

# Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Implementation Committee Meeting Summary

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

*9:00 – 11:30 a.m.*

*Snohomish County Campus, Drewel Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Public Meeting Room*

## **Attendees:**

Ann Bylin, Snohomish County Surface Water Management  
Bill Blake, City of Arlington, Stillaguamish Watershed Council  
Cara Ianni, Puget Sound Partnership  
Chrys Bertolotto, Snohomish-Camano Eco-Net  
Dave Somers, Snohomish County Council  
David Steiner, Snoqualmie Tribe  
Denise Di Santo, Snohomish County Surface Water Management/ Snohomish Basin Lead Entity  
Glynnis Casey, Tulalip Tribes  
Gregg Farris, Snohomish County Surface Water Management  
Hannah Kett, King EConet  
Heather Cole, Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator  
Janell Majewski, Snohomish County Surface Water Management  
Joan Lee, King County  
Josh Kubo, Tulalip Tribes  
Karen Stewart, LIO Coordinator, Snohomish County Surface Water Management  
Kelly Wynn, Stillaguamish Clean Water District  
Kirk Lakey, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Kit Crump, Snohomish County Surface Water Management/ Stillaguamish Basin Co-Lead Entity  
Kristin Kelly, Futurewise and Pilchuck Audubon  
Mary Cunningham, City of Everett  
Mary Hurner, Snohomish County Surface Water Management  
Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District  
Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes  
Perry Falcone, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum/King County  
Robert Sendrey, Sound Salmon Solutions  
Scott Redman, Puget Sound Partnership  
Stef Frenzl, Snohomish County Surface Water Management / STORM representative  
Tom Hoban, Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee

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

Bill Blake, Sno-Stilly Implementation Committee Chair, opened the meeting and introductions followed. There was no public comment.

Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District, provided background information on the Snohomish Conservation District's recent request for a letter of endorsement supporting a pilot project, the Regional Dairy Engagement Initiative. He stated that the goal of the project is to facilitate improved nutrient management for the 61 dairies in the Central Puget Sound area (Island, King, Pierce and Snohomish counties). This

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improvement would be realized through funding for a dedicated dairy planner who can serve the whole group, regardless of their location. Monte added that he brought the project to the attention of the Department of Ecology, the Snohomish County Sustainable Lands Strategy, and Floodplains by Design so far, and it aligns with a number of Sno-Stilly LIO NTAs.

In response to Monte's request, LIO Members had several comments:

- Would the Conservation District be seeking letters of endorsement from other LIO's, since the project area is so broad?
- If so, who would own the NTAs?
- Has the Conservation District been working with the King Conservation District, and is this project in their draft plan? (Monte stated that he believes it is.)
- One member advised that Monte add a sentence to the proposal to clarify that the Snohomish Conservation District will be taking the lead on this work.

Karen Stewart, LIO Coordinator, stated that the LIO does not have a formal process for letters of endorsement that would cover timeline, content and committee review, but it is needed. Recently, there have been a number of last-minute requests for these letters, which are signed by Dave Somers. Although no requests have been denied thus far, the short turn around has been difficult to accommodate. Karen stated that she would draft a process, as well as a letter of support for the Conservation District's project, for the Implementation Committee (IC) to consider at their May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. After incorporating IC input, both will then be forwarded to the Executive Committee (EC).

A suggestion was made to make the letters of endorsement available on the LIO website. This action would have to be approved by the EC, since the letters have been signed by Dave Somers. Karen noted that the letters do not contain specific information on the projects, so that information (provided by the letter of endorsement's requestor) would also need to be posted. Karen will bring this up at the next EC meeting.

Committee members indicated their desire to see the LIO website (<http://snohomishcountywa.gov/831/Local-Integrating-Organization>) serve as a reliable resource for the LIO, with all meeting materials and a library of relevant documents and studies. Karen stated that she would work toward that goal.

## **Discussion/Recommendation for EC Consideration**

Proposal to expand representation on LIO IC: Karen noted that the Implementation Committee currently had 21 members, and proposed that the membership be expanded to broaden representation due to changing circumstances, as follows:

- *Adding a seat for the King EConet:* Under the EPA's new approach to funding, EConets will be funded by the LIO. As the Snohomish Stillaguamish LIO lies in two counties, King EConet should have a seat along with Snohomish-Camano EConet.
- *Adding a seat for STORM (Stormwater Outreach for Municipalities):* Preventing pollution through stormwater runoff is a need in both of our watersheds, and increasing representation to include this group makes sense. Stef Frenzl, representative for STORM, underscored the need for coordination at the regional level to bring forward real change on the ground.

The point was raised that it makes sense that the IC look at the 3 initiatives, and at some point, see that there's a balance and representation for each. However, another member pointed out that maybe there shouldn't be a balance. The IC could weight the 3 initiatives in terms of need in the Snohomish and Stillaguamish watersheds, and then ensure that the representation reflects that. One member stated that it would be good

to have representation from the private sector/ business community, but how do we do that? Another brought the lack of academic connection to the group's attention, suggesting that a representative from WSU Extension or the UW might be a good addition.

The Implementation Committee agreed to table the question of adding 3 proposed positions until the end of the meeting. They also agreed to review their membership list annually, along with their Bylaws, at the July/August meeting.

LIO accomplishments for the "State of the Sound" Report: Karen introduced PSP's annual "State of the Sound Report" and passed around a 2014 copy for closer viewing. She stated that the Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO will have two pages in the 2015 report (500 words) in which to feature key projects from our two watersheds. Karen asked for IC input on projects (NTAs) to feature from each watershed by May 15<sup>th</sup>, and agreed to follow up with an email request. Heather Cole, PSP, noted that Karen updates the PSP report card, and that's a good place to look for projects to feature. Karen will send a link to the IC members. Heather added that it would be nice to have representation from all three geographies: Stillaguamish Basin/Snohomish County, Snohomish Basin/Snohomish County, and Snohomish Basin/King County.

### **News: EPA Funding Approach for 2016 and the Emerging LIO Role**

Bill explained the EPA's new funding approach. The funding model aligns with the Action Agenda Strategic Initiatives: Habitat, Stormwater and Shellfish.

The three Strategic Initiative lead recipients will each convene a team called "Implementation Strategy Teams" to provide technical expertise and include task forces to advance priorities. The Strategic Initiative Teams will convene their respective Implementation Strategy groups. The Habitat Strategic Initiatives would convene the Implementation Strategy Technical groups for estuaries, Chinook, and eelgrass, as examples. PSP is piloting three implementation strategies this year - estuaries, shellfish and Chinook. For more information, see <http://www.psp.wa.gov/vitalsigns/>.

Addressing the question of "how much money," Heather stated that in the past few years, EPA has allocated \$25 million a year through the National Estuary Program funding. A portion of the funding goes to the Tribes and PSP and the rest will be aligned to implement the Strategic Initiatives of the Action Agenda. Under this model, LIO's will be eligible for direct funding for their Near Term Actions. However, the details of this process have yet to be worked out.

Bill stated that it is critical that the LIOs develop NTAs to address what's broken in their watersheds and build strategies to address them. He thought if LIOs could build their own capital plans like public works departments do with 6-year Capital Improvement Programs, the projects might fit well with what will be done anyway.

Other comments: This change provides an opportunity for the LIOs to have more control over advancing projects that matter. The LIO should assign a subcommittee to determine a process for project applications. The LIO IC should discuss the best way to approach this at their next (May 26<sup>th</sup>) meeting.

### **NTA Work Plan and Schedule**

Karen noted that the LIO needs to complete two planning efforts:

- (1) a short-term exercise to develop NTAs for 2016-2018

- (2) a longer- term planning process to develop a strategic plan for the Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO that focuses on what should be done in our watersheds to contribute to the overall recovery of Puget Sound

Karen referred to the handout, “Outline of Steps to develop the 2016 NTAs,” and stated that the LIO will be following these steps, which align with Puget Sound Partnership’s Guidance Document <sup>1</sup>. The group discussed the inherent difficulty with a long term timeframe needed for developing a robust planning process, and the requirement to update NTAs sooner. It was requested that the LIO Coordinator provide a diagram of the shorter and longer processes, showing how they interrelate, for the next meeting.

Dave Somers, Snohomish County Council, stated that the LIO process is being “designed as we go” and encouraged committee members to be patient.

## Pressure Assessment

Scott Redman, Puget Sound Partnership Deputy Science Director, provided a presentation on the Puget Sound Pressure Assessment (PSPA). The PSPA is an assessment model that identifies the pressures on ecosystem components, and the critical ecosystem vulnerabilities that must be addressed to ensure sustainable long-term protection and recovery. The PSPA provides information at two scales: regional and watersheds/marine basins. Relating this to the LIO’s need for both short and longer-term planning processes, Scott advised that spending time identifying the pressures (sources of stress) and how they contribute to or deliver the stress will help inform both processes.

See <http://snohomishcountywa.gov/2232/LIO---Implementation-Committee> to review Scott’s presentation. The PSP 2014 Pressures Assessment Report, on which the presentation was based, is here: [http://wdfw.wa.gov/grants/ps\\_marine\\_nearshore/files/2014\\_puget\\_sound\\_pressures\\_assessment.pdf](http://wdfw.wa.gov/grants/ps_marine_nearshore/files/2014_puget_sound_pressures_assessment.pdf)

## NTA Development: Step 1 Ecosystem Outcomes

During next month’s meeting, we will follow a process to choose the ecosystem outcomes our LIO wants to focus on for 2016 – 2018. A handout supporting this activity was included in this meeting packet. It listed 18 vital signs (of the 21 Vital Signs) present in the Snohomish Stillaguamish watersheds and showed how they were aligned with the Strategic Initiatives.

As the meeting wrapped up, the LIO IC agreed to recommend to the EC the addition of three additional representatives for the Implementation Committee for King EConet, STORM, and WSU Extension organizations. The suggestion was made that, between July and August, the Implementation Committee review its membership to ensure that representation was adequately balanced.

## Next Steps

The next meeting of the Implementation Committee will be held on **Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**, in the Snohomish County Drewel Building, Room 6A04.

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<sup>1</sup> (“Guidance for Structuring, Selecting and Prioritizing Near Term Actions for Improved Ecosystem Outcomes for 2016”, Richard Anderson, June 30, 2014