

# **Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Executive Committee Meeting Summary**

*Thursday, December 1, 2016*

*1:00 – 3:00 p.m.*

*Snohomish County Campus, Drewel Building, 6A04*

## **LIO EC Members**

Bill Blake, City of Arlington  
Christie True, King County  
Jason Walker, City of Duvall/ Snoqualmie Watershed  
Tom Stiger, Port of Everett  
Will Hall, Snohomish County

## **LIO Support Staff**

Ann Bylin, Snohomish County  
Alexa Ramos, Snohomish County  
Kit Crump, Snohomish County  
Jessica Hamill, Snohomish County

## **Participants and Guests**

Perry Falcone, King County  
Erik Stockdale, Snohomish County

## **Welcome, Introductions, Public Comments**

Co-Chair Will Hall opened the meeting and introduced the new LIO Coordinator, Jessica Hamill. He also recognized Mary Hurner's work as interim LIO Coordinator.

Will informed the Committee that Martha Kongsgaard is resigning from the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council (LC). He encouraged the Executive Committee (EC) members to send her a note and thank her for her service. In Martha's letter of resignation to the Governor, she recommended Jay Manning to be her successor.

Will mentioned that there was a Coordinated Investment meeting this week. Representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, PSP, Ecology, and tribes were in attendance. The goal was to discuss how to accelerate the protection and restoration of Puget Sound. The state and federal agencies made a commitment to work together on furthering some concrete goals to achieve this.

There were no members of the public present and no public comments.

## **On-going Business**

Jessica Hamill asked EC members if they would like any changes made to the 9/1 meeting notes. No changes were requested and the meeting notes were approved by consensus.

### **Draft Snohomish Stillaguamish LIO Ecosystem Recovery Plan**

Jessica announced that the Draft Final Ecosystem Recovery Plan was submitted by the 9/30/16 deadline. She shared the positive feedback from the PSP with the Committee.

Jessica informed the Committee that the contract with Anchor QEA has been extended. This will provide time to crosswalk the gaps and barriers table. It will also allow them time to crosswalk the Chinook strategies with the LIO 5-year priorities. This work will be ready to review at the March meeting.

Jessica shared an email and summarized the attachment that was distributed to the LIO coordinators regarding the Ecosystem Recovery Plans. The email and attached vision document discuss the purpose and use of these local recovery plans (i.e. plans will be used to inform Implementation Strategies, the State of the Sound Report, and the Biennial Science Work Plan among others).

An EC member expressed concern about the lack of alignment between the PSP's praise of our LIO's plan and the regional funding decisions that were made.

Christie True proposed sending a more formal "Thank You" letter to the members of the Implementation Committee (IC), with the member agencies copied to ensure the appreciation is relayed. The Committee agreed it was a good idea. Will and Christie will sign the letter on behalf of the Committee.

In terms of additional requirements before the plan is finalized in June, Jessica explained that the PSP assured LIO Coordinators that further work beyond the previous requirements for the Ecosystem Recovery Plans would not be required. PSP leadership has stated and staff have supported the move away from planning into implementation.

Jessica distributed the draft brochure for the Committee's review. The final version should be ready at the end of December 2016. The deadline to provide comments on the brochure is December 12<sup>th</sup>.

### 2017 Summit and 2018 Action Agenda Update

Jessica mentioned the upcoming 2017 Summit. Many elected officials have been invited and are expected to attend. The goal of the summit is to inform the LC and Tribal Management Conference (TMC) that there is consensus about what LIO priorities are, as well as to set regional priorities for the next Action Agenda update. The LIO coordinators also requested a poster session in lieu of presentations from each LIO.

The Action Agenda update options were reviewed. The deadline for providing feedback on the four options is December 5<sup>th</sup>. Staff recommended Option 4. An EC member agreed that Option 4 would allow for more time to see where we're at in the future. There was concern that we're building our update strategy around the funding rather than the other way around.

Will mentioned that a bill to change from a 2-year update cycle to a 4-year update cycle has not yet been sent from the Governor to the legislature.

An EC member expressed concern about committing to their predetermined "low", "medium", or "high" levels of effort since so much labor time was spent on this past update which wasn't met with the same level of funding payoff.

## **NTA Funding Recommendations**

Jessica reviewed the region's recommendation of NTAs for funding and the IC recommendation of NTAs for direct funding from our LIO. At the regional level, there were two stormwater NTAs and one shellfish NTA selected. At the local level, the IC selected 2 habitat NTAs to split the \$100,000 direct funding – the Living with Beavers project (fully funded) and the Snohomish Estuary Cleanup project (partially funded).

These NTA funding recommendations still need to go through the TMC and LC for approval before the SI Leads can submit them by the deadline on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Feedback on NEP Funding Model

Overall, our LIO received roughly \$350,000. The South Central LIO received over \$2 million in funding. There is visible frustration about the allocation disparity between LIOs. Additionally, Skagit County, who does not have an LIO, received almost \$500,000 in funding recommendations which calls into question the incentives for participating in an LIO. December 5<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to submit feedback on this year's funding process.

The Committee agreed this is an opportunity to influence process changes at the region and that the feedback should be framed as suggestions for how they can make their review and selection process more consistent and transparent such that it is clearer why certain areas/LIOs receive more funding than others.

Will suggested that perhaps we need to look at the big picture and put together a big ask to demonstrate the real need. We could create a long term vision by watershed. This would include more than just the NTAs. We could focus on linking Puget Sound/salmon recovery to investment in water infrastructure. Adding larger county/port/private projects could demonstrate alignment with our plan.

An EC member noted that King County's Fish, Farm, and Flood (FFF) NTA has a small window of opportunity as there is an agreement in principle among the Snoqualmie FFF community. Not funding that project raises a risk of losing the agriculture community's trust unless action is taken in the near term. We could potentially lose an entire generation of farmers' trust. This should be communicated to the region – that there were missed opportunities with rippling consequences.

Another EC member mentioned that the criteria kept changing over the course of the year from SIITs to SIATs to quartiles, etc. We need more clarity on their criteria so time isn't wasted submitting NTAs that won't fare well.

### **Future of the LIO: 2017 and Beyond**

Jessica introduced the LIO structure meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November. She stated that everyone seemed to agree that exploring the model that fits best over the next year is the next step. Jessica and Kit will begin work on evaluating the LIO/LE Integration Model next week. As the many Committee members were not present, **the Committee decided to revisit this issue at the next EC meeting in March 2017.**

Jessica reminded the group that the SI leads will be visiting in January. She requested feedback from the IC by December 9<sup>th</sup> so she can prepare questions for them in advance.

Jessica requested feedback on who should attend and what the goals of a presentation should be for the Snohomish County Tomorrow and King County GM Council. The EC agreed it should be an elected official that can identify with these groups.

In terms of the Summit being proposed for early 2017, an EC member suggested that the timing and our message are important to think about. April may not be the best time to request the attendance of legislators at a Summit as they will be in the middle of a contentious budget session. We may want to wait because of the ramifications of the McCleary decision on this legislative budget session. This effort might be more effective after the Washington state legislature has passed the 2017-2019 capital budget.

Another member recommended that we attend and show support for Floodplains by Design and PSAR.

Jessica informed the Committee that LIO support staff are working to put together a funding strategy and examining which projects have been funded and which have not. Island County was able to get funding for all of their 2014 NTAs, largely due to having a funding strategy for their LIO and working closely with the Lead Entity in that region.

Will noted that if we can build more public support and in turn political will then it sets the stage for funding. In terms of bringing more funding to our LIO over the long-term, we need to engage the public and elected officials through education and outreach.

#### **Action Items and Next Steps**

1. Jessica will draft a letter of thanks to the Implementation Committee, then send to Will and Christie for review, final edits, and signature on behalf of the EC.
2. The LIO structure discussion will take place at the next EC meeting when Tribal Committee members have a chance to participate.
3. Jessica will provide feedback on the Summit to PSP for their consideration.
4. Work with LIO partners on a long term vision, including project list, for each watershed.

The meeting ended at 2:30 p.m.