

Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Implementation Committee Meeting Summary

*Thursday, October 6, 2016
1:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Drewel Building, Public Meeting Room*

LIO-IC Members

Bill Blake, City of Arlington, Stillaguamish Watershed Council
Valerie Streeter, Tulalip Tribes
Bob Landles, Stillaguamish Clean Water Advisory Board
Elise Gronewald, Port of Everett
Kirk Lakey, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kathleen Herrmann for Paul Clampitt, Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee
Perry Falcone, Snoqualmie Forum
Gregg Farris, Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Steve Rice, Snohomish Health District
Joan Lee, King County
Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District
Kristin Kelly, Pilchuck Audubon Society
Colin Wahl, Tulalip Tribes
Terri Strandberg, Snohomish County Planning and Development Services
Chrys Bertolotto, WSU Extension

Participants

Dan Calvert, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator
Elisa Dawson, Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Bill Pierce, Soaring Swallow Farm
Pat Stevenson, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes

LIO Support Staff

Ann Bylin, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, Planning Supervisor
Kit Crump, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, Senior Planner 2/Stillaguamish Basin Co-Lead Entity
Jessica Hamill, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, Senior Planner 2/LIO Coordinator
Mary Hurner, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, Senior Planner
Alexa Ramos, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, Planner
Beth Liddell, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, Planner

Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment, Announcements

Bill Blake opened the meeting, and introductions followed. There were no members of the public present.

Monte Marti announced Focus on Farming. Gregg Farris recognized the excellent work of Mary Hurner as Interim LIO Coordinator and Jessica Hamill gave Mary a thank you card from the LIO Support Team. Bill Blake introduced Jessica Hamill as the new LIO Coordinator.

Jessica announced that an upcoming survey would be sent out to the Committee in an effort to plan future meetings that will be beneficial to the LIO's mission.

Celebrating the Draft Final Ecosystem Recovery Plan

The committee took a few moments to recognize the achievements they made, as a team, in successfully completing the Draft Final Ecosystem Recovery Plan. Bill Blake and Bill Pierce performed their song “Integration Blues” and refreshments were served.

LIO Administrative Funding

The LIO submitted a final scope of work and budget for a \$75,000 EPA grant to cover the administration of the LIO for the period from the date of execution (around the end of October 2016) through November 30, 2017. This grant differs from that of previous years in that it covers a 14 month period, rather than 12, to allow a more workable amount of time between closing out the existing contract and negotiating a new contract. The contract is in the signature pipeline and should be fully executed soon.

Selection of Sno-Stilly LIO NTA(s) for the \$100,000 Direct Funding Award

There was discussion about whether to select an NTA today and submit by the November 1st early deadline. If the chosen project were to be selected for regional funding, then our LIO would potentially have the chance to pick a different NTA for direct funding. After discussion about the benefits and draw-backs of an early submittal, the group decided to not meet the November 1st early selection date and wait until the November 29th deadline after the region has submitted their recommendations to EPA.

It was then suggested to decide which funding option to pursue, before discussing which NTA(s) to select. The three options are: 1) choose one NTA less than or equal to \$100,000, 2) fund a phase of an NTA that is over \$100,000, and 3) fund multiple NTAs less than or equal to \$100,000. However, upon initial review, the group was undecided as to which option to choose and felt they needed more information to make the selection.

The group’s vigorous discussion narrowed the focus on selection criteria to include: considering whether a project fills gaps (e.g. on-the-ground work or information in the watershed, etc.), which NTAs would provide the most “bang for the buck”, which high-priority projects will “die” if the LIO doesn’t fund them, which projects scored the highest, and which projects have the largest impact on multiple LIO stakeholders.

Ultimately, the group decided to engage the NTA owners before making a decision and reached consensus on the following points: a) We should trust our own ranking process, and select NTA(s) for funding based on the high priority list; (b) Rank should not be the one and only factor in our decisions; (c) The IC will make its final decision on which NTA(s) to fund at its November meeting; (d) Jessica will contact the owners of high-priority NTAs and ask them about scaling, other funding sources, as well as some of the other aforementioned criteria that will assist the Committee with their decision.

The group collectively generated a list of criteria for evaluating the high-priority NTA’s for local funding:

- Regional funding decision (November 10th)
- Is the project still on the table?
- Outputs and outcomes
- Scalability
- Ability to fill important gaps
- Project timeline
- Availability of other funding sources
- Geographic parity
- Extent of impact (geographically and across LIO stakeholders)

On-going Business

Approval or changes to the IC meeting notes: Bill asked if IC members would like to request any changes to the 8/25 meeting notes. No changes were requested and the notes were approved.

Update - Final Draft Snohomish-Stillaguamish Ecosystem Recovery Plan: The Plan was successfully submitted on the September 30th due date. It is anticipated that revisions, updates, and adaptive management of the Plan will continue after this deliverable, including incorporation of any edits based on PSP review and the addition of any other information requested by PSP as part of the federal fiscal year 2016 LIO Coordination Grant. This process is anticipated to culminate in submittal of the final Plan to PSP between April and June of 2017, as indicated in the “Summary of LIO Coordination Grant Scope of Work Deliverables and Budget for October 2016 – November 2017” Subtask 4.02.

Update - Anchor QEA contract extension: The contract has been extended through December 31st to provide three additional products:

1. A public-friendly brochure containing a high-level summary of the main points of the Plan. This content will also be useful to our LIO for presentations and the website.
2. Miradi training session for our staff
3. A crosswalk and enhanced gaps and barriers table for the Final Plan

The costs of these three products will be covered by funds already provided by the Supplemental Grant.

Action Items

1. Jessica will send out a questionnaire to the highest ranked NTAs owners in the LIO to get an understanding of how their project aligns with the list of criteria created at the October 6th meeting. The questionnaire will be sent to the Committee for review prior to being sent to the NTA owners on or before October 26th. The questionnaire responses will be used at the next meeting to select NTA(s) for funding.
2. Jessica, Bill, and others will develop a process for making a final NTA funding decision at the November 17th IC meeting.