

Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Executive Committee Meeting Summary

Thursday, September 7, 2017

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 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

Participants

Erin Ryan-Peñuela (for Dan Calvert), Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)

Valerie Streeter, Tulalip Tribes

Erik Stockdale, Snohomish County

Ann Bylin, Snohomish County

Sono Hashisaki, Springwood Assoc./Tulalip Tribes

LIO Support Staff

Alexa Ramos, 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 July meeting minutes

Will asked Executive Committee (EC) members if they would like any changes made to the 7/28/17 meeting notes. No changes were requested and the meeting notes were approved by consensus.

Announcements

Erin gave an update on regional topics of interest. A capital budget has yet to be accepted. This ties up many funding sources like PSAR, ESRP, Fbd, etc. There is funding through the end of the year for PSP staff and Lead Entities (LE) but the future is uncertain as there is no guarantee a capital budget will be passed following December.

The 2018 Action Agenda solicitation for public comment has closed. The draft NTA solicitation is out now and the final should be released in November. Pre-registration will likely be due in December and final Fact Sheets would need to be submitted in February. The Action Agenda is now on a 4-year update schedule and this round of NTAs scored by the region will factor the local LIO scores into their ranking, which are improvements over the previous round.

In light of the recent net pen incident involving the unintended release of farmed Atlantic Salmon, the PSP is putting together a letter in support of the moratorium until a full investigation is conducted.

Terry spoke about treaty rights at risk and the fact that new development permits are outpacing efforts to restore and protect natural resources. There are a few key obstacles to recovery and the Tribe is working with Federal partners to identify mechanisms that would address some of those obstacles.

Recovery Gaps and Barriers

Jessica reviewed the gaps and barriers briefing document with the committee.

Terry referred to concerns that the new Paine Field development is not required to implement stormwater reduction standards. Will said he would follow up regarding this concern, but assured the group the Airport is required to abide by the same stormwater regulations as any private development.

Jessica gave a brief update on the restructure process. The Stillaguamish Watershed Council (SWC) is interested in a basin specific focus, whether that is a separate Implementation Committee (IC) or a separate LIO. The Snohomish Basin LE has had preliminary discussions about the level of integration with the LIO and are open to continuing the conversation. Jessica relayed some of the questions they are grappling with as part of the restructure conversation. Some of those questions are: What purpose would a reimagined EC serve? Is the EC serving its original purpose?

Erin noted that the Puyallup Watershed Council is doing a test case/pilot of a new LIO structure, but they're not seeking any formalization yet. Joan noted that the South-Central LIO restructure discussion has not evolved to the level of discussing alternative scenarios.

Jessica reminded the group that the IC has had concerns about the process heavy focus with not enough implementation. The IC is interested in what issues they should be working on. Accordingly, there should be a "vision/purpose" feedback loop between the members of the IC and the EC such that the IC (and any ad-hoc working groups) are confident that their work is supported by upper management and elected officials. When the structure of the LIO was first discussed in 2010, the groups had advocated for four separate LIOs, noting implementation being easier to accomplish at the basin scale. The current LIO structure made sense during the planning phase, when broad agreement around local priorities was needed. However, a watershed scale structure makes sense for implementation which is why we have been having the structure conversation over the last year.

There was discussion about whether and how to bring Federal/State agencies to the table. It was suggested that the ECB could be utilized as a conduit to elevate issues. It was noted that inviting Federal/State agency staff to so many different committee meetings can result in capacity issues. For example, when the LIO started some staff began attending those meetings and stopped attending the Snohomish LE meetings.

Terry commented that the LIO was never designed to serve the same purpose as the LEs. It was intended to address the regulations that are imposed on the LE projects and this is where the LIO can provide the most value.

There was a lot of discussion around gaps and barriers. The goal of reviewing the local gaps and barriers is to pick something to focus on working towards. **The group supported focusing on the LIO organization (an identified barrier) and this will be the main topic of discussion at the December EC meeting.**

LIO IC Updates

2017 Direct Allocation Decision

The IC met on August 24th to determine the \$100,000 LIO direct allocation recommendation due to the Strategic Initiative Leads. Jessica reviewed the IC's criteria for selection, the voting process, and which NTA was chosen recommend for funding. The Latino Stormwater and LID Outreach Project is the highest ranked NTA and met all the selection criteria agreed to by the IC. There was good discussion around NTAs but there are still some issues with the local process for selecting what to fund with the \$100,000. Some of those issues will be discussed as the subcommittee begins to work out the local process around 2018 NTA development and review.

2018 NTA Development and Review Process

The local process for 2018 NTA development and review is due to PSP by October 2nd. 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, recognizing the concerns that were raised surrounding previous allocation rounds. As the local process is due before the next EC meeting, the EC approved delegating the decision to the IC unless there is an impasse, in which case the issue would be elevated to the EC for a special meeting if there is no regular meeting scheduled.

Tulalip Tribes Harmonization Initiative

Sono and Terry presented on this effort. See briefing handout more information. The impetus for the project was the need for a tool that would standardize the methods of assessing habitat that could lead to some regulatory streamlining, particularly at the Federal level. The proposal is to use the EDT model to build scenarios with EMDS such that a habitat response to a given scenario is revealed.

The Tribe has had preliminary conversations with the key Federal agencies, including Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA. Scenario building and prediction models, utilizing climate change and population growth predictions, will be an element of the project. Phase I will focus on building the tool and Phase II will focus on testing the tool using a local project as an example. There will be a preliminary demonstration on October 19th. Jessica noted that there was insufficient time to work with Sono on a draft letter of support from the LIO. The Tribe would like a letter of support from the LIO encouraging the Federal agencies to engage in this harmonization initiative. Jessica will work with Terry and Sono to draft the letter for review by the IC.

It was noted that this is not the first time something like this has been attempted and suggested that the Tribe/consultants inventory past trials to see what lessons can be learned (e.g. Watershed Characterization).

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Action Items and Next Steps

1. Jessica will work with Sono and Terry to draft the letter of support for Committee review.
2. Jessica will structure the December meeting around the LIO organization topic and planning for 2018.