

Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization
Snohomish Implementation Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 19, 2020, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Skype Conference

LIO-IC Members

David Simpson, Port of Everett
Paul Clampitt, MRC
Linda Lyshall, SCD
Elise Gronewald, Port of Everett
Heather Khan, Dept. of Ecology
Brandy Reed, KCD
Ann Bylin, Snohomish County
Elisa Dawson, MRC
Julie Lewis, Snoqualmie Tribe
Valerie Streeter, Tulalip Tribes

Participants

Erin Murray, PSP
David Trimbach, OSU
Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County

LIO Support Staff

Alexa Ramos-Cummings, Snohomish County

1. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

Alexa opened the meeting and started introductions. Alexa asked if anyone would like to request changes to the 12/11/19 meeting notes. No changes were requested and the notes were approved by consensus.

Alexa provided a brief update on LIO business items:

- The group was reminded that the LIO Coordinator is on leave with a planned return date of July.
- At the last meeting, the committee selected the Healthy Onsite Sewage Systems NTA for the direct award allocation. The region has also prioritized this project so it will be fully funded.
- Eight projects from our LIO were recommended by the region for funding. See handout for details.

Erin shared regional updates of interest to the committee:

- The current SI Lead contracts are ending and there will be a new RFO for the next funding model cycle. In order to wrap up their final deliverables the 2020 SI Lead Funding Guidance is scheduled for the beginning of summer. Therefore, the LIOs have been asked to make their direct award decisions earlier than usual – by April 30th. However, the 2020 decision is for the Stillaguamish basin to make. They already prioritized a short list of NTAs for funding in 2018 so that should help expedite their decision and meeting the earlier deadline shouldn't be too burdensome.

- The EPA held a listening session with LIO coordinators to gain insight on areas for improvement in the next NEP funding model.
- NTA owners have been asked to report on their funded projects
- The Puget Sound Info website is shaping up and includes highlights for each LIO as well as all 2018 NTAs
- Check PSP's website for an updated legislative session bulletin summary

2. Human Wellbeing Project Update

Alexa provided an overview of the February workshops that OSU hosted. The first workshop was reserved for LIOs participating in the project to work one-on-one with DASEES developers that flew in for the event. The second workshop included EPA staff, SI leads, LIO coordinators, and committee members. The DASEES developers gave presentations on the tool. Alexa also gave a presentation on our LIO's pilot use of the tool for evaluating NTAs for the direct award. The third workshop was scheduled for March 31st, but is being postponed until May 30th now due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Up to three LIO members are invited to attend. David added that the Marine Water Quality IS is integrating DASEES and the EPA is interested in using it to inform the funding model and/or NTA solicitation.

A panel session including the LIO coordinators from each of the participating LIOs was planned for the 2020 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference in Vancouver, B.C. but the conference had to be cancelled in light of the Covid-19 situation.

The committee discussed potential next steps for the LIO's engagement in the HWB project. Staff recommended taking the final year of the project team's support to prioritize HWB components for adaptive management of the Ecosystem Recovery Plan. Alexa will send out a follow-up to solicit LIO members interested in engaging in this work.

3. PSP LIO Capacity Assessment

Alexa and Erin provided an overview of the background and current status of the draft LIO Capacity Assessment prepared by PSP. The assessment was prepared to address LIO concerns around capacity and level of influence on ecosystem recovery both locally and regionally. The assessment seeks to define and outline necessary resources to support both the current and ideal role of an LIO.

Alexa and Erin also explained that there was an additional \$5M in NEP funding made available to support increased capacity agreements for the LIOs. The current agreements fund LIOs at \$75K, but next year \$125K will be available for each. The committee discussed the potential use for these extra funds and areas for overall improvement in LIO functionality.

Members expressed frustration with the historically top-down structure and process-heavy nature the region has imposed on the LIOs. These have been major obstacles to engagement with partners. Some mentioned a desire to see the LIO tackle issues such as enforcement and water quality which would unite organizations and move the needle on recovery.

Focus topic subcommittees were seen as an effective tool.

1. Wrap-up

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.