

Topic: LIO evaluation of structure and effectiveness - *Continuation from previous meetings*

Background:

In November of 2016, representatives from the Stillaguamish and Tulalip Tribes, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP or Partnership) King County, Snohomish County, non-governmental organizations, and the watershed groups (Snoqualmie Forum, Snohomish Forum, and the Stillaguamish Watershed Council) met with Snohomish County Executive, Dave Somers, to discuss the issues surrounding the organizational structure of the LIO. The specific issue discussed was whether or not to split the LIO by watershed boundary as opposed to the current combined approach.

At the November meeting, all representatives agreed to evaluate the organizational structure of the LIO over the next year to come up with a recommendation. The LIO Structure Subcommittee was formed in the beginning of 2017. The subcommittee consisted of representatives from the both the Stillaguamish and Snohomish basins, including Lead Entity and LIO representatives. The subcommittee met five times over the last year, the final meeting being 8/31/2017. Initial meetings were focused on development of a draft vision, objectives, and goal categories to be presented to the Implementation Committee (IC). These informed the workplan that was approved by the IC.

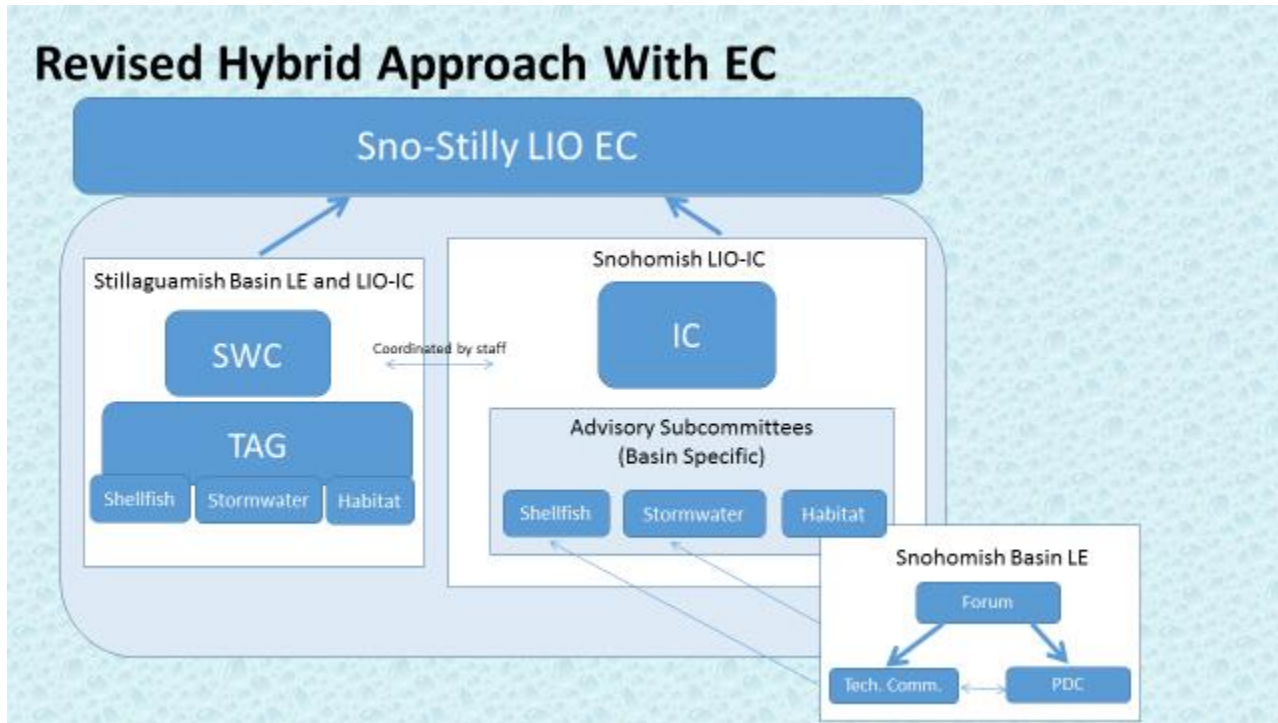
For Discussion --Seeking feedback to share with the Executive Committee (EC) as they review the staff recommendation and other alternatives:

Criteria and Process

- The subcommittee offered refinements to the criteria necessary to achieve the most appropriate LIO structure.
- The criteria are copied below.
 - Efficiency
 - Commiserate level of input relative to anticipated outcomes/goals.
 - Broad Expertise
 - Ability to address any aspect of ecosystem recovery.
 - Within LIO Plan and broader watershed planning processes/documents
 - Leadership
 - Broadly involves and engages leadership (management and elected officials) at the local level.
 - Collaborative Implementation
 - Regional and local feedback and support loops (federal, state, and local).
 - Continuity
 - People and Spatial attributes: membership adaptable over time and independent of geographic boundary.
- Staff worked with the subcommittee to develop and refine LIO structure concepts, based on the criteria above. At the final subcommittee meeting staff presented the analysis narrowing the list of alternatives down to a couple that have the highest likelihood of successful implementation. The details of the staff recommendation are described below.

Staff Recommendation

The concept illustrated below maintains one LIO but has two, basin-specific Implementation Committees. It preserves cross-basin coordination within the EC and expands the implementation capacity/authority with the Stillaguamish Watershed Council (SWC) being the Stillaguamish IC. Under this model, the EC would function as the primary decision-making body for recovery aspects outside the salmon recovery purview (i.e. NTA funding recommendations). The SWC would take on a central role as the Stillaguamish IC and coordinating directly with the Snohomish IC. Salmon project decisions would remain with the SWC and Snohomish Forum.



The staff recommendation is to spend the next year testing out utilization of the SWC as the implementing body for the Stillaguamish basin, while maintaining the cross-basin/combined Executive Committee.

- Other features of this concept include:
 - Reductions in meetings for the IC and EC,
 - Utilizing basin specific work groups for specific implementation needs (i.e. project reviews and setting local recovery goals),
 - Working more closely with Lead Entity partners on NTA projects review/development, and
 - Adaptively managing the organizational structure.