

ILIO Executive Committee Meeting
May 24, 2017 9:00-10:00 am
1 NE 6th Street, Coupeville, WA (Annex Room B-102)

Meeting Summary

Members Present: Molly Hughes, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Richard M. Hannold, Island County Commissioner
Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Tim Callison, Mayor of Langley
Curt Gordon, Commissioner, South Whidbey Port District
Stan Walsh, Skagit River Systems Cooperative (alt. for Lorraine Loomis)
Doug Meriman, City of Oak Harbor Representative
John Mishasek, Commissioner, Coupeville Port District

Also Present: Suzanna Stoike, Puget Sound Partnership (via phone conference)
Lori Clark, Island County DNR, ILIO Coordinator

I. Call to order

Chair Commissioner Helen Price Johnson called the ILIO EC meeting to order at 9:01 am.

MOTION: Mayor Hughes made a motion to approve the August 24, 2016 minutes with two typo corrections, Commissioner Hannold second the motion. August 24, 2016 Minutes were approved.

II. Updates (Lori Clark)

DISCUSSION:

- The federal government did sign a continued resolution which secures the funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Estuary Program (NEP) funding for the upcoming year which will continue the capacity funding for the ILIO Coordinator position and also the \$100,000 allocation for local Near Term Action (NTA) implementation funding for 2018. There will be approximately \$15 million allocated for the Action Agenda implementation.
- The PSP is working to ensure that the Action Agenda is a comprehensive plan which could be utilized by any potential funding source (not just the NEP funds).
- Commissioner Price Johnson shared that the continuing allocation helped ease minds about what will happen through October however there is still concern about what will be done in the State and locally to leverage the resources that we are spending to help move the initiatives forward.
- Lori vetted the Island LIO 5-year Ecosystem Recovery Plan (ERP) through the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC), Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC) and the Salmon Recovery Technical Committee (SRTC) to get public input on the plan.

- Lori also presenting the ERP at the Puget Sound Summit. PSP synthesized the 9 LIO ERPs to find common themes and also highlighted ways we are unique. Comments were used to strengthen the plans and also to message the plans.

III. Island LIO 5-year Ecosystem Recovery Plan (Lori Clark)

DISCUSSION:

- Commissioner Price Johnson asked about the public comment from the WRAC meeting regarding the addition of the relationship between Agricultural and Forestry Effluent and Chinook salmon, forage fish and eelgrass and kelp. If Best Management Practices are used, there shouldn't be an issue with stormwater runoff and these landuses can be beneficial by keeping open space and active recharge and filtration of the stormwater. We have local and state regulations around forestry and agriculture to protect critical areas. We should see these industries as partners in recovery not as threats. Incentives the things that help recharge our aquifer and filter stormwater. The alternative land use would be development which would be a greater pressure. Stan noted that since the Agriculture and Forestry Effluents were added to the list of priority pressures the Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) and Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) have been updated which have improved the conditions and potential impacts.
- Commissioner Hannold requested the ERP include that the county is proactively addressing agriculture and forestry land uses through the SMP and CAO.
- Mayor Callison asked why major fisheries are not on the list of pressures to shellfish. Although we do not have any control over the fisheries, it is an external pressure to shellfish harvest. Lori explained that commercial fish harvest was discussed as a pressure early on in the open standards process although it was not selected as one of the priority pressures. One reason for not selecting this as a priority was that we cannot drive actions at a local level that would reduce this pressure.
- Commissioner Mishasek asked how big of an issue are individual on-site septic systems (OSS). Lori responded that Island County has approximately 70% of the residents on OSS so the potential impact to the marine and fresh water quality is significant.
- Commissioner Price Johnson added that selling a home typically motivates people to get their systems inspected and fixed so that they can sell their home.
- Commissioner Hannold shared that Triangle Cove area demonstrates a success of the OSS loan program. The Craft 3 loan program allows for very low interest loans for residents to repair their OSS. This makes it easier for these residents to do repairs and be compliant with local and state inspection requirements.
- Commissioner Mishasek suggested that we incentivize OSS Operation and Maintenance compliance through adding the inspection record date to the Island County website and also the property as-built report.
- Commissioner Gordon added that he would like to see the inclusion of stakeholder integration for ecosystem recovery projects to motivate the private residents to implement projects on their properties. Engage community to ensure project success and to encourage projects on private land.

MOTION: Commissioner Hannold made a motion to approve the ILIO 5-year Ecosystem Recovery Plan with the following additions: 1. Island County proactively addresses the management of agriculture and forestry practices through the Shoreline Master Plan and the Critical Area's Ordinance to eliminate or mitigate pressures on ecosystem components. 2. Community collaboration prior to initiating projects to motivate residents to implement projects on private lands to improve project success. Commissioner Gordon seconded the motion. Motion approved.

IV. 2018 NTA Solicitation Process

DISCUSSION:

- The ILIO Technical Committee recommends that the ILIO Executive Committee moves to approve not have a 2018 NTA solicitation and to continue to utilize the 2016 NTA list for 2018 local NEP funding allocations. This will require less time planning and more time and focus on NTA/project implementation.
- Stan explained that the 2016 NTA development process was meant to be a two year list. Although there is an annual allocation of NEP funding, we can operate on a two year planning cycle.
- Project sponsors will still have an opportunity to submit a regional NTA through Puget Sound Partnership (PSP).

DECISION: Stan Walsh made a motion to approve bypassing the process of a 2018 NTA solicitation and to continue to utilize the 2016 NTA list for the 2018 local NEP funding allocation. Commissioner Hannold seconds the motion. Motion approved.

V. Wrap-up

- Commissioner Price Johnson mentioned that she would like to have the ILIO Technical Committee (TC) and Executive Committee (EC) have a joint session to discuss ILIO successes. Lori will schedule an upcoming joint meeting.
- Commissioner Gordon suggested that the ILIO EC start meeting quarterly to stay apprised. The ILIO EC agreed. Lori will schedule these meetings.

DISCUSSION:

VI. Meeting adjourned

Audio recording of all ILIO meetings are available, by request.