

Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Executive Committee Meeting Summary

Thursday, October 24,, 2019

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Snohomish County Campus, Admin West, 6A03

LIO EC Members

Gregg Farris, Snohomish County

Tom Stiger, Port of Everett

Linda Lyshall, Snohomish Conservation District

Ikuno Masterson, Snohomish County Planning & Development Services

Terri Strandberg, Snohomish County Planning & Development Services

Participants

Erin Murray, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)

Ann Bylin, Snohomish County

Libby Gier, Dept. of Natural Resources

Rachel Bouchillon, Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

LIO Support Staff

Donald "Kit" Crump, Snohomish County

Alexa Ramos-Cummings, Snohomish County

Introductions

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

Approval of September meeting minutes

Gregg asked Executive Committee (EC) members if they would like any changes made to the 4/18/19 meeting notes. No changes were requested and the meeting notes were approved by consensus.

Meeting Purpose & Goals

Gregg reviewed the meeting's purpose and goals. During this meeting attendees will:

- Learn and share recent updates of interest to the LIO
- Learn about regional efforts to understand the patterns of residential development around Urban Growth Areas
- Engage in and provide feedback on the regional development of the Land Development & Cover Implementation Strategy

LIO Business

LIO Coordinator transition update

The hiring process is currently underway. The position recruitment closed on October 13th. An interview will be held next week. Hopefully, the new coordinator will be in place by mid-November.

Snohomish NTA direct award update

This year's \$100K direct award allocation decision falls in the Snohomish basin. In 2017, the LIO decided to trade off allocation decisions each year alternating between both watersheds. Last year, the Stillaguamish Watershed Council set their funding priorities for the 2018-2022 Action Agenda. Now, it's the Snohomish basin's turn to do the same. At their last Implementation Committee meeting they set their top 25 NTAs. Next, the goal for the November 20th meeting is to narrow the list to the top 10 projects and select a recipient for this year's award.

LIO Engagement and Ecosystem Coordination Board update

The initial memo and discussion from the August ECB meeting was recapped for the group. The behind-the-scenes work that has taken place since then was reviewed; the partnership met with LIO coordinators and drafted a response memo. The goal is to elevate the discussion to the Leadership Council. Sno-Stilly LIO staff have met twice with our ECB representative, Ron Wesen, to get him familiar with our priorities and needs. This will help amplify our voice and increase engagement with the ECB. Kit submitted a comment on the first draft of PSP's response memo encouraging them to clarify the feedback mechanism they described. There is an upcoming PSP-EPA-LIO meeting in mid-December to discuss the NEP funding model. We have identified Sno-Stilly LIO representatives to attend. The meeting goals and agenda will be discussed further at the LIO coordinators meeting on November 5th so we will have more information after that time.

The committee decided to hold a phone conference with Ron Wesen to discuss the response memo before the ECB meeting.

Regional Updates

The Leadership Council met two weeks ago and PSP's Mobilizing Funding Initiative was a topic discussed. This started two years ago when PSP hired a consultant to explore an interest in corporate philanthropy as a means to fund Puget Sound recovery. The consultants developed five alternatives to increase funding. You can learn more by accessing the meeting materials on the Leadership Council's website.

The five alternatives are:

1. Implementing a parcel tax through regional authority on single family homes
2. Creating an orca dollars program by establishing a nonprofit to tap into the tourism industry through a \$1 donation ask
3. Puget Sound Innovation Center – a lean solution for PSP
4. Performance measures alternative to change how we do restoration by tying actions to specific metrics for increased accountability
5. NOAA shoreline development permit fee

There was discussion around why the initial philanthropy focus was dropped.

The second LIO-LE Workshop, convened by PSP, took place on September 17th. The first workshop at the beginning of the year focused on identifying problem areas. This subsequent workshop was more focused on solutions. PSP will be reviewing the recommendations that came out of the recent workshop with LIO coordinators at their November 5th meeting. Then they will be presented to the ECB and SRC.

PSP is working to revise the Vital Signs through a collaborative process. There was a workshop on October 10th. Surveys are also being distributed to collect feedback. The end goal is for the Vital Signs to be revised by June 2020.

Development around UGAs

Libby Gier with Dept. of Natural Resources presented on the Land Development & Cover Vital Sign revision process. The revision seeks to incorporate LIO ecosystem recovery plan context. An effort occurred in 2015 to develop the LDC Implementation Strategy, but the result lacked specificity, was not very meaningful, and too broad to be actionable. This is what the current effort aims to improve. Libby will be working with 9-10 LIOs and we are the first that she has met with so far.

Libby reviewed the responses to her survey from the Sno-Stilly LIO. There was discussion about the resulting map of priority areas for protection and restoration.

Kit and Alexa can work with Libby to provide input from the basin technical groups for the fish perspective on priorities. The group discussed how there are also flood and hydrologic considerations to account for. The map also changes based on whether you either combine both protection and restoration priority areas or separate them i.e.) the headwaters are a high priority for protection, but not for restoration. Staff from the county Planning Dept. commented that this information could be helpful for the comprehensive plan update at a parcel scale. There was a question about whether the map is also supposed to account for pressures.

There was discussion about SWM's previous riparian land cover analysis conducted 10-20 years ago. There has been more recent LIDAR work happening in the area.

Libby asked about what available data we have that could inform the project. In the past, it has seemed like agencies have lots of data, but have not had meaningful conversations about how these types of maps reflect our values.

Kit described the Stilly floodplain pilot work that was completed with Jen Burke.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Action Items and Next Steps

1. Erin will set-up a meeting with Ron Wesen and key committee members in preparation for the November 13th ECB meeting.
2. Kit and Alexa will work with Libby to get data and technical feedback on priority areas
3. The PSP response memo will be circulated for LIO member comments