

Meeting Minutes

Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization

Snohomish Implementation Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 4, 2021, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Zoom Conference Call

LIO IC Members

Linda Lyshall, co-chair, Snohomish Conservation District

Valerie Streeter, co-chair, Tulalip Tribes

Bill Derry, Pilchuck Audubon Society

David Simpson, Port of Everett

Ann Bylin, Snohomish County

Cory Zyla, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum

Elise Gronewald, Port of Everett

Mike Ehlebracht (for Tim Ellis), Snohomish Marine Resources Committee

Elisa Dawson, Snohomish County SWM Staff for Snohomish Marine Resources Committee

Heather Khan, WA Dept. of Ecology

Participants & Guests

Hannah Liss, Puget Sound Partnership

Leah Kitner, Puget Sound Partnership

LIO Support Staff

Kathleen Pozarycki, Snohomish County

Alexa Ramos-Cummings, Snohomish County

Introductions and announcements

- Review agenda and introductions: Linda, co-chair, opened the meeting and led the group through introductions. No one had changes for the agenda.
- Approval of 5-20-21 meeting summary: Linda asked the committee to approve the meeting summary. No one had requests for changes. The meeting summary was approved.
- Kathleen Introduced our new Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator (ERC), Hannah Liss, Puget Sound Partnership.

EPA Funding Guidance [FY21 EPA Funding Guidance to SILs FINAL.pdf](#) | Powered by Box:

- Kathleen provided background on the process that began July 1, what our options are, and the initial recommendations of our committee chairs. Ultimately, the Executive Committee (EC) will make the final decision about how our LIO proceeds, but she said we would like to get the input of the Implementation Committees to form a recommendation to the EC.
- Elise asked what the \$500,000 would fund, if not capital actions. There were questions about whether the full funding was intended to go towards creating a workplan or actual implementation. Kathleen clarified that the full \$500,000 is not intended to be used solely for planning processes.
- Elisa asked about how the 2018 NTAs will or won't relate to the LIO survey or inform this workplan process going forward. Kathleen explained how the survey themes were developed by the subcommittee (Linda, Franny, Valerie, Heather, Kathleen, and Alexa) and the intention of addressing

one of these major barrier “themes” highlighted by the survey. NTAs are being phased out in this Action Agenda Update, but the SILs will provide an RFP to fund projects.

- Kathleen gave an overview of the Funding Guidance from EPA. The final allocation of EPA Puget Sound Geographic Funds to the three new Strategic Initiative Leads are \$5.8M for Habitat, \$4.05M for Shellfish, and \$4.95M for Stormwater. Additionally, LIO will receive a \$500,000 subaward over five years.

SIL/LIO Subaward Options (\$500,000 over five years per LIO):

- 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 SILs 2.0 for the remainder of this funding model.

EPA strongly encourages that SILs 2.0 and LIOs work together to establish a 5-year award based upon a co-developed, five-year workplan that will provide funding to the LIOs for implementation support of Implementation Strategies and the Action Agenda. This is an opportunity for transformational change and accelerated progress across the Puget Sound protection and recovery system by creating an enabling environment for coordination of implementation at all spatial scales. Please note that the intent and purpose of these subawards are separate and distinct from the EPA-funded LIO capacity subawards managed through PSP.

The committee decided to go through the workplan survey presentation prior to selecting an option.

LIO Workplan Survey

- Presentation: Linda walked the group through the survey themes and Action Agenda strategies crosswalk that the subcommittee drafted. The crosswalk highlighted significant alignment with the AA. Kathleen summarized the survey questions including the text describing each theme, what actions under each theme might look like, and the survey results.
- Discussion and Questions: Ann commented about the nuance between Salmon Safe as a “barrier/theme” being more of a tool than a barrier so it could use reframing to a broader issue of water quality, for example. Kathleen noted that Executive Somers recently signed the Puget Sound Salmon Safe Pledge.
- Cory expressed his support for addressing systemic barriers/benefitting multiple sites and that it’s a great approach for these funds. He preferred themes #1, #3, or #7. He felt riparian buffers, while more work is direly needed in our basin, might be pretty tricky to pull off. He noted there’s the SLS, FFF, RCO has new SRFB requirements, the state and tribes are considering new state-imposed minimums and therefore it seems a bit more unwieldy than some of the other options (depending on what we do).
- Ann mentioned that additional work should be done to ensure that the themes are at a similar scale. Salmon safe is a tool, not a barrier, however it could be edited to address stormwater impacts or something along those lines. The water quality/OSS theme is focused on fecal coliform, but it might make sense to broaden it beyond that. Kathleen thought that we could consider revisions for something like: Explore the creation of a model similar to [Clean Water Kitsap](#).
- Valerie discussed the need and potential to use this workplan to address the barrier of enforcement.
- Kathleen shared that Island LIO did a similar feedback exercise and came to very similar conclusions/barrier themes as our subcommittee did. So, there is potential to partner with other jurisdictions on these wide-reaching issues.
- Alexa relayed Gretchen’s comments and questions about considering Option B for SIL/LIO Subaward and potentially further funding the Snohomish Salmon Life Cycle Modelling NTA. Leah and Kathleen responded that they’re unsure if the SILs are considering further funding to any 2018 NTA efforts, but it

doesn't seem like it at this time. We also could not just choose to fund that specific project without creating a fair process to review all 2018 NTAs that could use more funding and then going through a selection process. Leah added that one thing to consider is NEP funding is generally more flexible than other sources. Salmon projects are usually not as competitive for NEP funding, because it is more limited than what is available through SRFB/PSAR. Also, if Senator Cantwell's push goes through, there could be a lot more salmon recovery money coming our way.

- Kathleen asked the group if they have a preference between "Option A" or "Option B". After discussion, the Snohomish Implementation Committee decided to recommend moving forward with Option A: LIOs can move forward directly into the five-year co-developed workplan activities, to the Sno/Stilly LIO Executive Committee.

Next steps: Share information on survey results and themes with the Stillaguamish Watershed Council and get their input on which option to pursue for SIL/EPA funding award and also get their input on survey themes and next steps and then take all of this feedback to the Sno/Stilly LIO Executive Committee.

Action Agenda Update

- Update on Final list of Strategies: Kathleen shared that the original draft list of 127 strategies has been narrowed down to a final set of 26. Many were grouped together under larger umbrella strategies.
 - Phase 4 Update: PSP is now in Phase 4 of the Action Agenda (AA) Update and has just kicked off a series of workshops around each of the 26 strategies. Kathleen shared the list of workshops and descriptions in the chat (see below for a list). She encouraged members to attend those workshops of interest because this next AA will direct the NEP funds going forward so it is worthwhile to participate, but of course capacity is limited. Ann asked if there are many non-state agency folks attending. Kathleen noted there has been about 88 attendees at each of the workshops she's attended so far. Kathleen added that official LIO comments are due to PSP by December 10th, but the last workshop is December 9th so many LIO coordinators were upset that there isn't more time to develop LIO feedback after the workshops conclude. Leah clarified that the December 10th deadline was intended to accommodate folks that can't participate in the many live workshops by allowing them to review and comment on the materials being provided in the live workshops. Many LIO members shared that they are participating in several of the workshops. Leah recommended since our LIO is having such active participation in the workshops we can probably disregard the December 10th comment deadline. Valerie added that it can be difficult to get all of your feedback incorporated in the live workshop format and the December 10th comment period could be a helpful alternative. Kathleen asked if our LIO could have a separate version of the workshop Mural boards to ensure we can review the materials as a group and get our comments documented to submit to PSP. Leah will follow-up.
 - Action Development Workshops
Kathleen reminded everyone that the PSP is hosting a series of action agenda workshops over the next six weeks to talk about specific high-level actions and intermediate actions for the Phase 4 of the Action Agenda update. All are welcome to attend. Kathleen and Alexa will try to attend the majority of the workshops as time allows. A link to the Phase 4 Action Agenda website is located here: [Identifying Actions for Puget Sound Recovery \(wa.gov\)](https://www.psp.wa.gov/identifying-actions-for-puget-sound-recovery)
 - 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 December 3
 - Workshop E - Water quality, November 9, and December 7, 9 am - 12 pm
 - Workshop F - Food webs and human activities, November 10, and December 8, 12:30 - 3:30 pm
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- **Strategic Implementation Lead (SIL) Membership [Recruitment](#)**- Deadline Nov. 22: Kathleen shared that the SILs are recruiting and encouraged people to consider applying. The 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.

Roundtable Updates

- **Septic Video:** [Snohomish Septic System Care - YouTube](#) Kathleen shared that this was funded with LIO dollars (\$5,000) and created collaboratively, led by Alex Pittman, to share at the County's septic care workshops especially in the recent virtual format.
- **State of the Sound:** stateofthesound.wa.gov
- **Salmon projects:** Cory shared that the Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant round is opening soon and has \$2M to allocate. Knotweed task force is rolling. It's a big year for salmon project funding. \$2B statewide, about \$10M in the watershed.
- **Index of Floodplain Health:** Linda shared the SCD started this process a few months ago and are meeting with various groups. She will have more to share maybe by the next meeting. The work was inspired by Pierce County's program that developed indicators of floodplain health and hold a summit annually to check indicator status and adaptively manage. Nov 17th SLS special topics meeting will include a presentation on this work, and everyone is invited to learn more. Linda will share a project summary and invite everyone to the SLS meeting.
- **Port Susan Conservation Action Plan:** Elisa shared that the plan is 10 years old now so the Snohomish and Island MRC are partnering to lead an effort to reflect on what's been achieved and what changes could be needed going forward to adaptively manage this work. They've hired ESA Inc. to help with facilitation, and a group of Evan's school students will be helping with the project as well. Look out for a survey soon too.
- **Climate change work:** Valerie noted the tribe is working with Eric Grossman on gathering climate change data.
- **Ecology DO and Fine sediment rulemaking:** Heather shared Ecology's DO and Fine Sediment rulemaking - open public comment period until December 16. Here's a [link](#) for further details. They have been conducting fecal coliform data mapping work recently. Pilchuck trash ERTS underway and making progress with that landowner in partnership with SHD. WSDA Fecal Coliform/E-coli Map: <https://arcg.is/1famvy>
- **Climate change impacts:** Elise shared that they recently completed a Sustainability Plan for the Port of Everett. Finished Baywood habitat restoration project this summer 2200 ft of buffer zone restored partnered with Ecology. The property is being sold to a developer that is installing a public access trail along the edge.
https://cms9.revize.com/revize/everett/environment/environmental_cleanups.php

Wrap-Up

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.