

Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Implementation Committee Meeting Summary

Monday, March 14, 2016

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Drewel Building, Public Meeting Room

LIO-IC Members

Bill Blake, City of Arlington, Stillaguamish Watershed Council
Bob Landles, Stillaguamish Clean Water Advisory Board
Chrys Bertolotto, Snohomish-Camano ECO Net
Elise Gronewald, Port of Everett
Erik Gerking, Port of Everett
Gregg Farris, Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Jacqueline Reid, Snohomish County Planning & Development Services
Karen Stewart, City of Everett
Kirk Lakey, Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum
Kristin Kelly, Pilchuck Audubon Society
Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Tribe
Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District
Paul Clampitt, Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee
Perry Falcone, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
Steve Rice, Snohomish Health District
Tamara Neuffer, Stillaguamish Tribe
Valerie Streeter, Tulalip Tribes Planning

Participants

Kurt Nelson, Tulalip Tribes
Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes

LIO Support Staff and Anchor QEA

Ann Bylin, Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Steve Britsch, Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Kit Crump, Snohomish County Surface Water Management/ Stillaguamish Basin Co-Lead Entity
Kathleen Herrmann, Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Mary Hurner, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, Senior Planner/Interim Coordinator
Frank Leonetti, Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Beth Liddell, Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Tracy Drury, Anchor QEA, Principal
Vivian Erickson, Anchor QEA
Lynn Turner, Anchor QEA

Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment

Bill Blake opened the meeting, and introductions followed. There were no members of the public present.

Group Updates on Ecosystem Recovery Plan

Lynn Turner updated the LIO on some revisions to the Ecosystem Recovery Plan guidance announced by Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) since the last Implementation Committee (IC) meeting.

- The plan's title will be LIO Ecosystem Recovery Plan, eliminating prior concerns with use of the term "Long-Term."
- The plan will have a temporal scope of 5 to 6 years (or 2 to 3 Action Agendas).
- The plan will focus on a suite of ecosystem components and human wellbeing components, which will be aligned to the Vital Signs but not restricted by them and determined by the LIO.

Vision Statement Discussion/Consensus Decision

Vivian Erickson presented a set of preliminary draft Ecosystem Recovery Plan Vision Statements, which were derived from the ideas brainstormed by the IC during their February meeting.

Through discussion, the group crafted the following vision statement and unanimously agreed to forward it to the Executive Committee for consideration:

The Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Ecosystem Recovery Plan presents an integrated framework for progress and actions toward a healthy, resilient ecosystem that advances current plans and policies for the protection and recovery of Puget Sound and a sustainable future for our communities.

Subcommittee Work/Consensus Decision on Plan Elements

Lynn reiterated that the LIO has the opportunity to determine the suite of ecosystem components and human wellbeing components that will be the focus of the Ecosystem Recovery Plan. These components will be the discrete units of analysis for the Plan and will be the focus for setting goals, carrying out conservation actions, and measuring effectiveness.

Kit Crump reviewed the process that the LIO followed in 2015 to consider PSP's 21 identified Vital Signs in terms of which were present in the Snohomish and Stillaguamish watersheds, and of those, which were of the highest priority for protection and restoration. The LIO agreed to address six priority Vital Signs (Chinook salmon, floodplains, estuaries, freshwater quality, land cover and land development and summer stream flow) in the preliminary ecosystem recovery plan. This plan, known as the Early Elements document, was submitted to PSP on October 31, 2015.

To facilitate this exercise, the three subcommittees (Shellfish, Stormwater and Habitat) were provided with a worksheet pre-populated with PSP's Vital Signs as a starting place, grouped by ecosystems/habitats of concern, species of concern, and human wellbeing concerns. The subcommittees were asked to discuss whether these Vital Signs encompass everything that the LIO would like to focus on, or if there was interest in adding, removing, or grouping any components. The subcommittees were also asked to discuss the topic area(s) relevant to each subcommittee and develop recommendations that they would report out to the whole group following their discussion.

The Committee as a whole discussed the subcommittee recommendations, including areas of overlapping recommendations and any gaps that remained in the list of components. This discussion resulted in the following preliminary list of components and concerns to be forwarded to the Executive Committee for consideration. *Please note that climate change needs to be addressed within all the different components. (See table on next page.)*

Component	PSP Vital Sign?	Other Notes
<p>Ecosystems/Habitats of Concern: <i>What habitats directly support the long-term health of the ecosystem within the LIO? What habitats are essential to maintain or restore to support ecosystem resilience to climate change?</i></p>		
Floodplains	Yes	
Estuaries	Yes	Include smaller streams, estuarine wetlands, tidal marshes, and mudflats
Summer Stream Flow	Yes	
Marine Water Quality	Yes	Include ocean acidification, use pteropods as an indicator
Freshwater Quality	Yes	Include stormwater
Marine Sediment Quality	Yes	
Freshwater Wetlands	No – new component	
Marine and Nearshore	No – new component	Include coastal shoreforms, pocket estuaries, beaches, feeder bluffs, drift cells, marine riparian forest, small coastal streams
<p>Species of Concern: <i>What species or communities of species integrate across habitats or represent LIO interests that are not well captured by the habitats list?</i></p>		
Chinook Salmon	Yes	Add specific language in our definition about how we see this as an umbrella species for other salmonids
Orcas	Yes	
Forage Fish	Related PSP Vital Sign is Pacific Herring, used by PSP as an umbrella species	Include Pacific herring, surf smelt, and sand lance
Birds	Yes	Requires further discussion: one suggestion to change to shore birds, another request to break out into several important bird species, another suggestion to use birds as an indicator
Eelgrass	Yes	
Shellfish	Related PSP Vital Sign is Shellfish Beds; also see Local Foods below	Umbrella species for marine sessile filter feeders and some human wellbeing concerns
Bull Kelp	No – new component	
<p>Human Wellbeing Concerns: <i>What priority aspects of human wellbeing are directly related to the health of the natural environment that the LIO would like to protect?</i></p>		
Sanitation	Related PSP Vital Sign is Onsite Sewage Systems	Include onsite sewage, municipal sewage, and CSOs

Component	PSP Vital Sign?	Other Notes
Outdoor Activity	Yes	Requires further discussion: suggestion to split Clean Beaches (to include both freshwater and marine) out from Outdoor Activity to be addressed separately from the issues of nature-based recreation and work
Local Foods	Yes	Suggested to include Shellfish Beds Human Health component here, in addition to the Shellfish species component above Also suggested to include mussel watch and Toxins in Fish (Vital Sign that is a pressure)
Drinking Water	Yes	Include groundwater
Economic Vitality	Yes	
Cultural Wellbeing	Yes	
Good Governance	Yes	
Sense of Place	Yes	Include shoreline access
Sound Stewardship	Yes	
Other Vital Signs that are pressures, not components: <i>To be further evaluated in the next meeting with other pressures</i>		
Shoreline Armoring		
Toxins in Fish		
Land Development	Related PSP Vital Sign is combined Land Development and Cover	Retain Land Development as pressure
Land Cover	Related PSP Vital Sign is combined Land Development and Cover	Include riparian, forestry, uplands, etc. Requires further discussion: suggestion to bring Land Cover up to be an ecosystem component, not a pressure

Component Prioritization/Sequencing Exercise

Due to lack of time, this work item was postponed to the next IC meeting on April 11.

Group Preparation for Next Subcommittee Work Meeting

The Implementation Committee brainstormed existing resources that would be helpful to have on-hand for the IC’s April 11th meeting, which would address goal setting, adding priority pressures to components, and consider problem statements.

The following list emerged from this discussion:

- Human wellbeing public opinion survey from PSP
- Water Quality action plans
- TMDLs
- Pressure Assessment from PSP
- Port Susan Plan
- SBPP
- Flood Management Plans
- County Economic Recovery Plan
- ECONet vetted statements

- Port Gardner Puget Sound Initiative
- Species Recovery Plans
- Floodplains by Design
- Comprehensive Plans
- Action Agenda 2020 Recovery Targets
- Chinook M&AM
- Shellfish Enhancement Plans
- Shoreline Master Programs
- Stormwater Management Plans

On-going Business

Approval or Changes to the 2/25 IC Meeting Notes: The Committee approved the meeting notes with no changes.

Finalizing selection of LIO IC Chair and Alternate: Following up on their discussion on 2/25, the Implementation Committee agreed that one of the changes to the Bylaws they would like to propose for Executive Committee consideration is the addition of an option for co-chairs of the Implementation Committee. This option currently exists for the Executive Committee.

The Implementation Committee discussed the proposed co-chair position and the commitment of time involved. Bill Blake noted that it worked very well for the Stillaguamish Watershed Council. He recommended that the IC have one co-chair representing each basin, and members indicated agreement.

IC members expressed support for Bill's continued leadership. Bill stated his preference in serving as Co-chair, representing the Stillaguamish watershed, which would allow flexibility for his work schedule. Valerie Streeter offered to serve as Co-chair representing the Snohomish Basin. IC members quickly reached a consensus on this arrangement, which will be finalized by Executive Committee approval of the proposed change to the Bylaws.

Recommendations to Executive Committee for changes to the Bylaws and Committee Membership:

Mary summarized some changes proposed at the 2/25 meeting and another suggestion sent via email from Joan Lee:

1. To Bylaws Section 3.1.1: Matt Baerwalde, representative of the Snoqualmie Tribe, stated that the Tribe would appreciate a position on the Executive Committee.
2. To Bylaws Section 3.2.2: Per their earlier conversation, the Implementation Committee would like to add language as follows, "The Implementation Committee will select a Chair and an alternate, or co-chairs, to preside over meetings, assist in development of meeting agendas and make recommendations to the LIO Executive Committee. The LIO Coordinator, in consultation with the Chair, or co-chairs, will schedule LIO Implementation Committee meetings on behalf of the LIO Implementation Committee."
3. To Bylaws Section 3.2.3: The Committee addressed the fact that many of the same people have been participating since the LIO was formed, and the current language under "Terms" did not seem accurate. The Committee agreed that adding language as follows would address this, and the previous, concern: "LIO Implementation Committee members serve a two year term minimum. The LIO Implementation Chair and Alternate, or co-chairs, will serve two year terms minimum."

IC members reached consensus on a recommendation to the Executive Committee supporting the proposals #2 and #3 above. Representatives of the Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribes agreed to bring this proposal #1 to their leadership for consideration, and would provide input within the next week or so. If their input was favorable, this proposal would also be recommended to the Executive Committee for their consideration.

Next Steps

- Committee members should e-mail Mary directly if they are interested in participating on the Ecosystem Recovery Plan Steering Committee, to be convened this summer to develop the plan text.
- **March 29:** LIO Coordinators will be attending PSP WebEx, which will cover human wellbeing resources that have been developed or modified.
- **March 31:** Executive Committee meeting. Agenda items will include an update on the LIO's work for the past quarter, discussion/decision on the components for the Ecosystem Recovery Planning process, the SITTs released NTA rankings, the 3/15 meeting for LIO leadership with the EPA and PSP, and on-going business.
- **April 11:** Implementation Committee meeting. Agenda items will include focusing on prioritizing components, setting goals, adding priority pressures, and considering problem statements.