

**ILIO Executive Committee Meeting**  
**July 24, 2019, 10:00-11:00 am**  
1 NE 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Coupeville, WA (Annex Room B-102)

**Meeting Summary**

**Members Present:** Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner  
Tim Callison, Mayor of Langley  
John Mishasek, Coupeville Port District  
Janet St Clair, Island County Commissioner  
Stan Walsh, Skagit River Systems Co-operative (Swinomish Tribe)  
Blaine Oborn, City of Oak Harbor  
Molly Huges, Mayor of Coupeville  
Robert Severns, City of Oak Harbor Mayor

**Also Present:** Lori Clark, Island County DNR, ILIO Coordinator  
Laura Ferguson, PSP Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator (via WebEx)  
Jill Wood, Island County Environmental Health  
Keith Higman, Public Health Director

**I. Call to order**

Chair Commissioner Helen Price Johnson called the ILIO EC meeting to order at 10:08 am.

**II. Approval of April 24, 2019 Meeting Summary Notes**

**MOTION:**

Stan Walsh made a motion to approve the April 24, 2019 meeting summary notes as written. Tim Callison seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. Process for selecting 2019 NTA for funding**

**Discussion:**

- The ILIO Technical Committee met this month to discuss the FY2019 NEP local allocation and the status of the 2018-2022 NTAs. The ILIO TC recommends the ILIO Executive Committee approve utilizing the FY2018-2022 scoring process and scores assigned to allocate the FY2019 NEP local allocation. The ILIO EC approved all of the 2018-2022 NTA scores in 2018. The City of Oak Harbor is currently receiving funding for conducting a feasibility study to evaluate and inform NTA# 2018-0091, 2018-0092 and 2018-0093 therefore they are not being considered for 2019 NEP local allocation funding. There was discussion around the Town of Coupeville's current capacity limitations right now. They are delayed in the contracting for the FY2018 NEP funding. They are working with Dept of Health to develop a scope of work for the 2018-0324 NTA, Coupeville outfall study. When they applied for the 2018-2022 NTA, they had an engineer on staff. Now they are contracting with a consulting engineering firm, which is affecting the budget for surveying the shoreline and all eight outfalls. They have asked for an extension to get a better idea of the

surveying costs and possibly only survey three or four outfalls instead of all eight of them. Their Utility Superintendent has discovered some surveys and stormwater reporting done in early 2000. They will go over these reports, see how much of the information can be used, and not be redundant with the new study. The ILIO TC expressed some concern with selecting the 2018-0326 NTA for NEP local allocation funding due to the delay in 2018-2022. Lori met with the Town of Coupeville Utility Advisory Committee on July 18<sup>th</sup> and they expressed interest in phasing the project and applying the \$100,000 to a feasibility and 30% design. Joe Grogan will have the proposed deliverables ready for the ILIO TC consideration next month.

**Motion:** Tim Callison made a motion that the ILIO Executive Committee approve using the FY2018-2022 scoring process and scores assigned to allocate the FY2019 NEP local allocation. Bob Severns second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **ECB Update/ LIOs Role Action Agenda Implementation (briefing memo attachment)**

#### **DISCUSSION:**

- Commissioner Price Johnson is a part of the Land Use Deep Dive subcommittee (Ecosystem Coordination Board). They are brainstorming how the ECB can work with local governments to protect ecologically important lands for Puget Sound recovery. ECB is an advisory council to the Leadership Council.
- Commissioner Price Johnson shared that the he bureaucracy of the state is growing and they are outsourcing the cost to the local governments. There seems to be a misunderstanding of local agencies' good intention of seeing how projects can be implemented at the local level. The purpose of creating the LIOs was to get funding at the local level and to build consensus and political will to implement good projects to support ecosystem recovery. This is not happening.
- Blaine Oborn expressed appreciation for this conversation. The City of Oak Harbor is currently deep in the GMA process and they want to ensure a balance between growth and opportunity and identify where growth should take place. The benefits of growth in the City are not always actualized due to the cost of sewer, water and compliance with the NPDES permit requirements. NPDES permit requirements are a barrier to growth. We should encourage growth in urban environment. Cost to provide services does not encourage the growth within the UGA. How can the city collaborate with the county and other municipalities to encourage growth within the urban area to balance the economic development with protecting the environment?
- Tim Callison added that a critical areas effectiveness study would be useful. How are others measuring their CAO effectiveness?
- Each local jurisdiction goes through a public process to develop our critical areas ordinance.
- Town of Coupeville would support more updated critical areas information when doing planning, including support mapping.
- Habitat SI has been working with PSP to craft the ECB's first "deep dive" into a topic (in alignment with the Land Development and Cover Implementation Strategy).
- Lori met with the Dept of Commerce, Dept of Fish and Wildlife, and the Critical Area planners to discuss three 2018-2022 NTAs that are funded concerning CAO effectiveness in local jurisdictions:  
2018-0327 Puget Sound Critical Areas Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program(Dept of Commerce), 2018-0488 Template for Biennial Tracking Land Cover Change(WDFW), 2018-0735 Integrated Mapping and Decision Tools for Land Use Planning in Puget Sound(Dept of Commerce).

2017-0368 is the current project being implemented by WDFW, Evaluating Critical Area Ordinance Effectiveness: Mapping Critical Areas. Here is a link to the raw data from this study (provided by Keith Folkerts (WDFW) who presented at the ECB meeting):

<https://data-wdfw.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/puget-sound-high-resolution-change-detection-2006-2015>

- Lori met with Hiller (Island County Planning Director) and Beckye (IC Long Range Planner) and discussed potential options for addressing barriers and challenges to protecting ecologically important lands and possible tools that might support. It sounds like IC has a solid awareness of our critical areas (ecologically important lands). Some suggestions were continued investments in agricultural easements (through the Whidbey Camano Land Trust). Hiller mentioned that the cities do not have adequate funding for the Buildable Lands Analysis or GIS mapping of ecologically important lands.
- Island County needs an accurate map of the stream layer for GIS for informing the buffer width zones. We are working with Public Works to have this created. Currently we are using two different mapping tools to inform the stream locations. Using remote sensing to identify the wetlands could be useful, but we would need landowner permission to ground truth the locations as this is not an exact science.
- As a part of the Land Development and Cover Implementation Strategy (LDCIS) work group, Northern Economics will review LIO recovery plans and note what attributes the LIO uses to define high habitat or biodiversity value. This could help message the economic value of protection. The LDCIS currently lacks geographic and project specificity. They will be working with LIOs to develop a shared understanding of what ecological attributes or functions should be used to identify lands with "high habitat or biodiversity value". They can provide maps and aid in land use planning.
- Blaine Oborn expressed the desire to coordinate with the county on a watershed focus surface water quality plan to satisfy the NPDES Phase 2 renewal requirement and standards.
- Hiller reported that the Department of Ecology (ECY) did a parcel-by-parcel study of the effectiveness of mitigation. They found that current CAO mitigation regulations are not very effective and lack success over time. They found a high rate of die off over wetland plantings and that there is a lack of follow-through by property owners. ECY study indicated that an emphasis on regional mitigation strategies. A regional mitigation bank can provide greater benefit. Skokomish Valley has implemented a successful mitigation bank. A property owner can buy credits from bank in exchange with road projects. This is a benefit and revealed localized impacts. The mitigation bank provided a large-scale enhancement of wetland and fish habitat.
- Stan noted that mitigation banks must consider the service area and habitat impacts. A consideration must be made to the area and species that are being impacted. Can work very well on a parcel level. Skagit has two mitigation banks for two service areas. Island County could be a service area.
- Blaine shared that the City of Oak Harbor is buying properties in watersheds the city is looking to protect. A greater impact would be observed on a regional effect (larger project) than looking acre by acre.
- In-lieu fee program allows the permittee to pay into a fund that can be used for larger restoration projects. Purchase wetland credits for a more regional enhancement project.
- Small scale localized impacts are less valuable in habitat recovery.
- Smaller jurisdictions could benefit from the region providing support with GIS mapping. Hiller offered that there could be a partnership between the County and Towns and Cities in Island

County to offer assistance. Island County has a good GIS program and layers that could be beneficial to these municipalities. The barrier is funding/staffing.

- Hiller added that ownership is a barrier to protecting critical areas. Some parcels with these critical areas are owned out of state or by investment firms, which are not tracking the opportunities for protecting/enhancements.
- The region should pass through the funding to help develop the tools so that the local jurisdiction could ensure that they are useful.
- We get complaints about how strong our regulations are. Methodologies match the local actualization.
- Commissioner Price Johnson shared that local elected officials work hard to protect critical areas. We go through a rigorous process at the local level. Local government are needed to fix these issues. Local government is not a barrier but instead can be a tool to achieve recovery of Puget Sound. The culvert issue is a good example. The state is responding with a culvert by culvert approach as opposed to a watershed approach which would be more effective.
- Commissioner Saint Clair added that the "fish don't care where parcel lines are".

## **VI. Meeting adjourned 10:57am**

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