

# Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Implementation Committee

## Meeting Summary

*Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015*

*2:00 – 3:30 p.m.*

*Snohomish County Campus, Drewel Building, Conference Room E-6A04*

### Attendees:

Bill Blake, City of Arlington, Stillaguamish Watershed Council  
Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe  
Tim Miller, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe  
Debbie Terwilleger, Snohomish County  
Tom Hoban, Sno Co. Marine Resources Committee  
Christine Betchley, Stillaguamish Clean Water District  
Sean Edwards, Snohomish County Surface Water Management  
Ralph Svrjcek, Washington State Dept. of Ecology  
Josh Kubo, Tulalip Tribes  
Mary Cunningham, City of Everett  
Perry Falcone, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum/King County  
Chrys Bertolotto, Snohomish-Camano Eco-Net  
Gregg Farris, Snohomish County Surface Water Management  
Ann Bylin, Snohomish County Surface Water Management  
Heather Cole, Puget Sound Partnership  
Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District  
Robert Sendrey, Sound Salmon Solutions  
Andy Noone, Sound Salmon Solutions  
Aaron Copado, WSU Extension  
Lisa Rozmyn, WSU, Washington Stormwater Center  
Karen Stewart, LIO Coordinator, Snohomish County Surface Water Management  
Mary Hurner, Snohomish County Surface Water Management

### **Introductions, Announcements and Public Comments**

Karen Stewart, LIO Coordinator, opened the meeting with introductions, and asked for public comment. There was no public comment. No changes to the July 22, 2014 meeting summary were requested.

There were two announcements:

- Sean Edwards, Snohomish County staff to the Stillaguamish River Clean Water District, introduced the “Savvy Septic Grant and Loan Programs”. The goal of these programs is to improve water quality through the maintenance, repair and replacement of on-site septic systems on owner-occupied residential properties. Sean provided two handouts on the programs, which are funded by the Washington State Department of Ecology and administered by Snohomish County.
- Chrys Bertolotto, representing Snohomish-Camano Eco-Net, provided a handout and bookmark on the WSU Beach Watcher Training Program. The program provides interested citizens the

knowledge and experience to become a professionally-trained volunteer. Applications for the training are due on March 13th.

## Updates

*Executive Committee:* Over the past six months, Karen stated that the Executive Committee has been helping implement the Near Term Actions (NTAs) by issuing letters of endorsement for projects relating to the NTAs. Ten letters have been prepared.

*LIO logo:* Karen noted that this correspondence highlighted the need for a logo and letterhead. She handed out a sheet with a sampling of four different logo choices, each in two different color schemes; inviting committee members to vote by circling the choice they liked best. After the choices were collected and tallied, the one with the most votes was:



*LIO webpage:* Karen demonstrated the new Snohomish Stillaguamish LIO webpage, and how to find it from the county's main webpage ([www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org), type "LIO" in the search box). Within the LIO webpage, there are individual pages for the Implementation Committee and Executive Committee, which contain meeting agendas, meeting notes, and other pertinent documents.

*EPA funding model:* Karen handed out a copy of a letter, dated November 26, 2014, to Angela Bonifaci, EPA Puget Sound Team Lead. The letter, signed by representatives of five LIOs, communicated support for an alternative recommended funding approach for the National Estuary Program similar to the one used for Salmon Recovery Funding in the watersheds. Monte Marti stated that he and Terry Williams attended the September 26, 2014 meeting in Edmonds during which alternative funding approaches were discussed. He recommended that the Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO focus on this issue at the local level, as the LIO needs to know how the process will work before funding is awarded.

*Re-appointment letter:* Karen stated that the LIO Committee positions were for two year terms, and expired in September. She distributed a letter that will be sent to all the organizations presently participating to encourage them to re-appoint representatives to both LIO committees. Monte stated that the Executive Committee presently did not have representation from private landowners and raised the question about how to get more information about the LIO out to the public. Karen stated that the committee positions can be discussed when the Implementation Committee considers the Bylaws later on in the agenda.

*Puget Sound Partnership update:* Heather Cole provided two handouts:

- "Upcoming 2015 Grant Solicitation for Improving Land Use Management in Puget Sound Watersheds": This handout provided information on National Estuary Program (NEP) Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant Program. Projects submitted for this grant award must take a landscape-scale approach and focus on protecting and restoring key locations critical to maintaining watershed processes in the Puget Sound area. An informational meeting and training on the new application process was scheduled for January 29<sup>th</sup>.
- "Watershed Groups Review": PSP wants to strengthen the LIOs to achieve Action Agenda goals – but what's the best way to do that? PSP hired a consultant, Ross Strategic, to review and

analyze the existing ecosystem and salmon recovery structure and present recommendations. The consultants chose 3 criteria and provided 30 recommendations within their final report, which is on PSP's website.

## Action Items

*Review and Update LIO Bylaws:* Section 5.0 of the Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Bylaws requires that the Executive and Implementation Committees review the effectiveness of the Bylaws on an annual basis. Mary Hurner handed out copies of the Bylaws and led the group through a section-by-section review. The copy contained some initial edits provided by staff for clarity and enhancement and these were considered as well.

A revised version of the Bylaws is provided as an attachment to this meeting summary. Substantive changes, suggested and approved by the Implementation Committee, and questions raised, are as follows:

- Section 2.0 - Mission: suggested adding *"and (3) communicate needed information back to the community."* [Italics indicate new language.]
- Section 3.1.1 – Membership (Executive Committee): The Implementation Committee raised the question of how to address landowner representation on the LIO Executive Committee.
- Section 3.2.1 – Membership (Implementation Committee): The Implementation Committee raised the question of whether the structure of the Implementation Committee can be addressed without knowing how EPA's funding model will change. They encouraged the Executive Committee to look at this now, before a funding model has been determined.
- Section 3.2.2- Leadership: Rather than continuing to work with an Agenda Subcommittee on the agendas and have no formal chair for the Implementation Committee, Karen proposed changes to this section for the group's consideration. The Implementation Committee approved the changes so the section would read as follows: *"The Implementation Committee will select a Chair and an alternate to preside over committee meetings, assist in the development of meeting agendas, and make recommendations to the LIO Executive Committee. The LIO Coordinator, in consultation with the Chair, will schedule LIO Implementation Committee meetings on behalf of the LIO Implementation Committee.*
- Section 3.2.3- Terms: *"The LIO Implementation Committee Chair and Alternate will serve two year terms."*

Mary stated that the Bylaws would be updated with the changes as noted and sent to the Implementation Committee before being passed to the Executive Committee for consideration.

During the Bylaws discussion, Chrys Bertolotto, Snohomish-Camano Eco-Net, stated that she had concerns that there was not a lot of coordination and connection between allied organizations and the LIO, and she would like to see better communication. It was pointed out that the ECO-Net has a set on the LIO-IC and the MRC, and two NGOs also have seats.

*Nominations and selection of Implementation Committee Chair and Alternate:* After some discussion, Bill Blake offered to chair the next meeting in March. He favored giving others more time to consider volunteering, so a decision on the Implementation Committee Chair was postponed until the next meeting. Chrys Bertolotto offered to serve as Alternate, and support whomever was selected as Chair.

## Discussion Item

A discussion of functions to support the Executive Committee was postponed due to lack of time.

## Presentation on NTA

Andy Noone and Robert Sendry, of Sound Salmon Solutions, provided a handout and gave a presentation on an educational program they developed for elected officials and decision makers. Branded "Watershed Education for Decision Makers", this program provides politically-neutral, science-based content covering a diverse set of topics such as watershed concepts, stormwater, the legal framework, and salmon recovery, local salmon recovery groups and funding. The program can be viewed in its entirety or by individual modules, depending on the decision makers' needs. It was developed with input from both future users and conservation professionals, and corresponds to NTA 9. Digital and print versions are available through Sound Salmon Solution.

## Roundtable Reports

*Update on the Kendall Creek water quality assessment:* Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, stated that Kendall Creek has a history of high fecal coliform and water quality sampling has been ad hoc. The Tribe has been able to coordinate 3 different dates during the dry season and late fall wet season for auto sampling. The sampling showed degradation, with evidence of human-caused input; leading the Tribe to suspect degraded septic systems nearby. However, the results of the auto sampling have been inconsistent, so additional investigation is required.

*Update on knotweed and knotweed control:* Matt stated that need to know which organizations on the Implementation Committee are working on the knotweed problem, and where. It would be helpful for the LIO to establish direct funding so we can figure out priorities and how to address knotweed. The LIO is a good place to house this effort, since it spans both watersheds. Knotweed is still a priority for the tribes and we need more capacity.

Ralph Svrjcek asked the group if there were any active solicitations. He stated that he was not aware of the negative effects of knotweed on Chinook.

Sean Edwards stated that he had been trying to get the Snohomish Health District involved, but they are short staffed and lack funding to participate. He said that more than half of the county's population lives in cities but cities don't contribute funds to the Health District. The Health District will be having a planning retreat on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Ken Klein, Snohomish County Councilman representing District 1, is the Vice Chair of the Board of Health.

## Discussion Item

*LIO Work Plan:* Karen distributed copies of the work plan and the quarterly status of the NTAs. She stated that there were 90 entries to track (NTAs and performance measures), and she would like feedback on which ones the participating groups would like to roll over into 2016. A discussion of the LIO work plan was postponed until the next meeting, due to lack of time.