

Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Implementation Committee Meeting Summary

Monday, April 11, 2016

1:00 – 3:00 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
Daryl Williams, Tulalip Tribes
Elise Gronewald, Port of Everett
Gregg Farris, Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Jacqueline Reid, Alternate, Snohomish County Planning & Development Services
Kirk Lakey, Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum
Kristin Kelly, Pilchuck Audubon Society
Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District
Paul Clampitt, Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee
Steve Rice, Snohomish Health District
Tamara Neuffer, Stillaguamish Tribe
Tim Miller, (Alternate) Snoqualmie Tribe
Valerie Streeter, Tulalip Tribes Planning

Participants

Dan Calvert, Puget Sound Partnership
Kurt Nelson, Tulalip Tribes
Ralph Svrjcek, Washington State Department of Ecology

LIO Support Staff and Anchor QEA

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

Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment, Announcements

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

Dan Calvert announced that the LIOs have an opportunity to co-sponsor one or more field trips for attendees at the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) annual conference in Everett, June 21st through June 24th. The objective of these tours is to provide opportunities for local elected officials to learn from each other about how the decisions they make as elected officials can help our region's efforts to restore and protect Puget Sound while achieving multiple benefits for their communities. Also, to support learning about how local project sponsors have been able to handle conflicts that have arisen among the various stakeholders concerned with or impacted by restoration and protection projects.

Dan stated that he will follow up by sending an email to Mary Hurner providing more information, and she can route it to the individuals who would be best positioned to work with Puget Sound Partnership and the AWC on developing this tour.

Update from Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)

Dan Calvert, our LIO Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator, provided an update from PSP on the following topics:

- NTA Appeals: There is one appeal associated with our LIO. The City of Everett has appealed the SITTs ranking of the Fisherman's Harbor NTA. PSP staff is working with the City on how to resolve the matter.
- Response from EPA concerning LIO feedback at the 3/15 meeting: In general, the EPA clearly heard the LIOs' universally-held expectations for increased local control over NEP project funding, based on the description of the new funding model issued last summer. The EPA committed to issuing a response to the LIOs' comments within three weeks of the 3/15 meeting. On April 5th, Peter Murchie sent an email with an attachment, "EPA Puget Sound National Estuary Program Response to Questions from Local Integrating Organizations", which addressed the LIOs' concerns. A key message in Mr. Murchie's email and document was that there were some misunderstandings associated with the definition of "direct funding." He stated that the EPA defines direct funding as "subawards that can be justifiably made without competition" and added that, "there is no mechanism through which EPA can make awards directly to LIOs without a competitive process."
- Draft 2016 Action Agenda available for comment: Dan stated that the draft was released 3/28, and the public comment period will be open 3/28 – 4/29/2016. Public open houses were held in Edmonds (April 5th), Tacoma (April 7th) and Mount Vernon (April 12th). Comments can be sent in online at AAcomment@psp.wa.gov
- Recruitment for Strategic Initiative Advisory Teams: Dan announced that the state departments of fish and wildlife, health and ecology were currently recruiting technical and policy experts to serve 2 year terms on Strategic Initiative Advisory Teams (SIATs). More information is available on Puget Sound Partnership's website, http://www.psp.wa.gov/2016_AA_update.php.

Update on Executive Committee Decisions

Lynn Turner, Anchor QEA, updated the Implementation Committee on the Executive Committee's approval of their recommendations.

- The list of Vital Signs and Components was approved to include all the Human Quality of Life Indicators, as shown on the handout, "Snohomish Stillaguamish LIO Ecosystem Recovery Planning Steps".
- The vision statement was approved with two modifications from the IC recommendation, shown in blue font:

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

Lynn stated that "builds on" was substituted for "advances", and "the culture and economy of" was inserted to modify "our communities".

Prioritizing List of Components and Vital Signs

Lynn introduced the task of prioritizing components by referring to the work that the Committee did last year - identifying the 18 Vital Signs present in the Snohomish and Stillaguamish watersheds and choosing six of those as priority Vital Signs.

She noted that the Committee now needed to prioritize the remaining 12 Vital Signs and components. This will be accomplished through a survey constructed in "Survey Monkey" that will be sent out to Implementation

Committee members later this week. Lynn stated that the collective input from everyone would allow us to identify the next-highest priority Vital Signs. The original six will be referred to as “very high” priority Vital Signs, while the next group (identified via the survey) will be considered the “high” priority Vital Signs. The “high” and “very high” categories will be our focus for the Ecosystem Recovery Plan, as time and resources will not allow us to address every Vital Sign to the same degree.

Group Discussion/Decision: Goals for Priority Vital Signs

Next, Lynn focused the Committee on the task of beginning to develop goals relevant to the LIO for the six priority Vital Signs. The intent is to define our desired local contribution to the Partnership’s regional 2020 targets.

Lynn stated that our drafted goals need to fit within the SMART goals framework: specific, measurable, achievable, results-oriented and time-bound. She recommended relating the goals to existing adopted goals, and provided an example of what a goal might look like for Estuaries: *Provide 3,000 acres of functional estuary restoration by 2025 (32% of the historic extent in the first 2 years of the salmon recovery plan).*

The Committee discussed potential approaches to the goal setting exercise, with some key points for each of three Vital Signs, as follows:

- Floodplains
 - Set 2025 as target year
 - Chinook habitat population goals – use 40% of 50-year goal (2055)
 - Identify other metrics to set long term goals
 - Use updated floodplain mapping
- Chinook
 - Follow Chinook recovery plan targets, see if NOAA documents identified specific populations
 - Commit to local natal populations
 - Consider aligned multi-species strategy
- Estuaries
 - 2025 - set at 40% of Chinook 50 year goal
 - 2055 – set 50 year goal

Lynn reminded everyone that we need to address climate change within each component/Vital Sign at an appropriate scale. Committee members noted that land development and land cover is a Vital Sign as well as a pressure, and crosses over into other vital signs.

Lynn introduced problem statements that we need to develop, which relate to the goal statements. To do this for the six priority Vital Signs, we need to look at the pressures (see pressures handout) and figure out how or why problems exist and persist.

The Committee discussed problem statements for estuaries, noting the following:

- Impact of highly modified natural systems (marine levees, floodgates and tidegates, development)
- Pollution and persistent toxic chemicals
- Climate change
- Restoration of historical problems balanced with many users and their needs
- Importance of redevelopment resulting in a gain

The Committee also discussed problem statements for floodplains, noting the following:

- Lack of coordinated management
- Same pressures as estuaries
- Higher priority for wastewater, stormwater
- Roads and railroads

- Oil spills and rail spills
- Flood storage (current vs historical)
- Flood risk
- Low flow related to wells

The Committee agreed that problem statements for Chinook could be generated by checking in with the Snohomish and Stillaguamish Lead Entities.

On-going Business

Mary Hurner went over the following topics with the Committee:

- Approval or Changes to the 3/14 IC Meeting Notes: A committee member requested that Mary add a note to the meeting notes stating that “climate change needs to be addressed within each of the different components.” Other than that addition, the Committee indicated their approval of the meeting notes.
- Executive Committee decisions regarding IC-recommended changes to the Bylaws: The Executive Committee approved the changes to the Bylaws sections 3.2.2 (leadership) and 3.2.3 (terms) to allow the Implementation Committee to elect Co-chairs, instead of a Chair and Alternate; if they so choose. The Executive Committee also approved a change to Bylaws section 3.2.3 (terms) to allow Implementation Committee member terms to have a two-year minimum.
- Finalizing selection of LIO IC Chair and Alternate: With the change in the Bylaws to allow Co-chairs, Bill Blake and Valerie Streeter were formally accepted as the LIO Implementation Committee Co-chairs for 2016 – 2018.
- Request related to Executive Committee Membership: At the IC’s 3/14 meeting, Matt Baerwalde, representing the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, requested that the Snoqualmie Tribe be considered for a seat on the Executive Committee. The Implementation Committee discussed this proposal but did not reach a consensus, and so no recommendation could be forwarded to the Executive Committee. During the following two weeks, IC Chair Bill Blake received a letter from the Tulalip Tribes as well as a letter from the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe; both explaining their point of view but not indicating agreement. The matter was brought up at the 3/31 Executive Committee meeting. Co-chair Christie True recommended that the two tribes work together to resolve their perspectives on this issue, and that IC Chair Bill Blake send them a letter of reply. Copies of this letter will be distributed to LIO Committee members after both tribes have received it.

Next Steps

- The Survey to prioritize the remaining Vital Signs will be emailed to IC members this week.
- LIO Support Staff and Anchor QEA will be compiling draft goal statements for your review at the May 5th meeting.
- LIO Support Staff and Anchor QEA will be attending the Puget Sound Partnership LIO Workshop on April 26th, which will provide information on conceptual modeling.