

Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Executive Committee Meeting Summary

Thursday, December 7, 2017

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Snohomish County Campus, Drewel Building, 6A04

LIO EC Members

Joan Lee (for Christie True), King County

Will Hall, Snohomish County

Allan Giffen, City of Everett

Pat Stevenson, Stillaguamish Tribe

Participants

Erin Ryan-Peñuela (for Dan Calvert), Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)

Valerie Streeter, Tulalip Tribes

Perry Falcone, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum

Ann Bylin, Snohomish County

Elisa Dawson, Snohomish Marine Resources Committee

Alex Pittman, Snohomish Conservation District

LIO Support Staff

Jessica Hamill, LIO Coordinator, Snohomish County

Alexa Ramos-Cummings, Snohomish County

Welcome, Introductions, Public Comments

Co-Chair Will Hall opened the meeting, introductions followed, and the agenda was reviewed. There were no members of the public present and no public comments.

On-going Business & Updates

Approval of September meeting minutes

Will asked Executive Committee (EC) members if they would like any changes made to the 9/7/17 meeting notes. No changes were requested and the meeting notes were approved by consensus.

Announcements

Erin reported that NTA development is in full swing. The solicitation was approved with all of the regional priorities. December 22nd is the deadline for NTA pre-registration. February 6th is the deadline for full draft submittals. Final submissions are due March 30th. The 2018 Action Agenda is poised to be adopted in December 2018. Next year will kick off adjustments to the Comprehensive Plan.

The Salmon Recovery Council met on November 30th and approved the work plan. They considered recruiting members to review the Chinook priorities. The Leadership Council met yesterday.

The Capital budget still has not been passed. On December 12th, the state agricultural committee will meet related to the Hirst decision (exempt wells). No documents or agenda have been posted yet. If there is a government shutdown the LIOs and PSP will continue to work. Will commented that the

capital budget will resume session next year. They cannot fund a capital budget without some bipartisan work.

There is a vacancy on the ECB (Dan Rye is stepping down to retire). The Leadership Council appointed a Pierce County elected official to represent that area. Having an elected official present is helpful. The TMC has questions regarding the Comprehensive Plan and whether it adequately addresses Chinook. There will be ongoing conversations in the coming year. Erin mentioned that right now there is no official entry process for midway updates in this new 4-year Action Agenda cycle. But they will be looking at it in the New Year. NEP funding will be distributed annually. Joan asked at what scale NTAs should be submitted at. How are they rolled up? Erin responded that PSP looks at alignment with regional priorities.

Effectiveness Updates

Alexa and Jessica presented some NTA and LIO Strategies gap analysis work. See handout for details. Will commented on the barriers to infill as related to brown fields and conversion to usable land. That would take pressure off of developing urban areas. Jessica mentioned that in the South-Central LIO there is planning around new transit in Lynnwood. She will loop in City of Everett as the conversations continue.

2016 NTA Updates

Snohomish Estuary Clean-up: Elisa Dawson gave an update on the Snohomish Estuary Cleanup NTA, partially funded by the LIO direct award. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has a program for derelict boat removal. There are 127 derelict boats on DNR's list. The boats need to be posted for 60 days, then a contractor can be hired to remove the boat if it hasn't been claimed. The Snohomish Estuary has identified nine priority derelict boats. Some derelict vessels (not these) are declared "part of the environment/habitat;" therefore, DNR will not remove them. Those designated for removal can be removed under a programmatic HPA through DNR. Snohomish County's costs for removal can be reimbursed through DNR up to 90%.

Living with Beavers: Alex Pittman with the Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) gave an update presentation on the implementation of the Living with Beavers NTA, fully funded by the LIO direct award. There is a nexus of environmental protection and landowner property management. Beaver populations are on the rise. The Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) has been implementing projects on an owner by owner basis. With the LIO direct award funds, SCD has been able to work with partners to host workshops and expand the reach of their assistance and outreach activities.

LIO Restructure Discussion

Jessica gave an overview on the progress so far which began in November 2016. See handout for details. South Central, West Central and Sno-Stilly are considering restructuring their LIOs. The PSP is working on developing a guidance document to serve as sideboards for the approval of new LIOs, a process to formally recognize new LIOs, and set expectations. It is under review by EPA currently. West Central is testing taking on some independence with various LIO activities. They are beginning to explore joint LIO-LE meetings as well with subgroups within that structure.

Jessica added that the PSP guidance document is looking like it will require full LIO integration with the Lead Entities. Will commented that that was the intent at the inception – for salmon recovery to be

integrated into the greater Puget Sound recovery landscape. Erin mentioned that there is a new PSP staffer, Jennifer Lee, to oversee the Lead Entities and the AA which can facilitate better integration.

Jessica pointed out that now the LIO Exec. Comm. is what's keeping us one LIO. Will added that there are different ways to provide coordination between the groups. For example, there could be a quarterly meeting of the chairs/co-chairs which could fulfill that coordination.

Val noted that the Stillaguamish seems to be all figured out but the Snohomish is a black box and there hasn't been news on how that is going to be addressed moving forward. Also, there is a desire to potentially make this group something more than it currently is... like Terry has suggested. Will and Joan commented that if we became a group focused on regulations that would be a different group of people required at the table. There was much discussion about the Tulalip Regulatory Harmonization Initiative.

Perry mentioned that the Snohomish Forum has signed on to increased coordination by reviewing the salmon related habitat NTAs. It may be slow going, but it's a step in the right direction.

Joan commented that the King County Executive is on his last term so there are a lot of initiatives he's trying to push through. In Snohomish County, there's SLS and FFF. Perhaps there should be a conversation between these officials about how to integrate these similar aligning efforts.

Jessica mentioned that the Snohomish LE's hesitance at integrating the same way the Stillaguamish Watershed Council (SWC) has seems to be tied to concerns about diluting focus on salmon stemming from the processes associated with the LIO; not the ecosystem issues themselves.

The group voted on whether to approve this restructure for implementation in 2018. Will recommended it for approval. He would like to circle back in the first quarter of next year on the Snohomish structure perhaps via a joint Snohomish-Stillaguamish meeting (including the Snoqualmie Forum as well). Allan motioned to approve. Joan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2018 Work Plan, Roles/Functions, and Meeting Schedule

Jessica reviewed the draft work plan and meeting schedule. In 2018, there would be two EC meetings scheduled, but they would be extended by an hour. This still equates to a net of two less hours for the year.

The committee discussed how cross-basin NTAs would be handled. We're still figuring that out. Some potential options included: 1) having each basin committee review it and then average the scores 2) having the EC reconcile any tiering differences in basin scores for cross basin NTAs 3) assembling a subcommittee with folks from each basin to review them or 4) having sponsors submit separate NTAs to each basin. The committee decided to have cross-basin NTAs tiered by each basin review team and the EC will resolve disputes if a project falls into different tiers between the two basins.

Jessica reviewed the 2-Year Work Plan and the Roles/Functions Briefing document. One of the primary questions to be answered is whether the EC would delegate NTA recommendations to the basin IC's. The EC decided to delegate NTA decisions to the basin specific committees unless there is a dispute (e.g. in the aforementioned cross-basin projects scoring).

Jessica reviewed the Letters of Support Policy and asked the EC if they want to provide this going forward. It could be a capacity issue. The group discussed what to do about projects that don't align with our goals. They considered providing them when required for funding programs and declining to

for those where it doesn't provide much value. The EC decided to delegate project review to the IC and Technical Advisory Group (TAG). They will review requests for alignment with our Plan and priorities. If they recommend that the project receives a letter of support then the EC can sign the letter electronically, without the need for a meeting.

The committee reviewed the document that was submitted when the PSP recognized the Sno-Stilly LIO. Jessica asked the group to look at page 4. She asked for comments on whether this is still accurate and what we want to continue with.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Action Items and Next Steps

1. Jessica will continue the conversation about roles at the first meeting of 2018.
2. Jessica will send out the meeting schedule for IC review.