

## Island Local Integrating Organization Technical Committee Meeting Notes

### Meeting Information

Meeting Date:	July 13, 2021		
Meeting Time:	1:00pm-3:00pm		
Meeting Location:	Zoom		
Meeting Attendees	Jenn Johnson (ILIO Coordinator/ ICDNR)	Stan Walsh (SRSC)	Linda Lyshall (SnoCD)
	Krista Loercher (Business/Ports Rep)	PaulBen McElwain (SWS)	Keith Higman (ICPH)
	Todd Zackey (Tulalip Tribes)	Laura Rivas (PSP)	Dennis Lefevre (City of Oak Harbor)
	Ann Prusha (ICDNR)		
Meeting Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on JEDI workshop</li> <li>• Discussion of the 2021-2022 LIO Contract – Task 5</li> <li>• Discuss progress on 2018-2022 Ecosystem Recovery Plan (Vital Sign targets/goals)</li> <li>• Verify/edit goals/targets for Vital Signs</li> </ul>		
		Total Time:	120 minutes

### Minutes

<b>Topic:</b>	Introductions/ Partner Updates	<b>Action Item Owner:</b>	Jenn
<b>Decisions Made and Action Item(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> </ul>		
<b>Follow-up Items:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jenn will send out the Mission, Vision, and Scope document to the group to review for the next meeting.</li> </ul>		
<b>Notes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jenn introduced herself. She is the new Island County (IC) Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Manager and ILIO coordinator. She has lived in Washington for the last 6 years, and just finished her PhD in Environmental Science.</li> <li>• The Board of Island County Commissioners (BoCC) is meeting tomorrow at 10am, and the forestry topic is on the agenda. Linda will be presenting at that meeting. They are sponsoring this conversation because there has been tension in the last few years over forest practices and permitting. Washington State University (WSU) Extension and Conservation Districts (CDs) play key roles in helping individuals create forest management plans. Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD) did just hire a new Executive Director, and she will be joining the meeting tomorrow.</li> <li>• Puget Sound Partnership (PSP):             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staffing changes: Don Gourlie will be taking over for Jeff Parsons (who is retiring) as the Legislative Policy Director on August 15. They are hiring for his position an Environmental Planner, as well as for Ecosystem Recovery Coordinators and for a new position, Equity and Environmental Justice Manager.</li> <li>○ Vital Sign (VS) updates: As of 6/10, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) updated the <a href="#">terrestrial bird population abundance indicator</a> which monitors species that live in forest interiors or that are associated with humans. This is the first time reporting on this indicator which informs the <a href="#">Birds Vital Sign</a> and the progress of the indicator is "getting worse."</li> <li>○ Federal Legislative Update:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The House Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations included in the FY22 spending bill on June 28 \$50M for the National</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

	<p>Estuary Program (NEP) Puget Sound (PS) Geographic Program. The full committee passed this on July 1. It will now move on to the House.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ On June 15, the House voted to pass <a href="#">H.R. 1144 (PUGET SOS)</a> which would provide \$50M annually for 5 years for restoration and improvement projects as well as codify the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force and set up a recovery office within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).</li> <li>○ The LIO Statement of Work for 2021-2022 is out for negotiation.</li> <li>○ The 2022-2026 Action Agenda (AA) development is wrapping up Phase 3 – Strategy development, and beginning to move to Phase 4 – Developing actions and commitments that align with strategies. There was discussion that this is driven by near term actions (NTAs). There was a lot of feedback that NTAs were not working well, and there is effort to separate them from the AA. The AA is not a request for proposals (RFP), and having NTAs has led to confusion. There was also feedback that it can be limiting, because it requires sticking with a plan that came forward four years ago, and items might no longer be a priority.</li> <li>○ Jenn shared that PSP emailed out an opportunity seeking applications for the Environmental Justice (EJ) Council. PSP will have one seat on council, but are interested in having more individuals apply. Applications are due August 20<sup>th</sup>. <a href="#">Apply here</a>.</li> <li>○ PSP is hosting a series of workshops in partnership with the Conservation Coaches Network and the <a href="#">Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation</a> (CS). The series of workshops will use IC as an example. They reached out to us asking for our mission, vision, and scope of project. They requested we break things up a little more, and this is something we should revisit as an LIO in a future meeting. Jenn will send this document out to the group; please reach out to her with questions, comments, and concerns. This can be done before we finalize our scope of work (SOW) for next year. Having these expert coaches helping with the Conservation Standards is going to be a good opportunity. Our plan was put forward as the example because it is comprehensive and exemplary.</li> <li>• Lori Clark will still continue to provide some support for Jenn and some project work. We are not sure how long this will be for.</li> </ul>		
<b>Topic:</b>	Update on JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Workshop	Action Item Owner:	Jenn/Laura
Decisions Made and Action Item(s):	• none		
Follow-up Items:	•		
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have discussed JEDI and its role in past meetings. Jenn, Laura, and Lori attended a workshop for Coordinators regarding this. Our goals need to reflect the human diversity in our regions and ecosystems. We need to be informing all of our goals with JEDI in mind. LIOs seemed to have a lot of interest in building on this. This is not easy, and it has no clear path forward, but we are taking steps. This dovetails into the next item on the agenda.</li> <li>• Laura has been attending a lot of discussions about JEDI and this workshop moved from theory to potential actions and plans, and what it would take to implement ideas. If JEDI work is something that this group wants to do, the exercise they did could be a good foundation to start from.</li> </ul>		
<b>Topic:</b>	Discussion of the 2021-2022 LIO Contract – Task 5 Options	Action Item Owner:	Jenn/Laura
Decisions Made and Action Item(s):	• none		
Follow-up Items:	• Jenn will share resources with the group.		
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a new subtask attached to Task 5, which involves JEDI work. Task 5 is optional. It is intended to allow us to integrate principles of JEDI into our structure as an LIO, as well as into our Ecosystem Recovery Plan (ERP) and governance.</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task 5 SOW: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discuss and Integrate principles of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion into LIO governance, structure, and/or planning.</li> <li>○ Understand and articulate JEDI in the LIO context along with barriers and proposed solutions to access and participate in decision making within LIO</li> <li>○ Outreach, inform, educate, and recruit representatives from marginalized or underrepresented community organizations or coalitions within the LIOs geography.</li> <li>○ Provide stipends, when needed, to representatives from marginalized or underrepresented community organizations or coalitions within the LIOs geography, to enable them to participate, in a substantive way, as members.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• None of this is set in stone. The group discussed their initial thoughts, interest, and potential next steps around JEDI. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is important that we consider these concepts in our work. There is so much we do not think about, so making ourselves more aware of how we can be more inclusive is important.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jenn shared screenshots from the workshop, and will share resources with the group. There are things missing from the idea list, and more input from the group would be helpful.</li> <li>• IC Public Health (PH), which includes DNR, is presenting reorganization options to the BoCC this fall. The hope is that COVID staff will transition to a department that collects population level data. PH will collect JEDI data and is going to ask for a JEDI position in PH. They are working with an Epidemiologist to evaluate all of the programs that fall under PH. This is a future ask that would support our work.</li> <li>• There is a very active group at South Whidbey High School that is working on these issues. We can connect with them to see if there is an opportunity for collaboration. There might be projects they are interested in working on. <a href="#">This article</a> highlights their efforts to have Langley City Council declare a climate emergency.</li> </ul>		
<b>Topic:</b>	Discuss progress on 2018-2022 Ecosystem Recovery Plan (Vital Sign targets/goals)	Action Item Owner:	Jenn/Laura
Decisions Made and Action Item(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> </ul>		
Follow-up Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>		
Notes:	<p>2018-2022 ERP Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori Clark sent out two documents: the first was the 2018-2022 ERP Progress document. It focused on the current AA Ecosystem (ES) Components VS, which included targets, notes, and progress made. The second document focused on updates, next steps, and revising goals/targets for VS for the 2022-2026 AA and Puget Sound (PS) Indicator. Lori, Laura, and Jenn combined these two documents into one.</li> <li>• Jenn reviewed some of the changes that have been made for the 2022-2026 AA, including the addition of HWB VS.</li> </ul>		
<b>Topic:</b>	Verify/edit goals/targets for Vital Signs	Action Item Owner:	Jenn/Laura
Decisions Made and Action Item(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> </ul>		
Follow-up Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jenn will reach out to Dawn Spilsbury Pucci for IC restoration potential metrics and the Salmon VS, The</li> </ul>		

	<p>ICDNR Water Quality team for the Freshwater and Marine Water Quality VSs, the MRC about eelgrass and bullkelp monitoring, Hannah Liss about Shore Friendly, John Lovie about shoreline access, and IC Planning about the IC recreational map</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keith and Jenn will follow up with the IC Onsite team about the Shellfish Harvest components.</li> <li>• Jenn and Ann will synthesize these notes into a table, and Jenn will send it out for feedback and comments.</li> </ul>
Notes:	<p>The group then reviewed the combined document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There are pocket estuaries that could use more push, such as Iverson. It would be good to tie this back to a list of projects and determine feasibility.</li> <li>○ We should assess the total amount of potential restoration in IC. Dawn Spilsbury Pucci may have some of this data. We would want to know the full potential restoration, what is realistic, and where projects stand.</li> <li>○ 50 acres was chosen because it is roughly 1/5 of the 50 year goal. A “net increase” would be appropriate wording. Some of the reluctance to put a specific number is a recognition that all of the conversations we have about areas that were once pocket estuaries involve dikes, properties, and protections. They are hard conversations. There is reluctance to get too specific about a number, but still needs to be a lofty goal.</li> <li>○ We need to determine how closely we want to tie these to Lead Entity (LE) targets; they need to be at least somewhat coordinated. This is one of our priorities.</li> <li>○ The current goals are physical measurements, and other ones can be about informing and engaging the community. We can have more than one goal for some components. Community buy-in is hugely important; one or two people can stop projects from happening.</li> <li>○ We should check in with other LIOs who have made significant progress with the community on these strategies, and what actions were successful. One of our goals is to do more outreach and the sharing of best practices from other LIOs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Freshwater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The <a href="#">Water Quality Index</a> measures parameters that allow for comparisons of stream health. We do not have control over some of these. We can encourage outreach and education. We adopted this scoring system a number of years ago, to track water quality (including changes) over geographic areas.</li> <li>○ Jenn will work with the ICDNR Water Quality team on this. Let her know if there are any changes you would like to see.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Forests and wetlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We should add something about forest management and improving the health of the existing forest stand.</li> <li>○ IC has one of the highest conversation rate of any county in the region. It has become more difficult to track. This is a big conversation to have.</li> <li>○ Coming up with a target to prioritize certain areas would be a good strategy, and can include setting minimum buffer sizes in certain areas.</li> <li>○ Tomorrow, the BoCC will have a conversation about conversion, which will include a conversation around permits that are intended to handle forest practices where conversion is the goal. When an application is submitted, that application is scrutinized so that whatever they are proposing to do, it ensures that buffers around streams and forested wetlands are intact. An issue in IC is that some property owners submit for a conversion permit, cut down all the trees regardless of whether or not there are forested wetlands on the property, and come back in for after-the-fact permits after they have done their logging. State laws says that the property then needs to go under a development moratorium for six years because the owner did not claim conversion at the time, and that 6 year moratorium is not being enforced by IC. There will be more for us to follow up on after this BoCC conversation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- The 15% metric should be checked for consistency.
- Beaches and marine vegetation
  - The Island County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) has been monitoring for eelgrass and kelp. We can reach out to them about updates.
  - For the shoreline armoring component, Jenn will reach out to Hannah Liss about projects that have been done or are in the works.
  - There was discussion about permitting requirements for shoreline armoring (including for repairs). A permit with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is needed. Recently, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) bundled 39 PS-wide projects for shoreline armor and overwater structures, and a jeopardy opinion for Chinook salmon was issued. Few (if any) of these projects were in IC.
- Marine waters
  - Jenn will reach out to the ICDNR Water Quality team for data.
  - Once a water body is in the 303d list, it is hard to get it off (even if its water quality does improve). This objective might be difficult to achieve because of the difficulty of getting off of this list. We can identify this as a barrier. We can identify areas that have improved water quality and are still listed. LIOs and PSP can collaboratively address this.
- Forage fish
  - Herring ties into eelgrass more than beach habitat; we should change this to “habitat for forage fish.”
  - We need to add something about protecting existing habitat.
- Salmon
  - This is covered well in Island County Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee’s (SRTCC) Salmon Recovery Plan (SRP). It ties into pocket estuaries. Most of IC habitat is more beneficial for juvenile outmigration, rather than spawning.
  - Dawn can come up with specific language.
  - “Increase” is better than “no net loss.”
- Human Wellbeing (HWB) – Local foods
  - Add seaweed harvest (this is regulated by the state as a harvestable item, and there are limits to what can be taken).
  - A potential goal can be to increase or maintain harvestable areas.
  - Raising the visibility of this is another component.
  - We can work with municipal sewage treatment facilities for recreational and commercial shellfish beds.
- HWB – Shellfish beds (commercial)
  - It only takes one failing septic system to pollute an entire watershed. The intent is to find failing septic systems and fix them, rather than having a high inspection frequency rate. This can include language about monitoring.
  - Keith and Jenn will work with the IC Onsite Team.
- Other HWB factors
  - There is an opportunity missing in Sense of Place for measurement of Knowledge of Place. This would be appropriate and measurable in outcomes and goals. This can include training and literature (including signage at beaches).
  - Jenn will share the [Good Governance Index](#) and [Sound Behavior Index](#).
  - The Drinking Water VS should include the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC).
  - John Lovie will likely be able to help with Shoreline Access components. Jenn will follow up with him.

- For Cultural Wellbeing, we can factor in knowledge in terms of awareness of cultural diversity and the particulars of various cultures and history.
- There is an IC recreational map that includes access for different outdoor activities (horseback riding, hiking, swimming, kayaking, etc.) that also involves signage. This dovetails with Sense of Place and Education. Jenn will reach out to IC Planning; they have multiple projects involving this.
- Sound Water Stewards (SWS) recently published a new edition of *Getting to the Water's Edge*.

Jenn and Ann will synthesize these notes, and Jenn will send it back out for feedback and comments. We can also ask the MRC for feedback.