

Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO) Technical Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Information

Meeting Date:	August 10, 2021		
Meeting Time:	1:00pm-3:00pm		
Meeting Location:	Zoom		
Meeting Attendees	Jenn Johnson (ILIO Coordinator/IC DNR)	Dawn Spilsbury-Pucci (IC DNR/SRTCC)	Mary Engle (IC Planning)
	Linda Lyshall (SnoCD)	Barbara Bennett (MRC)	Hannah Liss (IC DNR)
	Laura Rivas (PSP)	John Lovie (WRAC, SRTCC)	PaulBen McElwain (SWS)
Meeting Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide updates on Sustainable Forestry conversations • Discuss updates to 2018-2022 Ecosystem Recovery Plan (Vital Sign targets/goals) • Discuss revisions to ILIO mission, vision, and scope of project statements 		
		Total Time:	120 minutes

Minutes

Topic:	Introductions/ Partner Updates	Action Item Owner:	Jenn
Decisions Made and Action Item(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		
Follow-up Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenn will send out information about the opportunities she spoke about. 		
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinator's Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) is meeting this Thursday. Commissioner Saint Clair is stepping in as our new Island ex-officio representative. Upcoming meeting topics will include new funding, legislative priorities, and updates on the Action Agenda (AA). Jenn will provide updates on this as they come up. The ECB is one of three Boards that advise Puget Sound Partnership's (PSP) Leadership Council. ○ The ILIO Executive Committee (EC) meeting will be August 25th at 10am. Topics will include an update on forestry practices and approval/revisions for the Mission, Vision, and Scope of Project document that we will update today. ○ Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshop Series Announcement: Communities, Climate Change, and Health Equity. This is a free workshop series on health disparities, climate change, and overburdened communities. ▪ The Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP) Steering Committee is seeking new members. Applications are due no later than midnight on Sunday, August 29th. Details are available at this link. ▪ Beavers Northwest is looking for volunteer Board Members. 		

- We are in the process of planning a “Summit” Event the week of October 18th. The hope is to host this summit/retreat workshop to get the ILIO, Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC), and Island County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) together to share what we are doing, prioritize what we want to see happening in Island County (IC), and to try to coordinate where our funding and efforts will go.
- The MRC has just completed its Needs Assessment Overview, and is working on getting the information to the Board of Island County Commissioners (BICC), and then releasing it to everyone else. Barb will present it to us once the BICC has seen it. It speaks on a scale that will be helpful at the upcoming Summit event, and will be a good supporting document.
- PSP
 - They have hired some new employees who will start September 21.
 - Environmental Planner – they will work on finalizing the new Action Agenda (AA)
 - Equity & Environmental Justice (EJ) Manager
 - They still hiring for Ecosystem Recovery Coordinators.
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding update
 - There are still a lot of unknowns, and EPA has not released a guidance document yet. They have presented to the LIO coordinators, and will present to the ECB.
 - The concept of the funding will be:
 - Competitive
 - This was previously Near Term Actions (NTAs).
 - They will now be request for proposals (RFPs) run by Strategic Initiative Leads (SILs) and Strategic Initiative Advisory Teams (SIATs), to be developed by those groups (potentially with input from LIOs).
 - Non-competitive
 - This was previously for funding small project NTAs (beginning in 2018).
 - Now:
 - An LIO can select to direct \$100,000 of \$500,000 to a current 2018 NTA with a 4-year work plan for the rest,
 - OR they can create a 5-year work plan with SILs for \$500,000 to implement LIO priorities.
 - LIO Coordinator thoughts and concerns have been passed along to ECB representatives. EPA is seeking input, but it is not up to us or PSP.
 - It looks like there will be a choice for each LIO to make this year. We will hopefully know more in October.
 - The general take-home message from EPA and SILs is that they want to form what this will look like along with LIOs. The EPA will likely focus on funding Implementation Strategies (IS).
 - New Scope of Work (SOW) & Budget for 2021-2022
 - Jenn and Laura hope to have the contract finalized this month.
 - The ECB will have an update on AA development. In previous meetings, we reviewed 150 strategies, and PSP has taken our advice to bring the number of

	<p>strategies for IC down to 26.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PSP is now moving on to phase 4 of AA development. It includes more focus on identifying on-going programs and seeing action as a framework of ideas rather than a project. There is also an emphasis on identifying key players in getting those types of actions done. • It's National s'mores day! • Happy birthday, Dawn! • Ian Miller from University of Washington (UW) has a project on sea level rise (SLR) risk assessment to coastal properties and shoreline habitat at the parcel-scale. Other entities are doing similar things. In particular, First Street Foundation creates a Flood Factor number, which considers several factors including SLR, elevation, and flood plains. They are selling this data to relators. Redfin and Zillow have been using this information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There have not been questions from the community to IC Planning around shoreline real-estate. IC is on probation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) right now for flood elevation certificates, and there are numerous areas that are not in compliance. Mary has been working with a consultant and Planning staff over the past year to make changes to what Planning does, but they have not been getting questions from the public. • Salmon Recovery: the Habitat Project List was turned into the state this week. The 2 projects SRTCC submitted went forward. This includes Hoypus Armor removal, and construction funding for Polnell. • Barb has helped create a learning group for Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Technical Committee (TC) participation for MRCs. They have representation from eight counties. • There is an upcoming SMP workshop for the competitive grant if anyone is interested. IC DNR and Planning staff are working together to see if we have something we can put together for this grant. 		
Topic:	Sustainable Forestry Practices - Updates		Action Item Owner: Jenn
Decisions Made and Action Item(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		
Follow-up Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This has been an ongoing topic of discussion for months. There were two presentations made to the BICC. For the first one, many of the entities around IC that deal with forestry management and practice in IC and the state participated. A lot of voices presented about their roles, and the forestry practices meeting we held on April 12th had a lot of the same takeaways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jenn gave an overview of the discussion that the TC held on April 12th: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improving communication and collaboration between WA DNR, IC Planning and IC Public Works on forestry practice permits is a critical missing step in the process. ▪ There is perhaps a need to review the 6-year moratorium process, and to alter and/or lengthen the requirement. ▪ There need to be more educational opportunities and resources for sustainable forestland management through Washington State University (WSU) Extension, the Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD) and Snohomish Conservation District (SnoCD). This involves offering more information to landowners (including via website pamphlets). 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning will re-evaluate the Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs) and update zoning codes around forest zoned lands. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a vehicle for providing tax reduction incentives for management that recognizes ecosystem services values (other than timber production). ▪ IC Planning has a new GIS staff person who is focused solely on GIS. He is currently working on making improvements to the wetlands, streams, and forestland layers. ▪ Washington Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR) explained their different processes and programs around the different class permits and ways to potentially improve communication with IC. ▪ There were also some discussions around working with San Juan LIO to create a list of recommendations/modifications to the state's DNR forest practices as they apply this to islands. ▪ Lori, in her continuing capacity with the ILIO, is preparing a briefing paper that will be presented at the ECB meeting in October around specific county forestry management processes and components. ▪ Thank you to Mary and Hannah for taking this on. Hannah is working on a matrix that identifies roles and responsibilities, and will help us track different components. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There was a second presentation to the BICC last week, where WA DNR spoke with the Board and answered questions. This recording is available. It mostly focused on classifications and permits, and what can happen at the state level versus county level.
Topic:	2022-2026 Ecosystem Recovery Plan (ERP) Updates on revisions 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 email Linda regarding metrics for voluntary/incentive-based programs that help farms contribute to shellfish bed recovery. • Jenn will email the draft Vital Sign (VS) Revision document to the group.
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenn gave an overview of last month's meeting, when we discussed plans that are underway, the new AA, and updating the ERP. We looked at the targets that have been set for the new VS. Most of them have stayed the same. • LIO coordinators are taking a training that helps them look at this update through a climate change and justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) lens. They are also considering human wellbeing (HWB) components. • Jenn is hoping to get feedback on potential new goals that have been set. She is waiting on data for some of these goals. She wants to ensure that our goals are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time bound (SMART). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ She reviewed the updates that have occurred since the last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Freshwater Quality: The Water Quality Index is still a good target. ▪ Forests and Wetlands: Jenn is working with IC Planning to get data. ▪ Beaches and Marine Vegetation: The language changed a little to make the goal SMART. ▪ Marine Water Quality: getting off of the 303d listing is challenging. There might

need to be a discussion about keeping that as a target.

- The Lead Entity (LE) chose not to use this because we cannot make an impact on marine quality by our actions alone. It is something that we want to do Puget Sound (PS)-wide, so it is best left to the PSP. We can measure water quality (WQ) in IC, and contribute to the region-wide WQ data, but it does not make sense to have it as a measurement of our actions.
- We can keep it similar to our Freshwater VS, and improve overall WQ.
- We could also look at it as an aspect of reducing pressures on marine water quality, such as working with wastewater treatment plants (WTPs) and helping reduce stormwater runoff.
 - The PSP calls this an intermediate progress measure, and these are in development. We can be in line with PSP's targets or develop our own.
- For the indicator at the PS level, we can potentially adaptively manage measures.
- We could go through all of our listed water bodies on the 303d list, and try to determine if there is something we can do to increase WQ. Many listed areas seem to relate to poor incoming fresh water quality. This can be something we can take a deeper look at, and go through the entire map and potentially target some areas for action. The data here is often out of date (even though we submit WQ samples quarterly). We can identify the most improved ones, and try to push those through for de-listing.
- For the use of the term “no net loss,” it is important to identify what we are referencing: is this county-wide? Right now, recommendations are parcel-by-parcel. We could also add a year to measure as a baseline from.
- For forage fish, it looks like we will get hard numbers next year. This is part of the GIS shoreline update. We would like to be able to pull our 5-year status. The LE set targets and metrics in 2017. The 5-year review is coming up in 2022. Dawn will pull data for armor removal, steams opened up due to culverts, and acres of estuaries. The LE has a green-yellow-red binning system to see where they are on the scale of their progress, and wherever they land will have different actions they need to take.
- For the HWB section, some of these are new VS.
 - For Shellfish beds, Jenn is working with the IC Environmental Health (EH) team. SnoCD can share some measures regarding promoting voluntary/incentive-based programs that help farms contribute to shellfish bed recovery, such as number of best management practices (BMPs) implemented. Jenn will email Linda.
 - Please take a look at these and email Jenn any ideas for measuring HWB components.
 - Some of the tracking can potentially be consolidated to get a bigger picture for HWB.
- Jenn can keep track of the information that is supplied by other places. Overall, this is a lot to track. Jenn would like to consolidate all of this into periodic progress updates.
- Please send Jenn any feedback and ideas. Jenn will send this document to the group.

Topic: Mission, Vision, and Scope of Project Revisions

Action Item Owner: Jenn

Decisions Made and Action Item(s):	•
Follow-up Items:	• Jenn will send the document with our updates to the group, asking for feedback on anything critical.
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have been asked to adjust our current mission, vision, and scope of project statements to better align with Conservation Standards practices. Our work is being used as an example for other LIOs. This gives us a chance to reassess and decide on any potential changes to send to the EC. Jenn shared the Mission, Vision, and Scope Statements document. • Our updated version will go to the EC for discussion at the upcoming meeting. • Jenn reviewed the proposed changes, and the group gave input to come up with updated versions of the Mission, Vision, and Scope of Project sections based on feedback from the Conservation Standards group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Divide the mission and vision into two separate statements for more clarity and focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mission: Purpose of LIOs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Updated version</u>: Island Local Integrating Organization leverages the strengths of partners by coordinating and prioritizing efforts in the Island watershed to achieve local and Puget Sound recovery and protection goals. ▪ Vision: How we want the world/county to look <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Updated version</u>: The Island Local Integrating Organization envisions a collaborative approach to achieving ecosystem recovery by integrating local ecosystem priorities and human wellbeing values to protect and enhance a resilient, healthy ecosystem for generations to come. ○ Minimize the Scope of Work to simply the system boundaries that encompass all project vital priorities and pressures and within which all actions will take place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Previously, we encompassed more of the human components of the project, and the Conservation Standards group asked us to outline the physical boundaries. There are three options – place-based scope, target-based scope, and thematic-based scope. We could use any of these, rather than place-based. ▪ <u>Updated version</u>: The Island watershed is located where the Puget Sound enters the Salish Sea just west of the Snohomish, Skagit, and Stillaguamish river deltas. The watershed comprises all of Island County, which includes the two major islands of Whidbey and Camano as well as seven smaller islands. The scope of the ILIO is to support Puget Sound recovery through our actions locally and our coordination regionally.
	<p><u>Next ILIO TC Meeting</u> September 14, 1:00-3:00pm</p>