

Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Implementation Committee (IC) Meeting Summary

Thursday, July 27, 2017

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Drewel Building, Public Meeting Room

LIO-IC Members

Chrys Bertolotto, WSU Extension
Elise Gronewald, Port of Everett
Steve Rice, Snohomish Health District
Ryan Williams (for Monte Marti), Snohomish Conservation District
Perry Falcone, Snoqualmie Forum
Terri Strandberg, Snohomish County PDS
Valerie Streeter, Tulalip Tribes
Ann Bylin (for Gregg Farris), Snohomish County SWM

Participants

Elisa Dawson, Snohomish County SWM
Dan Calvert, Puget Sound Partnership
Sean Edwards, Snohomish County SWM

LIO Support Staff

Kit Crump, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, Senior Planner II/Stillaguamish Basin Co-Lead Entity
Jessica Hamill, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, Senior Planner II/LIO Coordinator
Alexa Ramos, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, Planner

1. Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment, Announcements

Valerie opened the meeting and introductions followed. There were no public comments made.

2. On-going Business

Approval or changes to the IC meeting notes

Valerie asked if anyone would like to request changes to the 4/20 meeting notes. No changes were requested and the notes were approved by consensus.

July 28th EC Meeting

Jessica informed the IC that the EC meeting was rescheduled to 7/28 and reviewed the agenda. Jessica asked if there were additional items the IC wanted to bring to the EC. None were raised.

Capital Budget

Dan reported that the failure of the budget to pass affects the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) hiring filling two key manager positions. In fact, one third of PSP staff is funded by Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) which flows through the Recreation and Conservation Office. If the budget doesn't pass then PSP may have to temporarily suspend work on salmon recovery (i.e. watershed leads etc.), focusing more on the Action Agenda update. This could also adversely impact some lead entities. PCSRF and National Estuary Program funding appears to be holding for the federal fiscal year budget. However, the budget must be signed into law before it is implemented and there may not be a PSAR large cap allocation next year.

3. Letters

Jessica reviewed Bill Blake's resignation letter with the group. His co-chair/City of Arlington seat is now vacant. Bill will be missed. Also, Deborah Knight is moving on to the City of Monroe, thereby vacating her seat for the City of Stanwood. Neither the City of Stanwood nor Arlington has identified a permanent replacement for those seats. Ryan Larsen is acting City Administrator for Stanwood and is planning to attend the LIO EC meeting.

Jessica reviewed the letter of support for Snohomish Conservation District's (SCD) rate change. Ryan Williams gave an overview of the change from an assessment structure to a rates and charges system. There will be an increase to \$10/parcel including the Stillaguamish now too. The IC voted to recommend the letter for signature by the EC. As these rate increases overlap with the recent consolidation of the Watershed Management Areas (WMAs), the conversation moved toward a brief explanation of the consolidation effort.

Ann gave a brief overview of the SWM consolidation. SWM will change from 3 WMAs to 1 WMA which will simplify the budgeting process and eliminate much administrative burden. The Clean Water District Advisory Board will dissolve toward the end of 2017. However, County staff positions will be maintained.

4. 2017 \$100,000 LIO Allocation

Review guidance from funders

Jessica reviewed EPA's "factors to consider" with the IC. Options for the LIO allocation were 1) implementation of a single Near Term Action (NTA), 2) phased implementation, or 3) pooling NTAs. Jessica also reminded the IC of the NTAs that have already been funded.

Review previous criteria

Jessica walked the IC through the criteria they used last year.

- Addresses gaps
- "Bang for the buck"
- LIO scores
- Geographic diversity
- Projects which may not continue ("die") without funds

Review NTA Gap Analysis

Based on what was previously chosen for the last LIO direct award, Jessica suggested selecting a non-capital stormwater or shellfish project. Jessica reviewed the contents of the gap analysis and it was pointed out that the analysis is related more to gaps in existing NTAs that we would hope to fill in the next solicitation, rather than gaps that can be filled by existing NTAs. Therefore, the IC also chose not to use the "gaps" to select an NTA this round but would like to re-examine them for upcoming 2018 solicitation.

Establish criteria for selecting an NTA for funding at August meeting

After much discussion, the criteria the IC chose were: 1) "bang for the buck" and co-benefit efforts 2) the 2016 LIO subcommittee scores and 3) Non-capital efforts. The group also wanted to incorporate a geographic diversity filter when making their selection. The group also agreed to select the top five NTAs (including the LIO's High and Medium ranked lists) from each Strategic Initiative.

Jessica will email NTA owners with the revised criteria and ask if they have any updates to their NTA(s). The IC agreed to hold a mid-August meeting (web or conference call potentially) to review the staff recommendation and select an NTA(s) to propose for funding at the August 24th meeting. It was suggested that there be ground rules for the mid-August meeting including no "project advocacy" from NTA owners. However, NTA owners are invited to attend the meeting and be responsive to questions from the Committee's, should any arise.

5. Local Priorities and 2018 NTAs

Review timeline and draft local context examples

Jessica reviewed the guidance document and draft local context¹ table with the group. She reminded the IC that the 10 Vital Signs (VSs) selected by the region match our high priority VSs. August 30th is the due date for the final version (draft due the 31st of July) so comments need to be sent to Jessica by August 17th. Public comments on the draft solicitation and regional priorities are due to Jessica by August 2nd so she can forward to the region by August 4th.

2018 NTA Development and Review: Local Process Discussion

PSP wants NTA owners to resubmit 2016 NTAs that they want to keep in the Action Agenda. Valerie brought up the issue surrounding cross-cutting NTAs and Jessica noted those issues are discussed in the Regional Priorities document. They call out climate change, oil spills, and ocean acidification as specific cross-cutting issues. Chrys commented on the need for increased clarity and transparency in the NTA process.

Jessica mentioned that the LIO restructure subcommittee's next meeting is August 31st. She reviewed the steps they've taken so far in evaluating the organizational structure. The group agreed that August and October would not be good times to revisit this issue and would be looking more toward the end of the year for an opportunity to formally discuss the topic with the group. The Committee asked Jessica to send the briefing document created for the LIO EC meeting.

Jessica proposed holding an NTA workshop on October 19th instead of a regular meeting. Perry mentioned that WRIA 7 Lead Entity PDC is interested in helping review/create habitat NTAs. Kit added that at the June WRIA 5 SWC meeting they talked about a non-salmon issue, the proposed shellfish downgrade. It was a well-attended meeting (double the usual number of people) which speaks to the groups potential to take on a broader subject focus. This issue of the pending downgrade at Port Susan Bay could change how the Lower Stillaguamish Pollution Identification and Control NTA is received by the region. The County must create a response strategy once the downgrade has gone into effect.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m. The next IC meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2017.

Action Items

1. Jessica will email NTA owners with the revised criteria and ask if they have any updates to their NTA(s).
2. Jessica will schedule a mid-August meeting to choose 2-3 NTAs to recommend for funding at the August 24 meeting
3. Jessica will post the PPT to the website and email the link out.
4. Jessica will send out the LIO Restructure briefing document.

Key Recommendations/Decisions

1. Approved the SCD letter of support.
2. Approved the April IC meeting summary.

¹ Local Context refers to the customization of regional priorities, which includes providing local nuances that NTA owners should be aware of when proposing a project in the Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO.