

Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Implementation Committee (IC) Meeting Summary

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Drewel Building, Mount Baker Conference Room (6A02)

LIO-IC Members

Bill Blake, City of Arlington, Stillaguamish Watershed Council
Bob Landles, Stillaguamish Clean Water Advisory Board
Elise Gronewald, Port of Everett
Paul Clampitt, Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee
Perry Falcone, Snoqualmie Forum
Gregg Farris, Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Steve Rice, Snohomish Health District
Janne Kaje (for Joan Lee), King County
Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District
Chrys Bertolotto, WSU Extension
Hailey Kimball (for Karen Stewart), City of Everett

Participants

Elisa Dawson, Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Pat Stevenson, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Peggy Campbell, Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Lisa Dulude, Snohomish County Office of Energy and Sustainability
Sean Edwards, Snohomish County Surface Water Management

LIO Support Staff

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
Alexa Ramos, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, Planner
Beth Liddell, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, Planner

1. Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment, Announcements

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

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

Jessica reminded the committee that the deadline to submit their selected NTA(s) to the SI Leads is November 29th.

Jessica reviewed the NTAs that were pulled from consideration by their owners, the fully funded NTAs, and the partially funded NTAs.

Jessica walked through the four options that were developed for selecting NTA(s) for direct funding:

- Option 1: Highest Subcommittee Score
- Option 2: Most High Priority Vital Signs and Very High Priority Stressors Addressed
- Option 3: Will Not Happen without Funds
- Option 4: Apply Option 2 Filter to Option 3 NTAs

As the group began to discuss the four options, a Committee member stated that using Option 1 would be problematic, since the subcommittee scoring process differed significantly across the three Strategic Initiatives. He cautioned against comparing apples to oranges.

An attendee highlighted the progress that has been made with the Fish, Farm, Flood (FFF) effort in the Snoqualmie Valley. He commented that his agency will be disappointed if NTA funding stops at the Snohomish County line. He felt that the IC should take geographic equity into account when selecting NTA(s) for funding.

Another IC member stated that Executive Committee member, Will Hall, has stated that NTAs should be chosen based on LIO priorities – High Priority Vital Signs and/or Stressors – rather than on political/geographic boundaries.

There was a discussion about what activities would be funded if the Fish, Farm, Flood NTA were to receive \$100,000. An attendee familiar with the project described several near term actions that could be funded, including the creation of an agricultural regulations task force, an agricultural strategic planning task force, and a riparian buffer task force. However, he stated that NTA funds would best be used for the riparian buffer component of the FFF project, specifically the development of a science-based strategy for implementing riparian work in agricultural areas.

The NTA owner for the Natural Yard Care Behavior Change Campaign NTA responded to questions. She explained that NTA funding would allow Snohomish County to partner with cities throughout the Puget Sound region to advance the recommendations in a previously completed performance evaluation/BMP analysis. She described the NTA as a locally implemented project with regional impacts.

An IC member familiar with the MRC's Snohomish Estuary Cleanup NTA stated the MRC could make meaningful progress with less than \$100,000. An MRC support staff person added that much of the survey work needed for the project has already been done, so any funding the NTA receives could be put towards strategic planning and actual removal of some creosote-contaminated pilings.

A Committee member pointed out that SCD's Living with Beavers NTA was the highest ranked habitat project. She stated that the project will be drastically scaled back if the IC doesn't select it for funding. She also commented that it's difficult to fund the project because it's more programmatic in nature than other habitat projects, and focuses on process-based restoration. Cindy emphasized that the project is very scalable; any dollar amount would help move the project forward.

Paul made a motion to eliminate from consideration any NTAs that wouldn't have an immediate, on-the-ground habitat improvement benefit. The motion was seconded; the motion passed. As a result, the number of NTAs being considered was reduced to two: the *Living with Beavers* NTA and the *MRC Snohomish Estuary Cleanup* NTA.

After some discussion about the merits of the two projects, **Paul made a motion to split the \$100,000 NTA direct funding award 50/50 between the *Living with Beavers* NTA and the *MRC Snohomish Estuary Cleanup* NTA. The motion was seconded; the motion passed by consensus.**

3. On-going Business

Approval or changes to the IC meeting notes

Bill asked if anyone would like to request changes to the 10/6 meeting notes. No changes were requested and the notes were approved by consensus.

Update - Anchor QEA contract extension

Anchor QEA is assembling a public-friendly brochure containing a high-level summary of our Ecosystem Recovery Plan. The target audience is decision-makers, but the contents of the brochure will also be useful for presentations and the LIO website. A draft overview of the brochure was included with the meeting materials.

Funding Strategy

Snohomish County LIO support staff are developing a funding strategy focused on securing more money for our NTAs. The goal is to have a draft ready for review by the end of the year.

SI Leads Funding Process Update

December 20th is the deadline for SI Leads to submit Final Investment Plans to EPA. Contracting with NTA owners will likely start in early January. Projects should be underway by late March/April.

January 5th Meeting

SI Leads plan to attend the January 5th IC meeting. They're interested in regional-local alignment of selected NTAs. Jessica will send out a survey in advance to solicit questions for the Leads. The survey will also solicit feedback on 2017 meeting frequency and location, as well as any comments related to strengthening the LIO.

4. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m. The next IC meeting is scheduled for January 5th, 2017.