

Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Implementation Committee (IC) Meeting Summary

*Thursday, August 24, 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
Elissa Ostergaard (for Perry Falcone and Joan Lee), Snoqualmie Forum and King County
Valerie Streeter, Tulalip Tribes
Gregg Farris, Snohomish County SWM
Bob Landles, Stillaguamish Clean Water District Advisory Board
Terry Williams (for Daryl Williams), Tulalip Tribes
Elisa Dawson (for Paul Clampitt), Snohomish County SWM
Karen Stewart, City of Everett

Participants

Dan Calvert, Puget Sound Partnership
Sono Hashisaki, Tulalip Tribes

LIO Support Staff

Jessica Hamill, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, Senior Planner II/LIO Coordinator
Alexa Ramos, Snohomish County Surface Water Management

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 Implementation Committee (IC) meeting notes

Valerie asked if anyone would like to request changes to the 7/27 meeting notes. No changes were requested and the notes were approved by consensus.

Kit Rawson

Terry Williams spoke of Kit Rawson's passing. A memorial service will be held on September 9th at 1pm. Donations can be sent to The SeaDoc Society.

Capital Budget and Regional Updates

Dan reported that LIOs are in contract negotiations. They cannot sign the contracts until PSP receives its funding from EPA.

The 'bold actions' presented by the TMC for incorporation into the Chinook Implementation Strategy are still with the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC).

Permitting of exempt wells, related to the Hirst Decision, are largely responsible for the delay in adopting a capital budget.

It was noted that the recent net pen incident was timely considering Ecology's recommendations for updating regulations. Ecology staff presented on the topic at a Snohomish Technical Committee meeting recently and are scheduled to speak at Watershed Leads and SRC meetings in September.

There was an emergency SRFB meeting yesterday. A letter calling for a moratorium on net pens is being drafted.

3. 2017 \$100,000 LIO Allocation

Review progress so far

There was an IC meeting held on 8/16 to look at the 12 remaining NTAs and narrow the list down for consideration at today's meeting. Jessica reviewed the process by which these 5 projects were chosen. Jessica reminded the IC of the criteria used: "Bang for the buck", LIO scores, and non-capital. At the 8/16 meeting, the Committee members agreed to set aside the medium ranked projects for this allocation round. Then NTA owners with more than one NTA still in the running voiced their top priority projects and decided to set aside their lower priority projects for this round. A subset of 5 NTAs were remaining.

The IC requested a staff analysis on the NTAs to examine geographic distribution of funding thus far. Jessica reviewed the analysis results with the group. As expected, there is more funding going to the Snohomish basin. Overall, the analysis proved a decent geographic spread of the funding thus far.

Gregg provided clarification on what the funding would be used for with the On-site Septic NTA. It was noted that the NTA is applying for Centennial funds so there is another potential funding source. The IC decided to set that project aside for this round since the owners will be pursuing other funding sources and it is already partially funded.

Peggy gave some background on the Natural Yard Care NTA. She explained that the effort was started with a GROSS grant and she provided detail on the geographic extent of the project. The NTA would target 1 acre or smaller parcels in suburban, urban, and rural areas. For 2018, the County portion of this work has funding, but the grant funds would enable 13 cities to participate in the program that otherwise would not have the budget to do so. In 2014, 451 households participated. This NTA would implement the recommendations from the previous work done.

As Chrys was not present during the discussion, Jessica spoke to the Latino Stormwater NTA as serving an unserved community critical to BMP implementation. According to Chrys, this NTA can expand into the Snoqualmie area as well. Elisa asked why the budget for the Latino Stormwater NTA was increased to \$100,000. Jessica responded that her understanding is that the base budget (\$76,185) hasn't changed, but that Chrys would be able to expand the geographic extent (i.e. into the Snoqualmie area) with the full \$100,000 award.

Elissa gave more detail on King County's Fish, Farm, Flood (FFF) NTA. The funds would be put towards completing the long-term Agriculture Strategy. They currently have the funding for the buffer task force component, but moving the entire effort forward depends on all elements being finished. King County would likely be able to secure match funds to make the project whole if awarded the LIO allocation.

Elisa offered more information on the MRC Snohomish Estuary Clean-up NTA that was partially funded with the last allocation. They have identified over 25 derelict vessels so far, 7 of which can be removed with the already secured \$100,000 (\$50,000 from the LIO used to leverage another \$50,000). The next two prioritized boats for removal would cost \$12,000 and \$40,000 per their cost estimates.

Jessica described more results from the NTA staff analysis. A gap analysis on the Vital Signs and Strategies was conducted. The only Vital Signs not being addressed by funded NTAs are Shoreline Armoring (an LIO identified pressure) and Toxics in Fish. Findings revealed that within the list of 4 NTAs being considered there were no Vital Signs not being currently addressed as none of them address Shoreline Armoring or Toxics in Fish (per the submitted proposals). That being said, you could make the argument that the 4 NTAs being considered could address toxics in fish, at least indirectly. In terms of the currently funded NTAs, there were gaps in the Strategies – 05.1, 06.1, and 08.1 as each only had one NTA tackling those issues. Strategy 03.1 also has no NTAs, but none have been proposed. Of those other three strategies (05.1, 06.1, and 08.1), only one NTA being considered for this allocation filled a gap. The Natural Yard Care NTA contributes to progress on strategy 05.1 (see results chain and narrative within the *LIO Ecosystem Recovery Plan*).

The key questions the IC had to consider were:

1. Fully fund a partially funded project
2. Select a new project
3. Pool funds with another LIO¹

There was much discussion about which NTA to choose. Gregg noted that NEP funding is supposed to be put towards recovering Puget Sound so using it for the long-term Agriculture Strategy component of the FFF proposal might not be the best use of those funds. Elissa responded that the different elements of the FFF project are all tied together, much like a 3-legged stool, so it would still further habitat restoration. Valerie commented that she felt the Latino Stormwater project would have bigger outreach impacts and address toxics in fish/Water Quality. She emphasized that it was the highest scoring project as well.

After much discussion and recognizing the difficulty the group was having deciding between 4 projects that all deserve funding, Jessica and Valerie decided to ask the Committee members (or their representatives/alternates) to write down their preferred NTA on a piece of paper. The IC members voted for the project they wanted to receive the allocation. Jessica counted the votes. The votes were tallied as follows:

1. Latino Stormwater and Low-Impact Development Outreach Project: 5 votes
2. Marine Resources Committee Snohomish Estuary Cleanup Project: 3 votes
3. Snohomish County Natural Yard Care Campaign: 2 votes
4. Balancing Fish, Farm, and Floods in King County's Snoqualmie Watershed: 1 vote

The Latino Stormwater project had the most votes and was selected to receive the \$100,000 LIO allocation.

4. Local Customization of Regional Priorities

Review timeline and draft local context examples

Jessica reviewed the draft local context² 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. The IC agreed to recommend the local customization for approval and submittal on 8/30/17.

5. Letter of Support for Regulatory Harmonization

¹ Jessica spoke to the South Central LIO and the potential for pooling money this round. Due to timing of decisions and meetings, pooling money is likely not feasible this round. However, it would be good to consider this option in the future, if there is interest.

² 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.

Sono and Terry presented on their Regulatory Harmonization project. A briefing document was given to the Committee members and attendees for their review. This effort began 2 years ago and, in its initial inception, seeks to improve the harmonization of Federal, State, and local regulations. As the idea has evolved, there is substantial interest in regulatory streamlining. There are many other groups looking to streamline regulations so this project is timely. EPA has provided funding for project scoping and demonstration of how the EDT³ and EMDS⁴ models can be combined to identify areas of opportunity between land use and habitat. There have been initial conversations with all involved parties (FEMA, Army Corp., Dept. of Ecology, Counties etc.). Sono and Terry requested a letter of support from the LIO to the Federal Task Force encouraging federal participation in the process. Jessica will send out a draft by email for the IC's review. Terry and Sono are planning to present on this agenda item at the LIO Executive Committee meeting on September 7th.

6. 2018 NTA Development and Review: Local Process Discussion

Jessica gave an overview of the draft process and timeline. The solicitation should go out 11/13/17 (a draft has already been released). The pre-registration deadline is 12/22/17. PSP and other Action Agenda/NEP Funding Model partners, have decided the regional priorities are new enough that the 2016 NTAs would have to be re-evaluated against those priorities and potentially revised. Therefore, there will not be a 2016 NTA gap analysis and focused solicitation for 2018 NTAs and unfunded 2016 NTA owners will need to resubmit their NTAs that they want to keep in the 2018 Action Agenda. Some IC members were concerned about the December 22nd deadline because there will not be an opportunity to have new NTAs submitted as LIOs perform gap analyses of their NTAs. Others asked whether a proposal could be submitted by the deadline and then pulled later on if needed. Jessica will look into this.

Our local process for 2018 NTA development and review is due 9/30/17. Jessica suggested including an NTA workshop(s) as part of the criteria and asked how the IC wants to fulfill its obligation to support development/improvement of NTAs. Some IC members suggested doing something other than a workshop. The IC decided to form a subcommittee to work on developing the local process. Jessica will send out a Doodle Poll for people to sign up to participate. We will need to meet once or twice in the month of September to meet the deadline.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The next IC meeting is scheduled for October 19th.

8. Action Items

1. Jessica will email out the DRAFT letter of support for review following the LIO EC meeting on 9/7.
2. Jessica will schedule a subcommittee meeting to work on the 2018 local process.
3. Jessica will check with the Action Agenda Coordination Group regarding pulling NTAs after the pre-registration has been completed.

Key Recommendations/Decisions

1. Approved recommending the Latino Stormwater NTA for NEP funding. Jessica will update the EC and submit the recommendation by the 9/22 deadline.
2. Recommended drafting a letter of support for the Regulatory Harmonization effort for review and discussion by the IC at a later meeting date. Committee members have expressed an interest to learn more about the purpose of the letter of support.
3. Approved the July IC meeting summary.
4. Approved the local context for 8/30 submittal. Jessica to notify the EC of IC approval and PSP submittal.

³ A salmon habitat model used for setting recovery goals for most of the Puget Sound.

⁴ A logic model, developed by the Forest Service, that can be used to build scenarios to identify areas of opportunity between land use and habitat.

DRAFT