

Meeting Minutes

Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization Snohomish Implementation Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 25, 2021, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Zoom Conference Call

Local Integrating Organization Implementation Committee (LIO-IC) Members

Ann Bylin, Snohomish County
Tim Ellis, Marine Resources Committee (MRC)
Elise Gronewald, Port of Everett
Linda Lyshall, Snohomish Conservation District (SCD)
Valerie Streeter, Tulalip Tribes
Cory Zyla, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum

Participants & Guests

Joshua Berger, Maritime Sector Lead, WA Department of Commerce
David Sampson, Port of Everett
Elisa Dawson, Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee Staff (MRC)
Erin Murray, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)

LIO Support Staff

Michele Anton, Snohomish County
Kit Crump, Snohomish County
Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County
Kathleen Pozarycki, LIO Coordinator, Snohomish County

Introductions

Kathleen Pozarycki opened the meeting and started introductions. She reviewed the meeting purpose and agenda, and no add-ons were included. No members of the public were present and there were no public comments.

Approval of 8/27/20 Meeting Summary

Valerie Streeter asked if anyone had any comments on the August 27, 2020 Implementation Committee meeting notes. No changes were requested, and the notes were approved by consensus.

LIO Business

LIO Leadership Positions

Kathleen announced that Linda Lyshall has stepped up to fill one of two co-chair positions. This position had been vacant for a long time. Valerie is serving in the other co-chair position.

LIO Website Update

Kathleen stated that the LIO Website is updated and refreshed. Past meeting minutes have been added. Updates to the new Puget Sound Info website, <https://www.pugetsoundinfo.wa.gov/>, have not been completed.

Regional Updates

Action Agenda development

Erin Murray briefed us on the development of the 2022-2026 Action Agenda. The Action Agenda is used to chart recovery and is adopted by many funding agencies. It is a key guidance document for project sponsors seeking National Estuary Program (NEP) dollars. There will not be a Near Term Action (NTA) solicitation this time. PSP Staff and partners felt the NTAs gave an imperfect view of the overall recovery need. The LIO needs to remain active by soliciting comments. Check the website for more information. There are many phases for development. Phase 3 will identify strategies and begins March 1, 2021. Phase 4 will identify actions and targets. Public review will follow. PSP hopes to wrap up this process by 2022.

There is an open invitation to all for more support and involvement from the LIO to provide comments into the draft Action Agenda and process. PSP will be using Miradi software moving forward. PSP is waiting to hear on updates from the Environmental Protection Agency in the next few months about last round of NTA funding for the Sno/Stilly LIO this year.

PSP Legislative Session Update

Bills are currently being heard by the house and senate. A newsletter was sent out on February 25, 2021.

North County Nearshore Septic Project Concerns

Valerie updated us on the project and showed us maps. She made a presentation to the Stillaguamish Watershed Council a few weeks ago. Tulalip Tribes (Tulalip) staff are digging small sampling pits in the nearshore and taking water samples to test for fecal coliform. High levels of Fecal coliform have been found in a number of the samples and are relatively higher in the winter. The levels are higher from the beach samples compared to open water and reference sites without nearby septic systems. Water quality sampling has been challenging overall. As of now, no shellfish harvesting is allowed on the reservation. Tulalip does not want people to get sick by eating shellfish.

There is a lack of information for location and condition of septic systems along the nearshore in Snohomish County, both in the Stillaguamish and the Snohomish Basins. Many homes do not have septic records and were built before the Snohomish Health District and State Department of Health laws were put in place. The Tulalip Tribes has noted that mechanical, plumbing, and foundation repair permits are being issued for homes without documented septic systems. While research is being undertaken to determine the legality of these permits being issued, there is an opportunity here to gain more information when these permits are requested. Homes with grandfathered or unmaintained septic systems that are more than 60 years old may be a potential pollution source and Tulalip would like to bridge this gap in permitting.

Tulalip has been working on an on-site septic educational program. They have worked with the Snohomish County Savvy Septic Program but most people on the reservation are not eligible for grants, however they are eligible for low interest loans. Tulalip has received other funding and fixed up to forty septic systems on the reservation.

Valerie expressed that undocumented septic systems should be located. She said a good first start is addressing failing septic systems. Valerie feels that this is an issue broader than the Tulalip reservation and has questions about the barriers and disconnects in permitting.

Ann Bylin stated that Surface Water Management (SWM) is talking to the Snohomish Health District (SCD) and Planning and Development Services (PDS) about doing the monitoring and maintenance and about permit issues. Educating homeowners is important and the virtual workshops have been beneficial and well attended. The last septic workshop had a lot of interest and 150 residents attended the last series of workshops in February 2021

PIC Phase III Update

Linda Lyshall shared her plan to add the North County Nearshore Septic Project to their PIC III grant. SCD was awarded the grant this round and Snohomish County is a partner. Finding and eliminating fecal coliform from on site septic systems is a component of this program and SCD is targeting the nearshore areas for a series of virtual workshops which will include the Tulalip Reservation. Education is important and financial resources are available. SCD plans to use grant funding to send letters to homeowners/renters in the PIC III area notifying them of the need to inspect and maintain their septic system. The Snohomish Health District (SHD) is hiring a new employee to lead their work on monitoring and maintenance of septic systems. SCD is waiting for the new staff person at SHD to start to begin the outreach together. The WA Department of Ecology has also offered to assist with Septic location work. Areas that have been studied are north of the reservation. Valerie has worked with an intern to collect electronic records of parcels with septic systems on the Tulalip reservation. Elisa Dawson commented that Steve Britsch conducted a detailed mapping effort of on site septic systems along the Warm Beach shoreline for PIC Phase II.

Quiet Sound Project Overview

Joshua Berger presented an overview of the WA Maritime Blue organization. Governor Inslee's Southern Resident Orca Task Force issued their Task Force Report and Recommendations on November 16, 2018. Task Force Recommendation #22 is to "implement shipping noise-reduction initiatives and monitoring programs, coordinating with Canadian and U.S. authorities, and the following tasks:

- Creation of a program that is similar to the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority ECHO Program
- Coordinate with the ECHO Program on transboundary efforts to reduce noise impacts to Southern Resident Orcas"

The Quiet Sound Planning Team consists of the Port of Seattle, Port of Tacoma, Northwest Seaport Alliance, NOAA, Washington State Ferries, PSP, Pacific Merchant Shipping Association, Marine Exchange, U.S. Coast Guard, and the Makah Tribe. There are five work groups. The U.S. Navy is a potential partner as it can share new acoustic monitoring technology with commercial vessels to mitigate noise.

The Planning Committee came together with the Port of Seattle. The Port of Seattle won the 2020 Environmental Stewardship Award for work on the development of the Quiet Sound Program. The program is expected to start in late spring or early summer.

Ongoing and early actions include hydroacoustic monitoring and visual sighting networks, implementation of the Whale Report Alert System (WRAS), vessel quieting innovation, boater education and awareness programs, coordination with the ECHO Program, and development of underwater noise rating criteria (e.g., Green Marine).

The annual cost of the Quiet Sound Program is estimated at \$530,000. New dedicated funding is necessary for more staff. Funding will be sought from multiple sources such as federal and state funding, ports committed funding, grants, and private capital.

The presentation can be found at www.maritimeblue.org/quiet-sound. Joshua's participation is as an employee of the Department of Commerce. Managing data in partnership with the Navy is a challenge. They are still engaging with stakeholders and working with several tribes in addition to state and local governments.

Opportunities for Partner Involvement

Joshua expressed that LIO Involvement could include getting data to put in notification system, evaluation and adaptive management, engagement for work group development, and support in partnership with our partners. Kathleen commented that we should think about ways we can support this work.

Valerie stated that Tulalip is not involved but is very interested in their tribal fisheries.

Elise said that the Port of Everett is not part of Quiet Sound and the Ocean Research College Academy is monitoring in the bay. MRC's could be involved by sharing data, aligning the Northwest Straits Commission with stakeholders. Linda stated that San Juan Island has a lot of data research on whales.

Update from Snohomish Forum- Gretchen Glaub

Gretchen Glaub updated us on coordination with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). DNR wants to engage in salmon recovery focused on the Snohomish Watershed. Gretchen, Kathleen and others have been talking with DNR staff over the last year to reform a strategy for the basin. The DNR Lands commissioner, Hilary Franz, will be attending the next forum meeting. A strategy may not be ready yet to present at this meeting.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is working toward a restoration project in the Ebey Island/Spencer Island/Snohomish delta. Properties have been identified. The report will be used to help secure funding towards the next projects.

PSP is leading an initiative to mobilize funding. Part of this initiative is to create a pilot project to review regional funding for Conservation Futures (CF). PSP has approached Snohomish County to consider being a pilot location for the project. The goal is to increase efforts of the CF program for salmon recovery. The NOAA Chinook Recovery Plan is being updated with strategies and targets for the Snohomish Estuary Acquisition Plan. A water quality white paper is being developed to support this effort. Kathleen will send out a meeting invite for those interested in attending the Snohomish Basin Forum Meeting.

Roundtable Updates

Kathleen announced that the LIO has funding for one member to attend the [2021 IASNR Virtual Conference « IASNR](#) on June 20-24, 2021. The Conference Theme is Building a Global Network for Natural Resource Social Science. Alexa will be attending and there is funding for one more LIO member to attend. Let Kathleen know if you are interested in attending.

Linda stated that the Multi-benefit Monitoring Plan is just getting started. SCD is posting a position for a technical writer/editor with NTA funding.

Valerie said that Tulalip Tribes have started a social marketing project on the reservation to address cigarette butts, litter, barriers, and other issues. She took a social marketing course from Nancy Lee, Pacific Northwest Social Marketing Association (PNSMA), and has been working with her. It is a great course and Valerie would like to share her work sound-wide.

Elise stated that the Port of Everett is working on the Bay Wood Shoreline Restoration Project. The project is creating new nearshore habitat, adding upland buffers and removing contaminated soils. Additional information on the project can be found here: www.portofeverett.com/portside

Cory informed us that the next [Snoqualmie watershed meeting](#) will be on March 17, 2021. There is funding for Snoqualmie and South Fork Skykomish basin restoration. The Floodplains by Design Program was awarded \$22 million.

Ann shared that SWM is recruiting for a planner position in the next couple of weeks that will work in Ann's team.

Wrap-up

Alexa Ramos-Cummings is still on maternity leave and will be returning mid-March.

Upcoming Meetings:

- **May 20, 2021 2:30-4:30 p.m.**
- **November 4, 2021 10:30-12:30 a.m.**

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