

Island Local Integrating Organization Technical Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Information

Meeting Date:	September 14, 2021		
Meeting Time:	1:00pm-3:00pm		
Meeting Location:	Zoom		
Meeting Attendees:	Jenn Johnson (ILIO Coordinator/DNR Manager)	Meridith Penney (Planning - City of Langley)	Dawn Spilsbury Pucci (IC Salmon Recovery)
	PaulBen McElwain (SWS)	Keith Higman (IC PH)	Gwendolyn Hannam (WICD)
	Laura Rivas (PSP)	Krista Loercher (Business/Ports Rep)	Joseph Grogan (Town of Coupeville)
	Railin Santiago (Ecology)	John Lovie (WRAC, SRTCC)	Kristin Marshall (SnoCD)
	Ann Prusha (IC DNR)	Barbara Bennett (MRC)	
Meeting Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of August Meeting Minutes • Action Agenda (AA) Updates (strategies, actions, workshops) • Vital Sign (VS) & Strategy Prioritization • Goals/Targets Updates 		
		Total Time:	120 minutes

Minutes

Topic:	Updates and meeting minute approval	Action Item Owner:	Jenn
Decisions Made and Action Item(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July and August meeting notes were approved. 		
Follow-up Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura will connect PaulBen so there can be discussions about measuring volunteer work. • Laura will get an answer for Barbara regarding the connection between local measurements of no-net-loss functions and how they fit with Puget Sound Partnership's (PSP's) goals related to the same indicators. 		
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John moved and Barbara seconded the approval of the July and August meeting minutes. • Coordinator Updates (Jenn): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Ecosystem Recovery Summit will be October 21st from 10-3pm. This is a partnership effort for ILIO, the Island County Marine Resources Committee (MRC), and the Island County Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC). It will be completely virtual. Please register even if you can only come for some of it. This will help the groups learn about each other and prioritize planning and efforts. Register here. ○ There is an upcoming free virtual event: Communities, Climate Change, and Health Equity. Register here. It will take place October 12-14. ○ Laura and Jenn met with the ILIO Executive Committee (EC) on August 25th, and presented the forestry tracking document. They were excited to see that so many items were highlighted to move forward. Commissioner St. Clair is interested in applying this to the regional level. Jenn will be meeting with other LIO coordinators to talk about making changes across Puget Sound (PS). ○ Scope of Work (SOW) & Budget: Once this is confirmed, we will move into developing our 2021-22 work plan. Jenn and Laura are working on this and it should go through in October. 		

- Conservation Standards Workshops & Miradi Updates: This will build on our discussions today and over the next month or so.
- Mission & Vision: This will be on the agenda for approval at the November EC meeting.
- Salmon Recovery update: Ground was broken for the Crescent Creek restoration project. This project is on the Navy base, and reconnects a stream to its floodplain.
- PSP updates (Laura):
 - Greene Economics, Inc. updated 3 Economic Vitality Vital Sign Indicators: [Natural resource industry output](#), [Employment in natural resource industries](#), and [Percent of employment in natural resource industries](#). Between 2005 and 2018, the combined value of natural resource industry products (prices paid to producers for unprocessed timber, fish, shellfish, crops and livestock) averaged about \$1.7B annually, with mixed trends across the industries and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from PS tourism and recreation has shown a significant upward trend, reaching an estimated \$5.3B in 2018! Combined employment in natural resource-driven industries has trended upward with aquaculture, agriculture, and recreation and tourism increasing while fishing and timber extraction industries have experienced periods of decline.
 - Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has updated 2 indicators for the Shoreline Armoring (Beaches and Marine Vegetation) VS: [net change in permitted shoreline armor](#) and [use of soft shore techniques](#). The 2020 recovery target for permitted shoreline armor was met! Cumulatively from 2011 to 2020, WDFW allowed the removal of 4.85 miles of armor under Hydraulics Permit Approvals (HPAs) and permitted 4.71 total miles of new armor construction. Over those ten years, there was a net removal of 0.3 miles of armor, thereby meeting the target. Shoreline armor like seawalls is the most common type of modification to our shores and blankets 29% of PS's shorelines. Public awareness of more environmental-friendly techniques such as anchoring logs is increasing; however, most replacement projects and many new armor projects continue to use conventional structures. Learn more about projects that make soft shorelines [here](#). Conversations continue about how to improve this indicator to better reflect the reality of armoring on the shoreline and conversations are continuing regarding how to improve shoreline permitting compliance.
 - Oregon State University (OSU) has updated 9 Human Wellbeing (HWB) VSs: [locally harvestable foods](#), [nature-based recreation](#), [nature-based work](#), [participation in cultural practices](#), [environmental governance](#), [overall life satisfaction](#), [psychological wellbeing](#), [sense of place](#), and [engagement in stewardship activities](#). Survey data were first collected in 2018 and again in 2020. Little change was detected between the two years. PS residents have a strong sense of place. PS residents on average participate in stewardship activities occasionally (once a month). Over half of PS residents harvest local plants, berries, or mushrooms at least one time per season. Read the [2020 Vital Signs Survey Summary](#) report for more information!
 - Near Term Action (NTA) managers were asked to report on NTA progress to [Puget Sound Info](#) by Wednesday, September 15. They should submit updates, even if there has been no progress since the last report. Also, if they miss the deadline, no need to wait until the next one to submit a progress update. Although the National Estuary Program (NEP) is a critical source of funding, we are interested to hear of progress driven by other sources as well. At a minimum, NTA managers should confirm basic status and funding information about their NTA(s). In most cases we expect it to take less than 10 minutes to review and submit an update.
 - On September 1, the PSP Leadership Council (LC) approved the list of 26 strategies for the 2022-2026 AA. We are now moving in to the next phase to develop actions for the AA. The development process will include topical workshops for action development in November and December. These are key opportunities to local input to action development. Please stay tuned for more information regarding dates and details.

Topic:	Action Agenda Updates (strategies, actions, workshops)	Action Item Owner:	Jenn
Decisions Made and Action Item(s):			
Follow-up Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenn will share details about upcoming workshops regarding the 6 topics from PSP when more information is available. 		

Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our three agenda items all play into each other as we work to update our Ecosystem Recovery Plan (ERP) with the new AA for 2022-2026. Phase Three, strategy approval, has been completed. In Phase Four, the strategies will be used to determine what actions need to be taken to reach goals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The big takeaway from the changes are that PSP is looking to move away from NTAs and specific projects to big areas/topics that need change at the regional level. There are still some discussions around incorporating local specificity into strategies and actions. • The PSP has officially approved the new lists of VS and strategies for the new AA. • As we work to update our current ERP (2017) to align with the new AA, we want to get input and start to prioritize the VS and find strategies we think are most important for Island County (IC). • With the list of 26 strategies, we can focus on what is most important to us, and Jenn can bring that into discussions with other LIO coordinators. With the list paring down from 150 strategies to 26, we are shifting from NTAs to a broader picture to reach our goals without local specificity. We need to determine how this plays into our work, since we are local organizations and have local input as it trickles up to regional discussion. • Strategic Initiative Leads (SILs) are encouraged and directed to fund the AA. However, because something is in the AA does not mean that it was funded by SILs. For the AA development process, PSP will be asking LIO Coordinators to first contribute about strategies in the area based on their plans. They will be holding workshops in November and December and inviting committee members to participate in AA development. There will be 2 workshops per topic, with 6 topics. PSP is not asking anyone to participate in all 12 workshops, unless you want to. We have already prioritized out of 150 strategies, and the hope is that we participate in the ones that we have identified as important to us. Actions are going to be at a higher level than NTAs, but lower than Strategies. • For next steps, the six topics are supposed to be finalized before the end of the month. Jenn will bring them to us when they are ready. We will decide what is most important to us to have input about and where this applies at the local level. 		
Topic:	Vital Sign & Strategy Prioritization	Action Item Owner:	Jenn
Decisions Made and Action Item(s):			
Follow-up Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenn will distribute the updated document to the group. • Jenn will reach out to San Juan MRC regarding their oil spill results chains. 		
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group dialed in to what is important for IC. This will be a continuing discussion. Jenn gave an overview of what Priorities and VS were chosen previously and shared the Prioritize – VS Strategies document. She gave an overview of the steps that have occurred: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vital Signs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New VS were approved in 2020. ILIO choose 7 ecosystem components to focus on (out of 13 in the 2022-2026 AA). There are also now 10 HWB components. ▪ There were no comments regarding ecosystem services. ▪ HWB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was discussion about the difference between Good Governance and Sound Stewardship. Sound Stewardship focuses on personal behavior, and Good Governance involves the feelings of efficacy in policy around natural resources. • Local foods does not need to be shellfish related. The Shellfish Beds VS focuses on goals and targets for sewage systems. • We have an under-acknowledged foundation of Sense of Place and Sound 		

Stewardship. If we get right vocabulary, we can recognize and measure them.

- We are looking to combine actions to see how it all ties together.
- Strategies
 - Jenn reviewed the strategies, and asked the group about current gaps/barriers that we need to address.
 - The strategies and actions comprising the ERP are designed to improve or protect the health of components either through restoration strategies or protection/mitigation strategies that reduce pressures on the ecosystem.
 - The new list went from 151 to 26 strategies. Of the 26 we selected, Jenn wanted to get initial thoughts/insights for which ones we think we can have a role in, and which ones are beyond our scope.
 - We will rank these at an upcoming meeting.

The group then shared their thoughts about the 26 strategies (1-26 below):

- 1) There was discussion about the applicability of this to our largely rural county. Housing is a huge issue, as is incorporating planned development. The Growth Management Act (GMA) does apply to IC and the county is required to plan for growth within urban areas. We should include having a baseline to show progress on private/public shorelines.
 - a. Updated wording: Advance smart development and protect intact habitats and processes by channeling population growth into attractive, transit-oriented urban centers with easy access to natural spaces (“planned development” – continue efforts to encourage growth and development in urban/rural areas of more intensive development).
- 2) Updated wording: Reduce pressure for land conversion by supporting the long-term viability and sustainability of agricultural lands and working forests through climate resilience and integrated management planning, improved incentives, and improved land use regulations.
- 3) Updated wording: Protect and restore marine shorelines by improving compliance, incentives, and strategic planning rooted in an understanding (education) of coastal processes.
- 4) This topic is challenging because we do not have well established riparian corridors that legislation is aimed towards. Recent changes to the Clean Water Act (CWA) could cover more water in IC.
 - a. Updated wording: Protect and restore floodplains and estuaries (including associated marine/freshwater riparian habitats) by advancing integrated management planning, policies and regulations and accelerating implementation of reach-scale plans.
- 5) There was discussion about the scale of our projects and focus, and working at the watershed level versus the components within the watershed.
 - a. Updated wording: Protect and restore floodplains and estuaries (including associated marine/freshwater riparian habitats) by advancing integrated management planning, policies and regulations and accelerating implementation of reach-scale plans.
- 6) Keep as is.
- 7) There was discussion about the intersection of water availability with so many other subjects, including interferences with septic systems, sea water intrusion, and climate change.
- 8) There was discussion about whether or not this applied to our scope, which focuses on local issues.
- 9) Updated wording: Address cumulative water pollution impacts on Puget Sound through water quality-based effluent plans, PIC (pollution identification and correction) programs, and other mechanisms.
- 10) The group decided to put this on the drift cell scale. Low impact development plays a role.
- 11) Keep as is.
- 12) We could combine this with stormwater. Non point pollutants should be addressed regardless of their source. We can potentially combine this with stormwater.
 - a. Updated wording: Reduce and prevent non-point source pollutants by improving outreach and incentive programs and ensuring compliance with policies.

	<p>13) There was discussion about San Juan County's MRC, who have been leaders in this conversation. We can support their work. San Juan County is conducting 2 studies – one is for having a response vessel and one is for what the impact of a spill would be. Jenn will reach out to San Juan County and share their results chain. Oil spills have occurred in IC waters.</p> <p>14) Keep as is.</p> <p>15) Updated wording: Implement adaptive management elements of salmon recovery.</p> <p>16) Keep as is.</p> <p>17) There was discussion about potentially changing the wording from “Puget Sound” to “Salish Sea.”</p> <p>18) There was discussion about opportunity for local education and adaptive regulations focused on education. This also applies for changes in weather/drought/fires/heat waves.</p> <p>19) This should have a regulations focus and includes infrastructure.</p> <p>20) The focus should be on adaptive resilience.</p> <p>21) If the SOW is approved, we will be able to hire a consultant to help us with these efforts.</p> <p>22) This should include beach access (increase quantity and quality, including signage), and we should be promoting the preservation of access points. This is an opportunity to further the county effort to balance public and private perspectives.</p> <p>23) Keep as is.</p> <p>24) Include treaty rights.</p> <p>25) There was conversation about where to address this, and that some of the wording regarding economics could be more specific.</p> <p>26) There was discussion about how to do these things. Justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion principles wording is incorporated to these things (air quality, water, fishing). We can add language to make this more specific.</p>		
Topic:	Goals/Targets Updates	Action Item Owner:	Jenn
Decisions Made and Action Item(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
Follow-up Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenn will send out the updated list when it is ready. 		
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenn will send out the updated list. None of this is final. She is waiting on some WQ reports. • We now have Strategies, and we will figure out targets and actions to get us to our goals. Please feel free to provide more comments and feedback. • This will set us up for knowing what to participate in for the upcoming PSP workshops. • LIO-specific goals are identified for components and, where possible and appropriate, LIOs identified the contribution toward the regional recovery targets. • The next steps will involve updating Miradi maps and chains. 		
<p>Next Meeting October 12, 2021 1:00-3:00 PM PST Zoom</p>			