

Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO) Executive Committee Optional Meeting

December 23, 2020, 10:00-11:00 pm

Webex

Meeting Summary

Executive Committee (EC) Members Present:

Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Tim Callison, Mayor of Langley
John Mishasek, Coupeville Port District
Janet St. Clair, Island County Commissioner
Molly Hughes, Mayor of Coupeville
Curt Gordon, Port of South Whidbey

Technical Committee (TC) Members Present:

Todd Zackey, Tulalip Tribes
Dawn Spilsbury Pucci, Lead Entity Coordinator

Also Present:

Lori Clark, Island County DNR, ILIO Coordinator
Ann Prusha, Island County DNR
David Trimbach, Postdoctoral Research Associate with Oregon State University (OSU)
Laura Rivas, Puget Sound Partnership
Kelly Zupich, Sound Water Stewards, Executive Director
Hannah Liss, Island County DNR

Commissioner Price Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

I. Approval of July 22, 2020 Meeting Summary Notes

MOTION:

Commissioner St. Clair made a motion to approve the ILIO EC July 22, 2020 Meeting Summary Notes. Mayor Hughes seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

II. Island County Community Values Survey Results

Discussion:

- As a launching place for updating the Island LIO Ecosystem Recovery Plan, the ILIO worked in collaboration with David Trimbach with OSU to develop a survey to check in with the residents of Island County to gauge priority Vital Signs and see which Human Wellbeing Vital Signs would be most relevant to incorporate in our Ecosystem Recovery Plan update. The goal of this survey was to gain a better understanding of the human dimension of ecosystem recovery goals so that we can better focus our efforts and direct funding to the highest priorities of residents in Island County.
- In July, the ILIO EC approved the questions and provided helpful feedback as to get maximum and diverse participation. Between October 15 and December 9, 2020, the survey was distributed at Lone, Deer and Goss Lake, Bayview and Marguerite Dog parks, Pen Cove, Double Bluff, Good Cheer Food Bank, Goose, Dave Mackie Park, Freeland Park, Possession Point, Corner Bay and General Store, the N&W beaches of Deception Pass, and at the boats and terminals for both ferries. Additionally, the survey was electronically distributed with Island County GovDelivery system, Whidbey Watershed Stewards, South Whidbey Schools and Young Life, Facebook, Camano Community Facebook page, Camano Whale Watch Facebook page,

Nextdoor, Oak Harbor School District, and the US Navy shared it with their families. The survey was translated into Spanish.

- David Trimbach, Postdoctoral Research Associate with Oregon State University, assisted the ILIO TC in the survey creation and implementation. He gave a presentation about the survey and results:
 - It is part of OSU's EPA-funded project focused on human wellbeing integration within LIOs. This survey was co-created with LIO members.
 - The survey used the snowball sampling method, which is good for reaching hard-to-reach communities, addressing politically divisive topics, building trust, and gauging public perceptions. It is place- and community-based, and is a first step to having a major community discussion.
 - He reviewed demographics – the majority of respondents were white, which corresponds with census data, but there was participation from other groups. Getting more engagement with these populations can be discussed and addressed. There is a roughly even split for sexes. Island County has a high proportion of residents over 50 and 60 years old, and this is also reflected in the survey results. Older people tend to be more involved, but it is important to engage younger people. Additional questions included length of residence, shoreline property ownership, and residence type (part-time or year-round). There was a lot of variety.
 - David reviewed the results:
 - Question 1 (natural resources values): This question focused on identifying and selecting what is valued. Drinking water, sound stewardship, and air quality ranked the highest, but all 10 were selected over 100 times.
 - Question 2 (natural resources values): This question had respondents prioritize what matters to them. Drinking water, air quality, and sound stewardship ranked highest.
 - Question 3 (ecosystem recovery components): It is clear that people care about and value the natural environment. Beaches and marine vegetation, forests and wetlands, salmon, marine water, and freshwater ranked the highest.
 - Question 4 (ecosystem recovery components): The highest prioritized components were beaches and marine vegetation, forests and wetlands, marine waters, estuaries, and freshwater. There is variation, and it is likely that not everyone understood some of the terms.
 - Question 5: more than 90% of respondents said that these reflect their values.
 - Question 6 (open ended): It is clear that survey respondents understand that components are connected and impact each other.
- There was discussion about reaching some minority communities, and how lack of internet access might be a barrier for taking this survey. Information about broadband access can be found [here](#).
- There was a comment that attention span might be limited because the survey was long.
- Language at the beginning of the survey stipulated that only Island County (IC) residents can take this survey. Participants needed to provide place of residence.
- The survey did not ask about occupations; given that the sampling tool was broad outreach, it is going to attract people who care about the content. It is a self-selected sampling group. The language would have been difficult for many to have navigated. If ILIO would like to do something for the general public, the language is important for creating an accessible survey.
- There was discussion about the difficulty in assigning value to one environment over the other. There have been recent issues with air and water quality and values often come from a place of lack. A robust number of people provided comments, and David is organizing them so they can be shared. This can be used in outreach and decision making across the board. These comments are still significant, even though it is a glimpse of right now. The raw data can be shared, but it is hard to read. Lori and David are working on making something more readable by the end of January.
- The ILIO Technical Committee recommends the ILIO Executive Committee moves to approve the Vital Sign / Human Wellbeing (HWB) Vital Sign Survey to be included in the revised ecosystem recovery plan.

- OSU does a survey for the entire Puget Sound region, and data for Island County can be extracted. The survey can be tweaked and redone in few years. Educating the public might allow for more diversity in responses of a future survey. Lori is working with Theresa Sanders (Island County's Assessment and Healthy Communities Director) to create a memo regarding reaching more diverse communities.
- There has been an increase this year in burning and air quality complaints. This make sense due to the pandemic's respiratory implications, people having more time for lawn care and burning, and the wildfires. Janet St. Clair suggested reaching out to the Northwest Clean Air Agency to share these results.

MOTION:

Mayor Hughes moved to approve the the Vital Sign / Human Wellbeing (HWB) Vital Sign Survey, which includes 10 prioritized Human Wellbeing Vital Signs and 13 prioritized Biophysical Vital Signs to be included in the revised Ecosystem Recovery Plan. Commissioner St. Clair seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. 2021 Legislative Priorities

Discussion:

- Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) has published the rankings of state agency budget requests related to Puget Sound (PS).
- LIO's would like to be engaged in the 2021 legislative policy and funding priorities by showing support for the PSP 2021 Legislative Priorities or by endorsing a subset of these priorities.
- Gov. Jay Inslee announced the details of his 2021 – 2023 biennial budget proposal Thursday (12/17) and some of the state agency requests were not included in his proposal. In previous years, when the governor's budget proposal did not include funding for some programs, for example the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, where there was strong support for these programs the legislature decided to add funding to support the work.
- The ILIO TC recommends the ILIO EC moves to approve endorsing the Puget Sound Partnership's 2021 Legislative Priorities.
- PSP criteria for PSP 2021 Legislative Priorities are: 1. Link to the 2018-2022 Action Agenda (AA) Near Term Actions, 2. Link to ongoing programs for PS recovery, 3. Link to science work plan priorities, 4. Link to Orca Task Force recommendations, 5. Link to other PS recovery activity, and 6. Leverages other local and/or federal funding.
- Laura explained that this is a total of 77 decision packages that have been thoroughly reviewed. PSP has already done the hard work to say that these align with what they have determined to be important. Something lower on the list does not mean that it should not be done, but it does mean that it does not align as closely. The scoring rubric can be found [here](#).
- There was discussion that this is asking for a lot of faith in the process, since this would be endorsing action for other agencies. It might be helpful to narrow down what is most important to IC. Sometimes there is a struggle between greater agency work and local groups. PSP's legislative priorities do support the priorities of the AA. The group discussed knowing the specifics of what they are being asked to endorse. Sometimes, there is a lot of commonality in a goal, but the path to the goal might run counter to the needs of the local community.
- There was discussion about considering survey results while doing the cross walk, to ensure that legislative priorities are linked to the community survey results. This can be done next year.
- The EC has until the end of the legislative session to make their endorsements. The LIO Coordinator group decided not to endorse the list as a whole. The TC can look at each and crosswalk them to determine what is relevant to this area before the EC decides on an endorsement. This can be brought to the February EC meeting.
- Commissioner Price Johnson asked that the list be distilled. She would like to see tribal priorities, and look at the things that impact our watershed.

- The EC will table endorsing the 2021 PSP legislative priorities until the February meeting. This will allow time for more thought and a deeper dive.

IV. Nomination/Election for Chair of Island LIO Executive Committee

Discussion:

- Commissioner Price Johnson has been the Chair of the ILIO Executive Committee since its inception in 2013. She has lead our group to remarkable progress towards Ecosystem Recovery and Protection in Island County. She is now ready to pass the baton to someone else as she transitions to her next chapter in life.
- The ILIO members and partners expressed words of gratitude and well wishes on a Kudoboard: <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/30iiREvK> .
- There was discussion that Commissioner St. Clair would like to unpack interest with the oncoming Commissioner, but is honored to have this role. Having continuity and experience are valuable traits for the incoming Chair to have.

MOTION:

Mayor Callison moved to nominate Commissioner St. Clair as the incoming Chair of the ILIO EC. Port Commissioner Gordon seconded. Commissioner St. Clair accepted the nomination. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 am

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