

DRAFT 2017 Vision, Structure, and Timeline

Vision

“Background: When the Partnership was created, Bill Ruckelshaus (the first chair of the Leadership Council and former chair of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board) felt strongly that key missing pieces in recovery efforts were holistic, *ecosystem* focused local organizations to coordinate the narrower focused local organizations (e.g., regional fisheries enhancement groups, lead entities, marine resources committees, conservation districts). The Ecosystem Recovery Director at the time, Joe Ryan, was also a strong proponent of this idea.

The original hope was to have one of the existing local entities broaden its scope to an ecosystem scale. Joe Ryan went around the region meeting with the existing local entities to discuss the need of a coordinating local entity and to see if any of the existing groups were willing/able to broaden its scope. Joe heard support, albeit not resounding, for the need, but not a willingness by any of the existing groups to take on an ecosystem-based mission (Briefing Memo, March 2014).”

Our LIO adds value to the regional efforts toward Puget Sound recovery by reducing the barriers between the Snohomish and Stillaguamish watersheds as well as between participating jurisdictions and organizations. To make progress in addressing the recovery of Puget Sound, we need to take a holistic approach that includes sharing strategies and working toward efficiencies in project implementation. To that end, the LIO is focused on implementing priority actions that will accelerate a holistic approach to ecosystem recovery in the Stillaguamish and Snohomish watersheds. The actions supported by LIO should align with and support those of the existing watershed groups, as well as those of other groups (i.e. SLS and the MRC) that are also working to accelerate the pace of ecosystem recovery.

The focus of future meetings should be three-fold:

1. **Gaps:** Address gaps related to planning, monitoring, and adaptive management, as outlined in the ***Gaps and Barriers*** memorandum (i.e. data needs, monitoring common indicators, funding for monitoring, NTA solicitation/review criteria, prioritization of recovery strategies etc.).
2. **Barriers to Progress:** Address barriers to projects outlined in the ***Gaps and Barriers*** memorandum, as well as the issues of importance/barriers to progress for the LIO (see draft ***Topics of Interest/Activities*** list below).
 - a. **Proposed goal:** to identify a project the LIO can work on over the next year (i.e. the optimum structure that could be an example for the rest of the State).
3. **Education and Collaboration:** Periodically, incorporate presentations that inform or update LIO members on program/project successes, lessons learned from implementing projects in our watershed(s), regulatory changes and other relevant topics.

Structure Goals

The LIO's guiding principles would be to:

- Use existing structures where available and avoid duplicative processes;
- Add value and clearly enhance capacities to implement the Action Agenda;
- Be sensitive to staff time/resources and to redirecting efforts from other actions;
- Have clear purpose, benefits, and deliverables;
- Ensure time commitments are commensurate with potential benefit; and
- Remain flexible and responsive to member and stakeholder interests.

Topics of Interest/Activities

As part of the LIO mission to coordinate and integrate, LIO Committee meetings will include time to discuss topics of interest and corresponding activities. Topics of interest would ideally be related to addressing gaps and/or barriers to progress toward ecosystem recovery. In some cases, it may be best to discuss these issues by basin as the impacts will vary. It may also be necessary to assign some of these topics to a subcommittee if they are too in depth for the Committee to discuss.

Possible topics of interest for 2017 include but are not limited to the following:

1. Funding navigation/grant writing-both basins (supports SSLIO 03.1)
-This could be combined with #2
2. NTA development-both basins (supports SSLIO 01.2, 02.1)
-By type of action (i.e. education/outreach, planning, and capital) or SI?
3. Regional priority setting-both basins
-This will be on the activities calendar-timeline being developed with PSP
4. Implementation strategies-both basins
-Integrate into LIO Plan/Strategies
5. Vital Sign goal setting-both basins (remaining VS's)
-Identified as a gap for the LIO as we do not have goals for 6 of the 10 VS's
6. Instream flows-by basin (support SSLIO 09.1)
7. Integrated planning-by basin (supports all strategies)
-Address elements such as implementation of GMA, SLR (nearshore and estuarine protection/restoration), groundwater resources (summer stream flows VS and SSLIO 9.1), and water quality (stormwater and OSS, and NPS)
8. Outreach for SI's and priority VS's (support SSLIO 4.1,5.1, 6.1)
-This would be targeted toward outreach and education NTA development

Lessons Learned in our Watershed(s)

As part of the mission of the LIO is to focus on implementing our 5-year Ecosystem Recovery Plan, the LIO will also include time during meetings to celebrate success, whether it be from

projects that have been implemented or planning efforts that are building community trust or anything in between.

Some potential successes to celebrate include but are not limited to the following:

Small Project Examples:

1. NTA's that have been implemented?
2. Local projects in both basins?

Large Project Examples:

1. Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration project
2. Smith Island Restoration project
3. King County Fish, Farm, and Flood Agreement in Principle

LIO Structure Timeline

Date	Task
1/11/17	LE's for both basins and LIO Coordinator meet to discuss 2017 overlap: Look at SLS overlap
1/17/17	FbD, LIO, LE, SLS meeting to discuss synergy
1/12-1/31/17	Incorporate overlap possibilities: common topics, gaps/barriers, and status and trends
2/16/17	Send Activities Calendar and Topics to IC and LE's
2/23/16	Feedback from IC and LE's Received
2/27-3/3/17	Incorporate Feedback from IC and LE's
3/6/17	Send to EC for review & discussion at 3/16/17 EC meeting
3/31/17	Send Final Activities Calendar to IC and LE's- (Implement 4/20/17 IC meeting)
April-May	Test alternative structure models w IC and LE's
6/8/17	Present preferred LIO structure model to EC
8/24/16	Present preferred LIO structure model w/ feedback from EC to IC and LE's
9/7/17	Finalize preferred structure-Involve regional partners (PSP/EPA)

Meeting Schedule

Executive Committee

All meetings are scheudled in the Drewel Building, 6th Floor, Room 6A04, from 1 – 3 p.m.

- March 16th, Thursday
- June 8th, Thursday
- September 7th, Thursday
- December 7th, Thursday

Implementation Committee

All meetings are scheduled in the Drewel Building, Public Meeting Room, from 1 – 4 p.m.

- January 5th, Thursday
- February 16th, Thursday: CANCELLED (Subcommittee work)
- April 20th, Thursday
- May 25th, Thursday
- July 27th, Thursday: CANCELLED (Subcommittee work)?
- August 24th, Thursday
- October 19th, Thursday: CANCELLED (Subcommittee work)?
- November 16th, Thursday

Implementation Committee Subcommittees

Subcommittees are established on an informal basis as needed to serve a particular purpose, such as studying an issue in depth. Subcommittee meeting information will be noted on the Subcommittee meeting webpage, <http://snohomishcountywa.gov/3048/LIO---Implementation-Committee-Subcommit>.

1. Monitoring: Regional/Local Indicators and Funding
2. LIO Organization: Structure and Activities Calendar
3. Goals and Priorities: Update goals and prioritization efforts