

ILIO Executive Committee Meeting
February 28, 2018, 9:30-11:00 am
1 NE 6th Street, Coupeville, WA (Annex Room B-102)

Meeting Summary

Members Present: Molly Hughes, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Tim Callison, Mayor of Langley
Curt Gordon, Commissioner, South Whidbey Port District
Steve Powers, City of Oak Harbor Representative
John Mishasek, Commissioner, Coupeville Port District
Stan Walsh

Also Present: Suzanna Stoike, Puget Sound Partnership
Lori Clark, ILIO Coordinator
Jill Wood, Island County Environmental Health
Dawn Spilsbury Pucci, ILIO Technical Committee, Lead Entity Coordinator
Keith Higman, Public Health Director

I. Call to order

Chair, Commissioner Helen Price Johnson called the ILIO EC meeting to order at 9:35 am.

Mayor Callison made a motion to approve the October 25th, 2017 Meeting Summary.
Commissioner Gordon second the motion. Motion approved.

II. ILIO/ PSP Updates

- There have been 11 local Near Term Actions and 14 regional Near Term Actions proposed in Island watershed. There have been 786 NTAs proposed Puget Sound wide. This number could change drastically since the NTAs proposed thus far are in draft form. The final due date for NTAs is March 30th.
- The State of the Sound was created to communicate vital sign data, shared progress on ecosystem recovery and what we can do to better protect Puget Sound.
- There are 4 key messages: we better understand the system and know better what needs to be done to achieve recovery, we have many great/effective projects complete and underway, continuous learning means continuous improvement (institutionalize adaptive management), need to accelerate and amplify efforts to achieve the vital sign targets and restore/protect Puget Sound.
- 10 indicators have made gains relative to the baseline reference, 9 show mixed results, 6 are not improving and 4 indicators are showing dangerous declines. Mix signals are where the data are inconsistent.
- In the 2014-2015 Action Agenda there were 290 NTAs, in the 2016-2017 Action Agenda there were 362 NTAs. There is a 73% funding gap.
- There are 17 action steps that are most critical for Puget Sound recovery (www.psp.wa.gov/sos.php).

DISCUSSION:

- City of Langley is interested in having Suzanna attend a community meeting to present the State of the Sound report.
- Island County is making progress on the Shoreline Vital Sign. The Island County nearshore is very important to the health of Puget Sound.

III. 2018 NTA Review Policy, Conflict of Interest/Appearance of Fairness

The ILIO Technical Committee recommends the ILIO Executive Committee moves to approve the 2018 NTA Review Policy, Conflict of Interest/Appearance of Fairness. The EPA and Strategic Initiative Leads recommended each LIO develop and approve a Conflict of Interest/Appearance of Fairness policy. This policy was developed to ensure that we are reviewing and scoring the NTAs fairly.

DISCUSSION: none

MOTION:

Commissioner Gordon made a motion to approve the 2018 NTA Review Policy, Conflict of Interest/Appearance of Fairness as presented. Stan Walsh seconded the motion. Motion approved.

IV. 2018-2022 - Near-Term Actions Factsheet Review

There have been 786 NTAs proposed Puget Sound wide. The final proposals are due on March 30th.

DISCUSSION:

Local NTAs:

- The City of Oak Harbor projects were in the 2016-2017 Action Agenda. There is no change in the project proposal. There has been scrutiny over the Oak Harbor Marina Water Shading Reduction Project. This NTA is a multi-benefit project. Commissioner Gordon expressed that with the environmental benefits of light getting to the fish, there are also important economic benefits (win/win). He suggested that the City add language that they will be improving the marina capacity and also improving the salmon ecosystem. Commissioner Price Johnson agreed and suggested that where we can show that our environmental benefits are also our economic benefits. Want to help the community be invested in the recovery of Puget Sound. It is a high priority to weave this together the economic benefits of these projects with the ecosystem recovery benefits. Stan Walsh added that although these NTAs are being proposed for the Action Agenda update and to be eligible for National Estuary Program (NEP) funding, there are other funding sources that this type of multi-benefit project would be competitive for; thus highlighting the economic benefit may have greater benefit for these other funding sources.
- Commissioner Gordon asked if there would be a net loss of the slip usage at the marina. Steve Powers responded that the City of Oak Harbor would be repurposing the space so that there will only be a slight reduction in the total capacity, although they will be better meeting the boating needs for today. The marina was built in the 1970s for a much smaller pleasure craft that what the marina sees today.

- The North Whidbey Island Water Quality Outreach & Best Management Practice Assistance NTA was in the 2016-2017 Action Agenda. The only change is the geographic scope. For the 2018-2022 Action Agenda update, Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD) has expanded the project to include a greater portion of North Whidbey.
- Daylighting Brookhaven Creek: Feasibility Study NTA. The IC Surface Water Quality team will work with the City of Langley to monitor the water quality at this site.
- Coupeville outfall study will look at 5 outfalls in Coupeville to evaluate opportunities to treat stormwater prior to discharge into Penn Cove/Puget Sound.
Commissioner Gordon added that it is critical for the cities to manage their stormwater or they will not be able to grow within their boundaries given the stormwater requirements.
- Penn Cove Water Quality Improvement -Coupeville Sewer Extension would tie 60 parcels that are currently OSS into the sewer system. All 60 will have to connect within 5 years.
- There are an additional 57 lots at the current zoning (in the Comprehensive Plan) that could be built with OSS if the sewer line is not available. In town the hook-up fee is \$5000. Could work out payment plans. Mayor Callison asked if the Town of Coupeville would offer community block grants as an option for the connection fee. Mayor Hughes said that they would work with the community on the connections. Commissioner Gordon said he is supportive if it doesn't put a pressure on the residents; especially if they are managing their OSS systems. Commissioner Price Johnson added that we need municipalities to in-fill and accommodate the growth (density) otherwise we will continue to see sprawl into the county. The problem is that the zoning is currently 2 acre lots; there will not be any development that would accommodate the financing. The Town of Coupeville will continue to look into possible resources to assist residents in financing the sewer connection.
- Financing is available through the Craft 3 Regional Loan Program. This program has a very low interest rate.
- Island County Stormwater Technical Assistance and Outreach Network NTA focus is on best management practices for residential stormwater management.
- Enhancing soil health in a changing climate for hydrologic, habitat, and agricultural benefits NTA. Implementing Best Management Practices will reduce pesticide impacts on water quality.
- Working buffers for water quality, wildlife habitat, and agricultural resilience on agricultural lands - "working buffer" extends the width of a traditional riparian buffer to provide multiple benefits and climate change resilience.
- Sound Horsekeeping - controlling mud and manure on horse properties in the Snohomish and Stillaguamish River watersheds. Commissioner Price Johnson suggested that Snohomish County Conservation District add "Camano Island" to the NTA title or description. Mayor Callison asked if this would address pesticide management. Commissioner Gordon expressed his support for this type of project to be implemented on Whidbey Island as well.

Regional NTAs:

- "Red Flag" any NTAs that have potential conflicts with the ILIO Ecosystem Recovery Plan. The timeframe for red flagging a project is April 16-May 12th. The ILIO EC will meet on April 25th and can discuss any conflicts at that time. We could then work with the project sponsor on the concern to try to figure out a solution.

- The ILIO Technical Committee reviewed the list of regional draft NTAs and only found one potential conflict with NTA# 2018-0611, Implementation of PSNERP Barrier Embayment and Coastal Inlet Projects. The comment was that there are significant concerns around the sensitivities to the feasibility of this project due to landowner and Navy willingness with Dugualla Bay.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 10:35am

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

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