

Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Executive Committee Meeting Summary

*Friday, July 28, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

Snohomish County Campus, Drewel Building, 6A04

LIO EC Members

Joan Lee (for Christie True), King County
Tom Stiger, Port of Everett
Will Hall, Snohomish County
Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes
Allen Giffen, City of Everett
Ryan Larsen, City of Stanwood
Pat Stevenson, Stillaguamish Tribe

Participants

Ryan Williams, Snohomish Conservation District
Dan Calvert, Puget Sound Partnership
Valerie Streeter, Tulalip Tribes

LIO Support Staff

Alexa Ramos, Snohomish County
Kit Crump, Snohomish County
Jessica Hamill, Snohomish County

Welcome, Introductions, Public Comments

Co-Chair Will Hall opened the meeting, introductions followed, and the agenda was reviewed. There were no members of the public present and no public comments.

On-going Business & Updates

Approval of December meeting minutes

Jessica Hamill asked Executive Committee (EC) members if they would like any changes made to the 12/1/16 meeting notes. No changes were requested and the meeting notes were approved by consensus.

Approval of Final Snohomish Stillaguamish LIO Ecosystem Recovery Plan

The Final Ecosystem Recovery Plan was approved and submitted on June 30, 2017.

Letter of Support

Jessica reviewed the draft letter with the EC. Ryan explained the rate changes from \$5/parcel to \$10/parcel and from an assessment to rates and charges system. The only revision made was removing Christie True's signature due to concerns about King County endorsing rate changes in another County. There was concern raised about Will signing the letter to Council, as a County employee, but after much discussion the EC supported him signing it as the LIO co-chair. Terry motioned to approve the letter, Allan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget

The House Budget is proposing to allocate \$28 million for the EPA (Puget Sound) which is the same as last year. Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF) appear steady as well. However, the State Capital Budget has not passed yet. Water rights/exempt wells in rural areas (i.e. the Hirst decision) are delaying the State capital budget negotiations. Dan noted that no one can access the PCSRF funds right now and many lead entities only have funds through September. It will be challenging to keep staff and human infrastructure in areas that don't have the capacity funding the way Snohomish County lead entity coordinators do. At PSP, there are two vacant positions that have been put on hold. One third of the agency is funded with PCSRF dollars so they're not sure what will happen in September. Terry commented that some of the Tulalip Tribes staff are also funded by the capital budget appropriations.

Letter of Resignation

Jessica reviewed the resignation letter from Bill Blake. This means that the LIO Implementation Committee (IC) co-chair and EC's City of Arlington seat is now vacant. The EC agreed to send Bill a 'Thank you' letter. Jessica will send the draft around for review. Additionally, Deborah Knight is moving to the City of Monroe so her seat will be vacant as well. Ryan Larsen, with the City of Stanwood, is filling in for now but we are not certain if this will be a permanent replacement for Deborah's seat. The EC agree to wait until the conclusion of the LIO restructure process to being to fill vacant seats as that process could result in the LIO splitting by watershed boundary.

LIO Phase II: Implementation

Review and discuss draft Vision, Objectives, and Work Plan

Joan suggested having less EC meetings (i.e. EC would meet 2x/year, IC quarterly, and subcommittees more frequently) and establishing a subcommittee framework that could also reduce the meeting frequency required for IC members. There was concern that less frequent meetings could result in less communication and have negative impacts on decision making. Jessica noted that the EC is the decision making body for the LIO so less frequent meetings could cause a "back log" of decisions. The EC agreed that certain decisions could be delegated to the IC and others could be made via other means like email. There were no objections to reducing the number of meetings for the upcoming year.

Jessica reviewed the draft vision, objectives and work plan with the EC. A briefing document was provided. Joan suggested that "efficiency" be moved to the top of the LIO structure criteria. After discussion about meeting frequencies and the aforementioned proposal to reduce the number of meetings, the work plan was approved.

Review Local Customization of Regional Priorities

The drafts are due Monday and will be discussed at the August 1st LIO coordinators meeting. The \$100,000 LIO direct allocation recommendation is due September 22nd to the Strategic Initiative Leads. Jessica reviewed the IC's criteria for selection. The decision on which NTA(s) to recommend for funding to the EC will be made at the August 24 IC meeting. Will suggested delegating the final decision to the IC assuming they are in fact able to choose. Will motioned. Joan seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

2018 NTA Development and Review

The local process for 2018 NTA development and review is due to PSP by September 30th. The EC will meet later in September to approve this process. This is an important step as this process can set the

stage for project development and review at the local level. The goal is to make the process as efficient and effective as possible.

LIO Restructure Evaluation & LIO Effectiveness

Update on subcommittee work

Jessica reviewed the progress the subcommittee has made so far via a briefing document. After meeting in November of 2016 with the Snohomish County Executive, the subcommittee was formed to explore restructuring the LIO to gain additional efficiency and effectiveness. They have since met four times. Jessica has interviewed the majority of the IC and other LIOs for feedback on the issue. At the moment, the subcommittee is working to narrow the list of alternative models to begin vetting these alternatives with the LIO and Lead Entity groups. Jessica presented the top three models being considered and the criteria being used to select the best one. Dan gave an update on the status of the South Central LIOs restructure and the interest by the Puyallup Watershed Council in forming their own LIO. In fact, the Puyallup Watershed Council is already forming an LIO and participating in the regional priority setting/local context process.

Will suggested running a pilot joint meeting with the LIO and Forum when it seems appropriate.

Pat noted that the last SWC meeting included well received presentations on the proposed shellfish downgrade and was well-attended. The LIO and SWC will be looking for additional opportunities to test a combined structure model. Kit and Jessica will work to identify the most appropriate topics and dates for this pilot effort.

Terry commented on increasing federal involvement in the LIO and Jessica suggested making better use of the Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) and Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) to elevate key issues. Will and others agreed that the ECB involves representatives who are critical to accelerating/addressing certain issues and are perspectives that are not represented on the LIO.

Recovery Gaps and Barriers

Jessica reviewed the gaps and barriers briefing document, as well as the table. Due to time constraints, Jessica introduced the topic and the Committee agreed to table discussion until the next EC meeting. Terry spoke of communications with CEQ and sending a letter to the coastal zone office. Joan suggested Terry send any correspondence to Joan, Will, and Jessica.

Action Items and Next Steps

1. Jessica will send the signed letter of support for the SCD rate changes.
2. Jessica will draft a letter of thanks to Bill Blake and send around for review.
3. Jessica/Alexa will a Doodle Poll to attempt to reschedule the September meeting to later in the month.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.