

**Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO) Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**February 24, 2020, 10:00-11:00am**  
Zoom Meeting

**Executive Committee (EC) Members Present:**

Janet St. Clair, Island County Commissioner  
Melanie Bacon, Island County Commissioner  
Tim Callison, Mayor of Langley  
David Day, Coupeville Port District  
Molly Hughes, Mayor of Coupeville  
Jack Ng, Port of South Whidbey  
Stan Walsh, Skagit River System Cooperative Representative

**Also Present:**

Lori Clark, Island County DNR, ILIO Coordinator  
Ann Prusha, Island County DNR  
Laura Rivas, Puget Sound Partnership

Commissioner St. Clair called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

**I. Approval of December 23, 2020 Meeting Summary Notes**

**MOTION:**

Mayor Hughes made a motion to approve the ILIO Executive Committee (EC) December 23, 2020 Meeting Summary Notes. Port Commissioner Ng seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Commissioner Bacon, Port Commissioner Day, Port Commissioner Ng, and Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC) Representative Stan Walsh abstained.

**II. 2021 Legislative Priorities**

**Discussion:**

- Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) published 77 decision packages of state agency budget requests related to Puget Sound (PS) protection and recovery. At the December EC meeting, the EC requested that the Technical Committee (TC) narrow down this list to bring a subset of what is most important to Island County (IC) back to the EC for consideration.
- The TC reviewed the PSP 2021 Legislative Priorities and cross walked them with the ILIO priorities to determine what is relevant to local geography. The TC also included capitol, transportation and operating budget requests that are of significant priority to Puget Sound with direct impacts or implications to Island County.
- House Bill 1117 was also included for the EC's consideration. This bill addresses promoting salmon recovery through revisions to the state's comprehensive planning framework.
- Substitute Bill (SB) 5306 concerns local salmon habitat recovery planning in critical areas. It was moved forward yesterday to committee review. It requires that after January 1, 2024, comprehensive plan updates will include strategies that meet net ecological gain, which is pursuant to the Endangered Species Act.

**MOTION:**

Mayor Callison moved to approve the endorsement of the 31 Puget Sound Partnership's 2021 Legislative Priorities which were identified by the ILIO TC as having a direct local impact or a significant regional priority that will benefit all of Puget Sound, as well as [House Bill 1117](#) and [SB 5306](#). Mayor Hughes seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

### III. ILIO TC Business/Port Representative Recommendation, Krista Loercher

#### Discussion:

- Krista is the owner of Whidbey Island Kayaking. She was recommended by a TC member. Whidbey Island Kayaking offers tours from Penn Cove to Possession Point. Krista is a South Whidbey Parks and Recreation Commissioner and she also sits in on the South Whidbey and Coupeville Port Commission meetings. The ILIO TC is excited to have Krista join the group and bring her knowledge, expertise, and the business/port perspective to discussions.

#### MOTION:

Mayor Callison moved to approve appointing Krista Loercher as the Business/Port Representative on the ILIO Technical Committee. Port Commissioner Ng seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was a comment acknowledging the importance of the intersection of tourism, economic development, and small businesses, and appreciation of bringing that voice to the TC.

The last person in this position helped develop project proposals and did advocacy work, including for the Oak Harbor (OH) Marina project.

Krista is strongly connected with Langley's Whale Center and is one of the advocates for the protection of ghost shrimp along the shoreline. She is also involved with the Port of South Whidbey.

### IV. ILIO 2021 Work Plan

#### Discussion:

- This is the first time the ILIO Coordinator is bringing forward an annual work plan for review and discussion by the EC. The intention is to hear EC members' thoughts and guidance on these tasks and to see how much the EC would like to be involved in discussions around these topics.
- In the past, the ILIO EC met quarterly at most, and typically bi-annually. This meeting frequency is not conducive to a thorough understanding of ILIO planning and implementation. The EC can choose to continue to meet as needed for decisions, allowing the TC to engage in the technical planning and implementation aspects and make recommendations to the EC. Alternately, the EC could choose to meet more frequently to be better informed along the way. Lori can also send along information on topics as they come up. The group decided to meet quarterly, with an option to convene for a special session if needed. If a decision does not need to be made, an information-only meeting will still be valuable. Lori can send updates more frequently/monthly if needed, and offered to meet one-on-one if any EC member wants more information or to do a deep dive.
- Update Miradi (Conceptual Models) with revised Vital Signs (VS): This is a conceptual model/results chain, from strategy to the recovery target. There is current work to update ILIO's plan for the 2022-2026 Action Agenda (AA), and these updates take a lot of effort. Everyone on the EC is welcome to be a part of this project but it is backend work. Lori is also waiting for PSP to do a VS update.

- PSP Legislative Priorities: This was completed today.
- Update Standard Operating Procedures: This will come to the EC at the next meeting, and will need approval for a decision.
- Select 2021 Near Term Action (NTA) for funding: We are waiting to hear from PSP.
- Address Accelerating Deforestation: There was discussion about the EC addressing accelerating deforestation in IC on ILIO's workplan. This issue has been brought to the attention of some EC members. Some TC members have talked about this issue in terms of impacting groundwater recharge, and it also affects a lot of the ecosystem components that we prioritize in IC. It is a stormwater runoff and rural character issue as well. This topic is on the IC Planning Department's 2021 docket, and this could be a good opportunity for ILIO to engage in these conversations and better understand the gap between Washington Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR) and their clear cut permit process, and IC input. There has been an increase of permits for clearings. There have been issues with landowners performing after-the-fact clearing and grading. The group is in favor of adding this item to the workplan.
- Lori encouraged the EC to bring forward any other high profile or pending issues.
- Integrate Human Wellbeing (HWB) and revised VS into the Ecosystem Recovery Plan (ERP): Lori will send out the HWB VS report. It uses the same information as the Miradi update, but is the narrative portion for the ERP. It tells the story of what our goals for recovery are, and the strategies that we and our partners use. This task is under contract for this year (October 2020-September 2021). There is a recording of a presentation about ILIO's HWB survey that can be sent out if anyone is interested.
- It was recommended that EC members who would like to understand more about the ILIO processes speak with Lori and attend a TC meeting.
- There was discussion about the TC's involvement in looking into sea level rise (SLR) as Langley and other municipalities in IC are updating their Shoreline Master Plans (SMP). All SMPs should be referenced within ILIO's ERP. Lori will reach out to the EC as ILIO updates the ERP. SLR and climate change will be addressed within ILIO's ERP, and we are waiting on regional guidance. We do have a TC member who sits on that regional group. It is important to look at action steps and create a tangible plan.
- Wetland Mitigation In-Lieu Fee: The workplan shows this as a policy gap. This item, as well as the others that reference GIS staff, are in IC Planning Department's docket as priorities. Having effective wetland mitigation has been a barrier. The Planning Department is taking the lead, but ILIO is helping ensure that it will be addressed. Hannah Liss is IC DNR staff, and has been working with IC Planning. Wetland banking is in IC's code already, but lacks structure. This is a priority for ILIO because there have been jurisdictions that funded this through NTAs to fund mitigation banking, and regional state partners who have already established these programs may be able to help us create this. There was a comment about the need for caution with in-lieu-fee mitigation in general because it is not a substitute for on-site mitigation. It can be easier to write a check instead of performing a more appropriate mitigation or avoidance. It should fit into a hierarchy of mitigation sequencing. Currently, the property that has degradation is where that degradation needs to be enhanced. This can be very limiting for smaller shoreline parcels, and results in restoration that is less effective for enhancing the shoreline. We would like to make it an opportunity to restore or protect a certain parcel that may be further away, but within the same restoration area (restoration areas are still to be determined) to have a more effective mitigation strategy in a different parcel. Members on the TC have expressed similar concerns. There needs to be sequencing so that restoration is performed where it will be effective, and that mitigation banking is not substituted for mitigation sequencing and responsibility. The service area is also important. Benefits should be for similar habitat or life stages of wildlife being impacted. It has been suggested to look at public rating systems as a way to protect wetlands, and give landowners incentives for retaining and protecting wetlands on their properties.

- Open Comment Period on State Standards for Discharging Waste and Stormwater into Puget Sound (PS): There was discussion about state standards for discharging waste and stormwater into PS. There has been a call for regulation of nutrients going into waterways. The rule change is open for public comment. Lori will find this, and will bring it to the TC for comments, and then bring it to the EC for input at the next meeting or via email. Lori will add this to the workplan. This has huge implications for future growth, planning, and urban growth areas. This issue has huge ramifications on land. There are joint tensions with this issue. Lori can have someone come talk about it or send information via email.
- Lori introduced Laura Rivas, Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator. She is ILIO's PSP representative. Laura gave the group a PSP update:
  - Puget Sound Day on the Hill 2021:
    - Save the Date! PSDOTH will be held as a virtual event on Fridays from 1:00-2:30 pm (Pacific Time) April 23 - May 21. Additional notes will be provided prior to each session. PSP plans to discuss PS restoration and protection, salmon recovery efforts, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and infrastructure, among other topics. They will announce registration information soon. See [here](#) for most up to date information.
  - There are three ways to engage with PSP during the legislative session:
    - Legislative Updates are sent via email and posted to PSP's [website](#) periodically during session and summarizes the priority topics PSP is following. You can subscribe [here](#).
    - The Legislative Calendar is sent via email and posted to PSP's website every Thursday. It lists upcoming committee meetings involving legislation and information about issues that affect Puget Sound protection and recovery. Calendars will include public hearings where testimony may be offered.
    - Legislative Information Call-In: Jeff Parsons, Legislative Policy Director, will conduct a call-in meeting on Fridays, from 11:30 a.m. to no later than 12:30 p.m., to review the most important legislative issues PSP is following, answer questions, and discuss partner perspectives. An agenda will go out each week in advance of the call, usually on Friday mornings. To participate and receive agendas for the weekly calls, please send an email to Don Gourlie at [don.gourlie@psp.wa.gov](mailto:don.gourlie@psp.wa.gov).

**MOTION:**

Mayor Callison moved to adjourn the meeting. Port Commissioner Day seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:56 am.

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