

## Meeting Minutes

### Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization

#### Snohomish Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, November 19, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom Conference Call

#### LIO EC Members

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

#### Participants & Guests

Hannah Liss, Puget Sound Partnership  
Bill Blake, Skagit Conservation District  
Bill Derry, Pilchuck Audubon Society  
Ann Bylin, Snohomish County  
Valerie Streeter, Tulalip Tribes  
Kelsey Payne, Snoqualmie Tribe  
Steve Britsch, Snohomish County  
Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County  
Dan Sulak, US Dept. of Agriculture  
Terri Strandberg, Snohomish County

#### LIO Support Staff

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

#### Introductions/LIO Business

- Introductions: Gregg Farris, co-chair, opened the meeting and started with introductions. Our new Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator (ERC), Hannah Liss, introduced herself. She will be supporting the Snohomish, Stillaguamish, Skagit, and Samish watersheds. Bill Blake mentioned that the Skagit watershed is considering forming an LIO.
- Approval of the 6/16/21 meeting summary: Linda motioned to approve the meeting summary; David seconded the motion. The meeting summary was approved. Jason Griffith abstained since he did not attend the June meeting.
- LIO Business: Gregg and Kathleen welcomed the new Stillaguamish watershed representative, Jason Griffith, who is filling the former seat of Pat Stevenson.
- Kathleen informed the group that our LIO Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) representative, Executive Somers, attended last two ECB meetings. At the October ECB meeting, WSPER LIO hosted a workshop focused on local issues. The workshop was well-facilitated and helpful for local practitioners to communicate ways the various boards could support their on-the-ground work. Kathleen will share out the link to the recording once its available.

- Kathleen noted that our LIO is next up to host a local workshop in June 2022 for the Leadership Council meeting. She suggested that our LIO consider using this workshop as an opportunity to discuss the same topics as the WSPER workshop. This could help highlight that these issues are widespread and give our own local experts an opportunity to share their perspectives. More discussion will follow on this topic at a later meeting.
- Regional Updates: Kathleen reported that Don Gourlie is preparing the Partnership's Legislative Agenda Priorities. He will be finalizing the materials on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to send to the Leadership Council with the rest of their meeting packet. Executive Somers did comment and request that septic system funding be elevated from low priority to high priority. So, if there are any additional comments folks would like to make, please send them to Kathleen by COB December 1st.

**SIL/LIO Subaward Options (\$500,000 over five years per LIO): [FY21 EPA Funding Guidance to SILs FINAL.pdf](#) | [Powered by Box](#)**

- Kathleen gave the committee an overview of the three options that LIOs can choose from for the SIL subawards:
  - a. LIOs can move forward directly into the five-year co-developed workplan activities.
  - b. For the first year of this multi-year subaward, LIOs could choose to support one SIL-approved 2018 NTA for \$100,000 if it meets the NEP Funding Priorities and is approved by the appropriate SIL
  - c. LIOs could choose to support a single SIL-approved 2018 NTA for \$100,000 as above, and then opt out of additional subaward support through the SILs2.0 for the remainder of this funding model.
- Kathleen described the planning process that has occurred so far for to make a recommendation to the Executive Committee (EC). Both the Snohomish Implementation Committee and the Stillaguamish Implementation Committee (which is also the Stillaguamish Watershed Council, SWC) have choose option A to recommend to the EC after discussion. The workplan subcommittee also recommended option A as they began work initially to develop a 1-year workplan, but since then have expanded to consider the 5-year timeframe.
- Kathleen noted that the "clock" began July 1st, so in a practical sense we are looking at \$500,000 over the next 4 years since it will take time to develop and sign contracts etc.
- Joan and Linda both commented that Option A allows the LIO the most flexibility so that is their preferred option. Linda motioned to choose Option A; Jason seconded the motion. Option A was selected.

**LIO Workplan Survey**

- Linda Lyshall presented on the workplan subcommittee work and survey. The workplan subcommittee developed "themes/barriers" that the LIO could focus on for the next year (now next 5 years). The "themes" were evaluated for alignment with the new Action Agenda strategies and significant alignment was present. This workplan must be approved by the SILs so a high level of alignment is important.
- A survey was sent out to LIO members and partners via email and we received 22 responses.
- Themes included:
  - Regulatory Effectiveness/ Enforcement,
  - Riparian Buffers,
  - Water Quality / Shellfish / Onsite Septic Systems,
  - Public Involvement in Watershed Committees

- Salmon Safe,
- Climate Resiliency,
- Fish Passage Culverts
- The climate resilience barrier ranking the top choice by one vote and a tie between four other themes including regulatory effectiveness, riparian buffers, fish passage culverts, and water quality. However, now that the timeline for this workplan has been expanded, the subcommittee would like to expand the scope of the workplan and solicit additional feedback from the Implementation Committees. Ideas include developing an updated survey, doing polls during meetings, and finding ways to ensure thorough feedback.
- Linda shared some additional ideas that came up in the Implementation Committee meetings including:
  - Advance smart development and protect intact habitat (including Net Ecological Gain)
  - Reduce pressure for land conversion
  - Address cumulative water pollution (temp, bacterial, DO, nutrients)
  - FEMA Flood Mapping in the Stillaguamish River Basin
  - Plan for future freshwater availability and reduce water demand
- Discussion and Questions: Jason shared that the Stilly tribe is prioritizing on-the-ground actions that further ecosystem recovery. He thinks looking at barriers to restoration and protection actions on-the-ground should be a focus of the LIO and that type of assessment is not a capital project by nature itself but would still support on-the-ground work. He provided some specific examples of non-capital gaps and barriers to on-the-ground work i.e.) FEMA rescinded guidance on Snohomish County floodplain restoration which has ramifications for zero rise woody debris in river projects. An impediment is that the FEMA maps from the 1980s in the Stilly basin are based on 1D modelling and are not up to date yet this information on flooding is used as a basis for granting permits. An updated flood study would be a multiyear process and need to be integrated with the Comp Plan update. He noted that another idea relevant to the Stilly basin is onsite septic systems.

There was discussion about next steps to develop the workplan and select a theme(s). Kathleen suggested creating criteria for selecting a barrier theme. Linda suggested looking to the region's 26 Action Agenda strategies or asking the Implementation Committees to put forward ideas. Kathleen suggested asking for more participation from the Implementation Committees in the existing workplan subcommittee. She also reminded the group that we are ahead of the SILs planning for this and they ultimately need to approve our workplan, so we want to make sure they are onboard with our plan and not get too far down the road before that.

Bill asked about how this process ties into the bigger pots of money with near-term action (NTAs) being removed from the picture. Bill noted this new approach from the region is reminiscent of the original Lead Organization (LO) model.

Linda shared the EPA Funding Guidance to SILs and noted it closely aligns with what Joan was suggesting we focus on for the workplan. Kathleen highlighted that the themes we have and continue to identify are in alignment with many (i.e. 13/26) of the AA strategies which also supports this thinking.

Joan suggested we spend time addressing bureaucratic impediments that will enable us to act faster and more efficiently.

Jason spoke to the injunction culverts and how the FEMA mapping idea would help address that issue too and support easier permitting.

Gretchen noted that this FEMA rescindment is a statewide issue and could be beyond the scale of the LIO. Jason agreed that this is a bigger issue but perhaps the LIO could address a part of it.

Proposed next steps are:

- 1) Reconvene the workplan subcommittee. Develop criteria to evaluate options. Review the comments thus far and consider a new survey or other type of input to ensure that feedback is received from the Stillaguamish and the Snohomish Implementation Committees (IC)
- 2) Hold a joint Stilly/Snohomish IC meeting to get feedback
- 3) Reconvene the EC after the final guidance from the region comes out in January and joint IC meeting provides input and feedback.

### **Action Agenda (AA) Update**

- Alexa gave a brief update on the final list of [Strategies](#): The final list has been adopted. Our LIO subcommittee reviewed and commented on the initial draft of 127 strategies. We suggested narrowing 70 of the strategies. This has since been narrowed down to a final set of 26 strategies. Many were grouped together under larger umbrellas to get to 26 final strategies.
- Phase 4 Update: The Partnership is now in Phase 4 of the AA Update process and this month they kicked off a series workshops focused on each of the final 26 strategies. She shared the list of [Workshops](#) and descriptions (see below).
- Action Agenda Development Workshops: There have been six workshops so far. LIO staff and members have been trying to cover attendance at each of the workshops. Kathleen and Alexa have attended many of them. The Mural boards used to capture input during the workshops are posted online if folks are interested in reviewing. Comments can be submitted on the materials through Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. The comment deadline was intended to accommodate folks that can't participate in the live workshops by allowing them to review and comment on the materials being provided in the live workshops. Others have noted that it can be difficult to get all of your feedback incorporated in the live workshop format and the comment period could be a helpful alternative.
  - Workshop A - Smart growth and development, November 2 and November 30
  - Workshop B - Working lands, November 3 and December 1
  - Workshop C - Marine habitat protection and restoration, November 4 and December 2
  - Workshop D - Freshwater habitat protection and restoration, November 5 and Dec 3
  - Workshop E - Water quality, November 9 and December 7
  - Workshop F - Food webs and human activities, November 10 and December 8

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Kathleen encouraged LIO members to attend the workshops of interest to them because this AA will direct the next cycle of NEP funds going forward so it is worthwhile to participate, but of course we understand everyone's capacity is limited.

Several LIO IC members shared that they are participating in many of the workshops. Kathleen noted there has been about 80 attendees at each of the workshops she attended so far.

Alexa shared the latest information from the region regarding LIO review from PSP: **Please plan on reviewing draft high-level actions between January 6 and 19, 2022.** This will be a close partner review for LIOs coordinators and your committees, tribes, Action Agenda Coordination Group members, and Strategic Initiative Leads in advance of distributing this content to

Management Conference boards and partners for the winter boards cycle beginning with the Salmon Recovery Council on January 27. PSP may also have other materials for review at that time, including draft narrative for components of the Action Agenda document, but they are committed to at a minimum having draft high-level actions. Feedback on the draft high-level actions received by January 19 will be rapidly reviewed and considered for incorporation into the board and partner review draft distributed one week later.

- Strategic Implementation Lead (SIL) Membership Recruitment: Kathleen shared that the SILs are recruiting and encouraged people to consider applying. The deadline to apply is Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>. This role helps direct NEP funding allocations. She is considering applying for the Shellfish SIL. Valerie shared that, for the Tulalip Tribes, she is applying to Stormwater SIL and Matt Pouley is applying to Habitat SIL. The Full notice and information is linked [here](#).

### Wrap Up & Next Steps

- Roundtable Updates
  - Kathleen shared the septic care video that our LIO helped fund (\$5,000) to share at the County's septic care workshops especially in the recent virtual format - [Snohomish Septic System Care - YouTube](#)
  - Jason shared that the South Fork Stillaguamish restoration project was completed. It moved the river into the campground and partnered with the Forest Service to create a new channel. The Gold Basin landslide area impacts drainage and habitat and has been a 20-year effort to restore. There are field trips planned for the Spring. Jason will share invites then.
  - Gregg shared that Snohomish County got a Flood Control Account Program (FCAAP) grant to do flood modelling along the Stillaguamish river. This will be the same modelling type used in the Floodplains by Design project. He also noted that the federal infusion of money could be partly dedicated to FEMA mapping.
  - Gretchen shared that WA Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) just released a draft watershed resilience plan for the Snohomish basin. Comments are due Dec 2nd. She will be meeting with DNR this afternoon to discuss a kickoff event with the DNR Commissioner in January. She will keep the LIO updated.
  - Terri Strandberg shared that the Snohomish County Comp Plan update is in progress and they are requesting feedback on the EIS and scoping process. Comments will be taken until Dec 3rd. Kathleen noted there was a link to submit comments in this month's announcements email that went out yesterday.
- Meeting decisions and next steps:
  - Kathleen and Alexa will review the high-level AA draft in January and prepare comments for EC review.
  - Kathleen will reconvene the LIO Workplan Subcommittee & develop criteria
  - Kathleen will work to schedule a joint Snohomish Implementation Committee and Stillaguamish Implementation Committee meeting to review workplan ideas
  - Next EC meeting timeframe: Kathleen will send out a doodle poll to schedule a January meeting to review the Action Agenda High Level Actions.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.