priority components/Vital Signs
- The priority strategies (bundles of actions) to most effectively mitigate the priority pressures and restore the health of the priority components/Vital Signs

Priority Components and Vital Signs: Lynn reviewed the list of ten high priority components/Vital Signs presented to the Executive Committee in a handout of the same name. She noted the IC's emphasis that the "priority" ratings reflect their understanding of the components that are most threatened and where opportunities to address them currently exist. However, IC members emphasized that all of the components are important to long-term recovery of the watersheds. She also noted that the IC's recognition of the strong link between human wellbeing and ecosystem health resulted in their request to address most of the human health and human quality of life components alongside all of the ecosystem components—embedded within the approach to each ecosystem component—rather than prioritized within the list of ecosystem components.

Pat Stevenson of the Stillaguamish Tribe stated that the Tribe sent a letter to Sheida Sahandy, PSP Executive Director, explaining their preference to work on 3-4 high priority Vital Signs. The EC indicated their support for eventually reducing the number of high priority components, but reached a consensus to approve the current IC-recommended list.

Pressure Prioritization: Lynn introduced the priority pressures identification as a means of determining how and why the priority components/Vital Signs continue to show signs of stress and degradation; the interactions between the pressures and components define the recovery hypotheses. She explained how to interpret the pressures handout, which included a matrix with the priority components/Vital Signs across the top and prioritized pressure stressors (symptoms of degradation) and sources (human activities) along the left margin.

Considering at the Pressures handout and the Strategies handout together, Allan Giffen raised concerns about proposing an outreach campaign for dense communities; particularly in terms of its implications in rural areas and without noting mitigation. Lynn explained that the strategy he highlighted (#11 on the Strategies handout) was one idea of what IC members thought could be done to address why conversion continues to be a problem in our watersheds. Lynn suggested that some language regarding specific geographies could provide a finer level of detail and address this concern in a more practical way. Jason Walker advised that we should use planning terminology consistent with the Growth Management Act or Puget Sound Regional Council when discussing land cover protection so there is less confusion. He noted that the [City of Duvall's watershed plan](#) was developed to address how planning for population growth can be accomplished while still protecting natural resources. This plan was developed using a watershed characterization model from the Department of Ecology. Ecology has specific information on land cover planning for the purpose of watershed protection and restoration that can complement regional salmon recovery policies and encourage land use practices within UGAs that are more aligned with salmon recovery goals.

Beth LeDoux asked what the list of priority pressures would be used for, and Lynn clarified that it would be primarily used for strategy development – to identify the pressures that are acting on many high priority components and develop strategies that will have the most impact in addressing them. Dan clarified that at the regional level, PSP is using this planning process to solicit/document local priorities to support actions that address them. Jason raised concerns about the pressure source language attributing stormwater pressure to municipal systems; Lynn clarified that the pressure sources are derived from the regional taxonomy, but we will ensure careful wording in any related materials developed by the Sno-Stilly LIO.

The Committee continued their discussion of the pressures and stressors, and reached a consensus supporting the priority pressures table.

Strategy Prioritization: Lynn explained that the 11 strategies in this handout were developed during a WebEx meeting for IC members held on June 27, in which actions and preliminary strategies were consolidated where possible. The strategies each contain groups of actions to address the priority pressures and emphasize opportunities to do the greatest amount of good for the most priority components/Vital Signs. This emphasis resulted in the IC weighting their scores for the “Potential Impact” criteria greater than the “Feasibility” and “Readiness for Implementation” criteria during strategy prioritization discussion. All strategies address at least one high priority component/Vital Sign.

The EC discussed the various strategies, requesting some clarifications to the wording of the strategies and noting that a strategy for summer stream flow was missing. No decision was made on the current list of strategies. Lynn agreed to refine the current strategies, and develop a new strategy for summer stream flow, in light of the EC’s extensive discussion. A revised draft list will be sent out to the IC and EC for further comment before the end of July.

Next Steps: After the LIO IC and EC agree to a list of priority strategies, the project team will look at how the 2016-2018 NTAs align with these strategies and determine if there are any gaps to address with additional NTAs. Lynn noted that strategies represent planning-level approaches, which will become more targeted when we move to the project (NTA) level. She further noted that some strategies (such as #2 and #11) will need help from the region to implement. These were ranked by the IC as lower for feasibility but higher for potential impact. They are included in order to highlight where regional assistance may be necessary in addition to the LIO’s expected contributions to ecosystem recovery.

We will also be looking at how our goals for priority components/Vital Signs align with and contribute to regional recovery. We will be moving from the strategies that came out of our conceptual modeling to develop results chains. The modeling process will be ongoing in July through August, via WebEx meetings. In early August, the LIO Committee members will see a draft of the Ecosystem Recovery Plan.

On-going Business

Will Hall asked EC members if they would like any changes to the 3/31 meeting notes. No changes were requested, and the meeting notes were approved.

Mary Hurner stated that the job opening for the new LIO Coordinator had closed on Monday. This was part of a recruitment for three Senior Planner II level staff members – one each to serve as the Stilly Lead Entity, the Snohomish Lead Entity and the LIO Coordinator. Surface Water Management has

received 28 applications for these positions. Interviews are scheduled to take place in the latter part of July.

Mary Hurner noted the inclusion of the 2016-2018 Snohomish Stillaguamish NTA list in the meeting packet. She stated that these projects will be our focus for the next two years. Rather than being reported on quarterly as in the past, these NTAs are required to be reported on semi-annually, in April and November each year. Mary stated that the county has a grants coordinator, who is aware of this list, and will keep NTA owners informed of any relevant grant opportunities we become aware of.

Jason Walker announced that the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum tour is coming up on July 20th. Mary Hurner requested that he provide more information, which will be emailed to LIO members in the near future.

With no further business, the meeting ended at 2:30 p.m.

Attachment: Revised draft list of Strategies