

Memorandum

Date: May 12, 2017

Purpose: For Discussion

Subject: Sno-Stilly Local Integrating Organization Near Term Actions Gap Analysis

Introduction

This memorandum is intended to identify coverage gaps in the Sno-Stilly Local Integrating Organization (LIO) Near Term Actions (NTAs) and recommend, where possible, how these gaps could potentially be addressed.

Ecosystem Recovery Plan Gaps and Barriers

In the Plan, LIOs were asked to identify barriers, gaps, and resource needs as they relate to ecosystem recovery planning. These include both local and regional gaps, barriers, and needs. A few of the gaps identified were directly related to NTAs: an NTA gap analysis itself and several data gaps.

The LIO currently has a shortage of shellfish and stormwater NTAs relative to an abundance of habitat NTAs. The Plan reported that a gap analysis needs to be performed on the NTAs with a focus towards fostering more balance in the future. This memo will attempt to begin that analysis.

The data gaps called out in the Plan span a range of technical concepts and are listed below. The next round of NTAs could include efforts to fill some of the data gaps identified by the LIO.

- **Monitoring**
 - Funding for monitoring work
 - Priority should be given to GIS analysis, where applicable, to report on baseline and trends across both watersheds (less resource intensive)
 - A coordinated funding strategy or a more efficient division of monitoring responsibilities in the watersheds to target funding and avoid duplicative efforts
 - Regional monitoring gap - Assessment of effectiveness/retrofit success in stormwater Phase II jurisdictions within the watersheds is beyond the scope of the LIO to implement.
- **Linking summer flow and development withdrawals**
 - Investigation of the connection between summer flow and development withdrawals is required for Summer Stream Flow planning
- **Lack of knowledge about where to target strategies - inconsistent geographic assessment and prioritization**
- **Lack of understanding of the emerging chemicals of concern in non-point source pollution, and the scale is difficult to address**

Ecosystem Recovery Plan Strategies

At this time there is one strategy in the Plan that has no NTAs mapped to it – Strategy 03.1 Improve Funding for Restoration.

Strategy 03.1: Improve Funding for Restoration

The primary goal of this strategy is to develop an integrated funding strategy for large capital levee setback or removal projects. No 2016 NTAs were identified for this strategy, but it is included in this Plan because the Sno-Stilly LIO evaluated the strategy as lower for local feasibility but higher for potential impact. The strategy's inclusion in this Plan is intended to highlight where regional assistance may be necessary in addition to the LIO's expected contributions to ecosystem recovery.

In a successful funding strategy for Sno-Stilly LIO restoration projects and other efforts related to ecosystem recovery, the first set of outcomes that would need to be attained are controlled at the regional level, and include more funding becoming available and more permanence associated with funding (minimum of 5-year funding windows). Additionally, regional policies around funding would need to change, resulting in funding, administration, and regulatory coordination; allowances for projects that demonstrate multi-benefits; and improved nimbleness of funding. The ongoing investments made by LIO stakeholders should be also better presented to justify increased state and federal funding.

If regional funding mechanisms were improved, then the LIO would expect that regional sources could be identified for each local project and local sources could be more effectively understood and used. If these two results were in place, the LIO would next see members having the capacity to access funding and that funding would be easily justifiable because strategic plan priorities are clear. That would result in funding being secured and projects implemented.

Monitoring of projects will allow for adaptive management of the strategic plan, thereby improving implementation over time.

Actions are therefore not being taken to make progress on improving funding for the corresponding Vital Signs: floodplains, estuaries, land cover, Chinook salmon, summer stream flow, freshwater quality, shellfish beds, marine water quality, and toxics in fish. However, Sno-Stilly support staff are working to create a funding strategy which will hopefully help to close this gap.

Strategic Initiatives

As mentioned above, there is a stark imbalance in the distribution of NTAs among the three different strategic initiatives: habitat, stormwater, and shellfish. The LIO currently has a shortage of shellfish and stormwater NTAs relative to an abundance of habitat NTAs.

There are 27 habitat NTAs, 10 stormwater NTAs, and 2 shellfish NTAs. Of those NTAs, 17 further capital projects while 22 support non-capital efforts like outreach and education. The table below lists the local NTAs by strategic initiative.

PSP ID #	Abbreviated Title	NTA Owner	SIAT Score
Stormwater Strategic Initiative			
0159	Mountains to Sound K-12 Education Pilot	Stillaguamish Tribe	8.6
0218	Puget Sound Starts . . . At My School!	Snohomish CD	8.1
0262	SnoCo NYC Behavior Change Campaign	Snohomish County	7.6
0162	Latino Stormwater, LIO Outreach	WSU Extension	7.5
1195	SnoCo Local Implementation of PSSH	WSU Extension	6.8
0374	Urban Climate Resiliency in Sno Basin	Snohomish CD	6.7
0083	Arlington Stormwater Treatment*	City of Arlington	6.5
0311	Fisherman's Harbor Stormwater Quality*	City of Everett/Port of Everett	6.3
0183	Stormwater Outreach, BMP Prioritization	WSU Extension	5.5
0163	Pet Waste Reduction Vet Clinic Outreach	WSU Extension	5.9
Habitat Strategic Initiative			
0310	Integrated Floodplain Management	Snohomish County	8
0067	Stillaguamish Priority Riparian Plantings*	Snohomish CD	7.9
0084	Arlington South Slough Fish/Flood Project*	City of Arlington	7.9
0171	MRC, Port Susan	Snohomish County MRC	7.4
0069	Richardson Creek Barrier Removal*	Snohomish CD	7.3
0102	Olaf Strad Channel Relocation Design*	Adopt-a-Stream	7.2
0169	MRC, Snohomish Estuary Cleanup*	Snohomish County MRC	7.2
0036	Floodplain Invasive Species Removal*	King County	7.1
0046	Tolt River Mouth and Frew Floodplain*	King County	7
0261	Woods Creek Barrier Removal*	Snohomish CD	6.9
0260	Portage Creek Barrier Removal*	Snohomish CD	6.8
0045	Balancing Fish, Farms, and Floods Snoq	King County	6.7
0070	NGPA Plantings in Priority Rural Areas*	Snohomish CD	6.6
0071	Living with Beavers Program	Snohomish CD	6.6
0165	Eelgrass and Forage Fish Mapping SnoCo	Snohomish County MRC	6.5
0257	SCD Free Trees Program*	Snohomish CD	6.4
0258	Bigelow Creek Rechannelization*	City of Everett	6.4
0075	SnoCo Climate Resilient Ag Strategy	Snohomish CD	6.3
0315	Model Volunteer Program Oil Spill	WSU Extension	6.3
0074	Climate Resiliency Sno Floodplain	Snohomish CD	6.1
0403	Shoreline Inventory SnoCo	Snohomish County	6
0391	Support Infill in SnoCo UGAs	Snohomish County	5.9
0259	Haystack Creek Barrier Removal*	Snohomish CD	5.7
0007	Snoqualmie Hydrology	Snoqualmie Tribe	5.6
0025	Working Buffers	Snohomish CD	5.6
1046	Stillaguamish River Knotweed Control*	Snohomish County	5.4
0133	Watershed Ed for Decision Makers	Sound Salmon Solutions	4.6
Shellfish Strategic Initiative			
0306	Financing Options for Healthy OSS	Snohomish County	7.5
0395	Lower Stillaguamish PIC Program*	Snohomish County	6.7

*Capital efforts

2016 Funded Near Term Actions

For 2016-17, the SI Leads recommended fully funding two stormwater projects, partially funding one shellfish project, and partially funding one habitat project. The Sno-Stilly LIO chose two NTAs to receive their direct funding allocation. They were able to fully fund one habitat NTA and partially fund another. The local NTAs that have received funding through the LIO solicitation and the amounts are outlined below. Other NTAs that have received funding outside of NEP are included below, however, we do not have final funding figures for those projects.

PSP ID #	Abbreviated Title	NTA Owner	Award Amount
Stormwater Strategic Initiative			
0159	Mountains to Sound K-12 Education Pilot	Stillaguamish Tribe	\$54,168 (partial – region)
0218	Puget Sound Starts . . . At My School!	Snohomish CD	\$97,200 (full – region)
0311	Fisherman's Harbor Stormwater Quality*	City of Everett/Port of	partial – outside NEP
Habitat Strategic Initiative			
0310	Integrated Floodplain Management	Snohomish County	\$250,000 (full – region)
0169	MRC, Snohomish Estuary Cleanup*	Snohomish County MRC	\$50,000 (partial – local)
0071	Living with Beavers Program	Snohomish CD	\$50,000 (partial – local)
0133	Watershed Ed for Decision Makers	Sound Salmon Solutions	partial – outside NEP
Shellfish Strategic Initiative			
0306	Financing Options for Healthy OSS	Snohomish County	\$100,000 (partial – region)
			TOTAL \$601,368

Conclusion

The Sno-Stilly LIO has a fairly balanced split between capital and non-capital NTAs. However, the distribution of NTAs among the three strategic initiatives is completely unbalanced. The LIO should focus future development of NTAs towards bridging the gap in stormwater and shellfish NTAs. If possible, a targeted solicitation for projects related to those specific strategic initiatives could be effective. There are many habitat NTAs that would undoubtedly have positive effects on stormwater and shellfish initiatives as well. It would be worthwhile to find a way to elicit the NTAs that relate to multiple or all strategic initiatives. The aforementioned monitoring data gaps could at least be partially addressed through the next round of NTAs. A targeted solicitation could also be effective here in increasing the number of monitoring projects proposals put forth. An integrated funding strategy is being developed that will seek to provide project sponsors with other means by which to finance their proposals in the case that the LIO process does not select them for funding. This approach has yielded very successful results in other LIOs. The Island County LIO, for example, developed a funding strategy which helped them to secure funding for all of their proposed projects from the last NTA solicitation. Sno-Stilly LIO staff have spoken at length with their LIO coordinator and have worked to integrate elements from their strategy into our draft. Staff hopes to have a draft ready for committee review in the near future.

References

Anchor QEA, LLC, 2016. *Memorandum Re: Subtask 5.10 – LIO Gaps Crosswalk with Chinook Recovery Gaps, and Recommendations for Gap Resolution*. To: Jessica Hamill. December 21, 2016.

Sno-Stilly LIO (Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization), 2016. *Draft Final Ecosystem Recovery Plan*. September 2016.