

Meeting Minutes

Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO)

Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 16, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Local Integrating Organization Executive Committee (LIO-EC) Members

Gregg Farris, Co-chair, Snohomish County
Joan Lee, Co-chair, King County
David Simpson, Port of Everett
Linda Lyshall, Snohomish Conservation District
Ryan Miller, Tulalip Tribes

Participants & Guests

Andrea Mojzak, King County
Ron Wesen, Skagit County Commissioner
Bennett LaFond, Snohomish Conservation District
Kevin Ruuhela, Snohomish County
Cory Zyla, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
Elissa Ostergaard, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes
Valerie Streeter, Tulalip Tribes
Cheryl Sullivan, Department of Agriculture
Justin Donahue, Department of Ecology
Margaret Dutch, Department of Ecology
Lindsey Desmul, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County
Joycelyn Blue, Snohomish County
Erin Ryan-Penuela, PSP

LIO Support Staff

Kathleen Pozarycki, Snohomish County
Alexa Ramos-Cummings, Snohomish County
Michele Anton, Snohomish County

Introductions

Gregg opened the meeting and started with introductions. Kathleen noted this is our first EC meeting in over a year and reviewed the agenda. There were no members of the public present and no public comments.

Approval of 4/30/20 meeting minutes

Minutes were sent out during the meeting. Approval was postponed until the end of the meeting to give members time to review. Gregg asked if there were requests for changes. Changes were not requested, and the minutes were approved by consensus.

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/75213/Meeting-summary-43020>

LIO Business

ECB Representative for Sno/Stilly LIO

- The Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) has voted to approve a new Ex-Officio Position for the Sno/Stilly LIO. Gregg explained that this is a new non-voting position and has approached the Snohomish County Executive, Dave Somers, to see if he is interested. He is waiting for an answer and will follow up at a later meeting. The deadline is July 22nd to submit a letter of support from the LIO and a letter of interest from representative.
- Kathleen explained the basic expectations of this role including attending meetings four times per year, helping implement the ECB workplan, and participating on ECB subcommittees.
- Ron Wesen will still be the official voting member. Meetings will be focused geographically by each of the ten LIOs and each LIO will have a chance to bring forward issues of importance to their local area. Ron stated that the ECB generally makes decisions by consensus and they do not have close votes. It is important for people involved on the LIO to have input.
- Linda and Joan voiced support for Executive Dave Somers serving as our representative with Gregg as the designated alternate. As a plan B, Joan suggested an elected official/council member be solicited to fill the role in the event that the Executive isn't available. Linda voiced support for plan B.
- Morgan asked if there was conversation about King County filling the seat since our LIO spans multiple jurisdictions. Joan responded that King County Executive Dow Constantine sits on the board already and so thinks it makes sense for Snohomish County to take the seat instead.
- Linda motioned to approve nominating Executive Dave Somers, and if he declines, then move on to Plan B. Gregg seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

LIO 2021-2022 Grant <https://pspwa.box.com/s/0pxlje1iia4z6nsddjkb7x5mylh7zzy4>

- Erin Ryan-Penuela provided an update on LIO funding. PSP provides capacity funding to the fiscal agent (Snohomish County) to support an LIO coordinator who will facilitate an LIO as described in the document linked above. The first three pages are a good overview. For 10 years, the grants were \$75,000. This year funding increased to \$125,000 and this will continue at least for next year. \$60,000 of this funding is very flexible. Erin shared a draft SOW and gave an overview of what these extra capacity funds could be used for to support LIO work and priorities. The Tasks 1-4 are required by all LIOs. Task 5 is new and can be tailored to support the unique vision and goals of each LIO. This includes funds for additional projects, stipends, regional forums, education, and workshops.
- Kathleen noted she is assessing the barriers listed in our Ecosystem Recovery Plan to identify the top 5 that we could use this funding to address. There is lots of detail in the new agreement and it will require us to develop a work plan. Kathleen asked members how they would like to engage and she will be sending out information for additional input.
- Morgan commented on the flexibility of these funds for work that is not easily funded by other sources. She elaborated that there are also gaps on project messaging and storytelling that could use this financial support as well. She asked if there is a way to leverage and build on communication work from the lead entity and integrated ecosystem recovery approaches.
- Joan clarified Morgan's point about the overlap between all this work happening in the area that could use clear unified messaging.

IGNITE Presentations on NTA Projects from Sponsors

Integrating Climate Resilience into Farm-Fish-Flood – Bennet LaFond, Agriculture Resilience Project Manager, provided an overview of the project and how it supports the Sustainable Land Strategy and Integration Teams. This project seeks to integrate climate resilience into multi-benefit collaborative projects for sustainable floodplain management in the Stilly and Snohomish basins. It provides a forum to

maximize multi-benefit interests and build outreach around the Agriculture Resilience Plan and agro-ecosystem services. He also talked about specific efforts at Swans' Trail Slough to realize a multi-benefit project design to improve farmland drainage and improve fish habitat.

Kathleen asked if this committee can support this work. Bennett said there are complexities to permitting, water issues, and regulatory issues at the policy level. He explained that the barriers are more in areas that move water and have exempt status. Kathleen said this is a good topic to move forward with the ECB representative for legislative change.

Savvy Septic - Kevin Ruuhela, Energy and Resource Conservation Specialist for Snohomish County, described the [Savvy Septic Program](#) – a one-stop shop for financing options, incentives, and education to help residents maintain a healthy septic system. It provides low-interest loans (via Craft 3), rebates, grants, workshops, and technical support. The goal of the program is to improve water quality with an eye toward opening 696 acres of shellfish beds, possibly up to 818 acres, and this is a priority for the Stillaguamish watershed. Partners include LakeWise, PIC Program, SCD, and Washington SeaGrant. The program has \$425,000 in funding and their team is looking for ideas to streamline process, spread the word about Savvy Septic, and conduct marketing in the Stillaguamish watershed. He thanked the Sno-Stilly LIO for their support.

Joan asked about ease of access and language barriers. Kevin noted the website, outreach plan, and target basins as main methods for reaching residents. About 10,000 postcards are sent out per workshop, including a notice in the Everett Herald. Septic Care Workshops have recently been held online due to Covid which has proven to be more accessible for some members of the community. Moving forward workshops will be both in person and online. Savvy Septic covers the cost of translators and offers some materials in other languages. Kathleen stated that the LIO most recently supported this work by turning a portion of the online workshop materials into a video. The team will send out the video once completed.

Puget Sound Sediment Monitoring - Margaret Dutch, WA Dept. of Ecology, provided an overview of the project which monitors for the presence of PPCP (pharmaceuticals and personal care products) and PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in Puget Sound. They have been measuring physical and biochemical parameters since 1989. These monitored substances include fluorinated hydrocarbon chemicals, firefighting foams, and other toxic significant environmental chemicals of human health concern. From 2010 to 2019, eight Puget Sound sampling locations have been monitored. There is priority in the Port Gardner/Everett Harbor.

Kathleen asked if they are working with the WDFW mussel watch sampling team. Maggie said they leverage sampling efforts by collecting sediments for analysis by both groups where interests overlap like detecting steroid compounds.

Sustainable Lands Strategy Communication and Outreach - Lindsay Desmul, Habitat biologist with WDFW, talked about their NTA partnership with SCD, explained the role of SLS, and how they work to gather all the Farm, Fish, Flood groups together. They have found meetings are better in person, but virtual is working. Outreach events so far have included a celebratory event, CaravanLab, video storytelling workshop, movie night, farm to table dinner, and virtual farm tours. They are also doing a survey funded outside of the NTA grant. Lindsey mentioned they need more outreach, but it is hard to find funding for communication work. Joan commented it is great that SLS and FFF groups get together for joint learning.

PSP Action Agenda Update- Phase 3 Strategies

Kathleen provided an overview of PSP's Action Agenda update and the new list of strategies being proposed. [Public workshops](#) (June 17th (9am – 12pm) and June 22nd (1:30 – 4:30pm)) are coming up and an online [webpage](#) is available to submit comments by June 25th.

LIO Strategy Ranking Process Update - Our LIO has been asked by PSP to rank about 150 Strategies as part of the Action Agenda update process. Several committee members have stepped up to join a sub-committee to give initial feedback on red flags and reduce the list. The partnership wants to design a more streamlined and focused next Action Agenda.

Our plan is to rank these strategies “high, medium, and low” and offer our LIO strategy to the Partnership. Ron Wesen said they are working on how to simplify and prioritize the 150 strategies. Kathleen stated the subcommittee will be sending out a package of ranked strategies and will be looking for feedback from this committee. She asked if the EC feel that this is a good process moving forward. It was noted that the LIO could use some focus. Joan agreed that it is a good process.

Regional Updates

- Kathleen said King county is working on a project called Clean Water Healthy Habitat project with a key initiative to address nutrient pollution in in Port Susan. King County has seen results from the Salish Sea model developed by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and nutrients from their Westpoint treatment plant are moving to Port Susan. They have reached out to Snohomish county to discuss ways to reduce other nutrient pollution in Port Susan to offset the pollution coming from the wastewater treatment plan. King County would like to partner with staff/experts to look for water quality issues on the ground, such as monitoring runoff from ag fields and OSS issues and look for ways they can fund BMPs and septic system fixes. It's good to see money going to those on the ground projects.
- Gregg stated that the local MRC is reviewing the Port Susan Conservation Action Plan jointly with Island County. Kathleen commented that the plan looks at recovery fish, shellfish, whales, and other aspects of Puget Sound.
- Kathleen shared that the Quiet Sound Project was funded to address noise for Southern Resident Killer Whales and money is being provided to Maritime Blue to implement the work.
- Cory said there are about 19 people participating from around the area in the Knotweed control strategy development.
- Ryan Miller expressed that he is happy to be here. This is his first meeting and he is excited about the Savvy Septic Program and other work being done. He noted there are parcels on the shoreline with suspected failing septic systems that affect shellfish areas. Kathleen commented that the PIC project is focusing on this work and the Snohomish Health District has hired more staff for inspection reporting.

Wrap Up & Next Steps

- Kathleen asked if meeting minutes should now be approved. A motion was made and passed.
- There was discussion around scheduling the next EC meeting. Gregg stated that twice a year seems to be working. Kathleen suggested coordinating EC meetings with the ECB quarterly meetings. Next is August 12th, but it may be hard to get people together over the summer. A meeting in mid-September will be scheduled.
- Gregg welcomed Ryan Miller as the new Tulalip Tribes Representative of this committee and expressed how we appreciated Terry Williams and all the work he did with the LIO and other committees he participated in. Joan welcomed Ryan also and suggested writing a letter of appreciation to Terry for his years of contribution to the LIO and Puget Sound recovery. Kathleen

agreed that Terry was a huge contributor to this work, a leader for so many of us. Gregg supported the LIO writing a letter to Terry. Staff will draft a letter to send to co-chairs for review.

- Gregg will follow-up about the ECB Representative position after we hear from Executive Somers.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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