

Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO) Executive Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

August 25, 2021, 10:00-11:00am

Zoom Meeting

Executive Committee (EC) Members Present:

Janet St. Clair, Island County Commissioner
Melanie Bacon, Island County Commissioner
Jill Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Molly Hughes, Mayor of Coupeville
David Day, Coupeville Port District
Stan Reeves, Port of South Whidbey
Blaine Oborn, representing Robert Severns, Mayor of Oak Harbor

Also Present:

Dr. Jennifer Johnson, IC DNR Manager, ILIO Coordinator
Laura Rivas, Puget Sound Partnership

Commissioner St. Clair called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Introductions were made.

1) Approval of the May 26, 2021 Meeting Summary Notes.

Motion:

Commissioner Bacon moved to approve the May 26, 2021 ILIO EC meeting notes. Mayor Hughes seconded. The meeting notes were approved.

2) Forestry Practices in Island County Update

- At the February ILIO EC meeting, the EC added addressing accelerating deforestation in Island County (IC) to ILIO's work plan.
- On April 13th, the ILIO Technical Committee (TC) hosted a collaborative meeting to begin dialogue among the stakeholders involved in managing forestry practices programs and permits to better identify the problems/concerns around forest management, to discuss the possible solutions that might be explored and prioritized, and to consider how we might leverage the ILIO to support collaboration on this issue.
- The ILIO TC Forestry Discussion document that came out of that meeting summarizes the TC's and advisors' recommendations to best manage the delicate balance between timber removal on private property and the importance of protecting IC forests.
 - o Lori Clark, the previous ILIO Coordinator, walked the group through this summary document at the last meeting (the summary can be found in the May meeting notes).
- Additionally, IC Departments and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR) have since presented to the Board of Island County Commissioners (BICC) around forest permitting and practices in IC.
- Following these meetings, there was interest in creating a tracking sheet of potential opportunities for next steps and who would need to be included in said changes.
 - o This Excel tracking sheet was included in the meeting documents.
 - o The intention of this document is to inform the EC about possibilities and opportunities for next steps.

- Commissioner Johnson expressed concerns about ILIO's scope regarding forestry issues and ILIO's policy and operational recommendations.
 - o ILIO's scope includes forestry issues because there were concerns around Puget Sound (PS) about deforestation, and this was brought to the ILIO. It began as a broad notion, and the ILIO investigated what role to play in this. Puget Sound Partnership's (PSP) role is to address issues of PS recovery as a whole, and ILIO's role is to help recovery efforts in IC, which does include upland and shoreline forestland as part of ecosystem recovery. This may be a new topic for Island LIO, but is not outside of the realm of other LIOs in the region.
 - o The inappropriate conversion of forestland leads to decreasing ecosystem services, especially related to water quality runoff. Timber harvest, and the sustainable forestry practices that are involved in that, do not usually lead to poor environmental outcomes. We need to ensure that we are addressing the correct things.
 - o There was discussion about ILIO's role in making recommendations for work to local governments in the Forestry Project Tracking Document. ILIO's role in this topic is as a convener. The EC identified an issue, and the TC brought stakeholders together to find solutions that they can agree on. The ILIO brings action through cooperative efforts.
 - o We need work to prevent unintended consequences.
- Jenn reviewed the Forestry Project Tracking Document.
 - o This document is intended for use in tracking forest practice improvement opportunities within IC.
 - o Not all "Associated Organizations" listed below have committed to addressing identified objectives, nor were all organizations present during this meeting.
 - o This living document is subject to change over time, as sustainable forestry management efforts evolve.
 - o Educational materials from WA DNR should be provided along with permits.
 - o This document suggests recommendations only, and focuses on work that IC can do.
 - o There is power in a local group asking for the support they need at the state level to see changes locally, especially if it has gone through the robust agreement process that the ILIO has.
 - o There was discussion about the ILIO's role; the ILIO could focus on making recommendations at the state level. This would include addressing issues specific to islands.
- Jenn asked for input on informing what, if anything, the next steps could be for this issue and/or this document at the county level.
 - o Bring this document to the BICC for discussion.
 - o Bring recommendations from the ILIO to the state level with the Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB).
 - o These original recommendations were made by the ILIO TC – we will bring this back to them for feedback.
- **Mission, Vision and Scope of Project Revisions and Approval**
- ILIO was chosen as the example for the current workshop series around Conservation Standards. In the discussions leading up to the workshops, the Conservation Standard leads pointed out that there was room to revise our mission, vision and scope of work statements to better reflect the standards guidelines.
- As a result, the TC worked to refine these three statements for the ILIO which are now being presented for discussion.

- Jenn will share both the revised and original document.

4) Adjournment

- Commissioner St. Clair adjourned the meeting at 11:00am.