



**San Juan Action Agenda Oversight Group/San Juan Local Integrating Organization (SJ-LIO)
Joint Accountability Oversight Committee (AOC) and Implementation Committee (IC) Meeting**

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, April 6, 2016, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

San Juan Grange Hall, 152 First Street North, Friday Harbor, WA

v 04-15-2016

Action Items	Person(s) Responsible
Create San Juan goals for Ecosystem Protection and Recovery Plan	All

Welcome and Introductions

Jamie Stephens, chair of the Accountability Oversight Committee (AOC), convened the meeting at 11:13am. The Implementation Committee (IC), the Accountability Oversight Committee (AOC) members, and guests provided brief introductions.

Meeting Agenda and Summary

The meeting agenda was approved with the following changes: *the order of the agenda was switched, with the review of the EPA/PSP meetings happening before the review of the 2016 Action Agenda.* The February 3, 2016 IC Draft Meeting Summary was approved with changes to the opening remarks: Peter Murchie is the program manager for the Puget Sound and National Estuary Programs at the Environmental Protection Agency. The March 2, 2016 IC Draft Meeting Summary was approved with no changes.

Public Comment

None.

Overview of EPA/Puget Sound Partnership Meetings

Marta Green, San Juan Puget Sound Recovery Coordinator, and Linda Lyshall, SJ-LIO Implementation Committee Chair, attended an LIO Leadership meeting on March 15, 2016. The meeting was productive, with a lot of discussion about funding and funding misunderstandings. Peter Murchie and Sheida Sahandy, Executive Director of the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), were in attendance. Peter has been very responsive to what he has heard being said. Concerns were expressed at the meeting from people Salish Sea-wide about everyone putting more into this process than what they are getting out of it.

- Marta noted points from the meeting:
 - The SI Leads will finalize work plans and are to receive awards by the end of April.
 - The FY2016 implementation funds need to be obligated by this summer/fall.
 - EPA relayed that the multiple fiscal agents approach selected because it was felt that the RCO doesn't have adequate technical oversight capabilities.

A group discussion followed: There was concern about how funding is being set up. There has been difficulty developing a plan that addresses problems. Also, salmon funding is lacking as salmon runs are in trouble regionally. Priorities are not perceived as being linked up well. There needs to be a plan to work priorities together. Linda commented that she is hopeful that the



PSP has heard what was said and will make necessary changes. The fisheries community needs to be involved in this process. Group members agreed that preservation is an important part of this process, and is a message that needs to get through to PSP. Protection rather than recovery should be the focus, and many group members agreed that they need to keep pushing for that.

- Joint ECB-SRC Meeting April 4th – There was a joint meeting of the Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) and the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) on April 4, 2016. Points from that meeting:
 - The groups identified issues with the process and made recommendations on how to address those issues.
 - The Comprehensive Plan needs to be revised.
 - San Juan was able to express concerns.
 - The EPA submitted a FY2017 budget of \$30 million.

In response, Jamie reported that the LIO sent a letter to Peter Murchie expressing concerns with the amount of funding that State agencies would receive based on NTA rankings. Priority issues and projects keep getting moved into the second tier. There is a gap in political will. There is also a lot of progress to be made by local entities. We need to be able to work together efficiently. Vessel traffic and transporter issues will be added to the Plan.

Alan reported on the recent Action Agenda meeting. There was a general agreement that everyone doesn't like process, but that it is necessary for everyone to get together and focus on what needs to be done. There has been too much focus on the EPA plan. There are not resources dedicated to what needs to be done. There needs to be an over-arching plan that won't have to be redone. There should be less focus on EPA, more focus on projects. Stephanie Solien, PSP Leadership Council member, agreed and said she wants to find out from PSP if enough mapping of funds has happened. There needs to be a backbone organization and messaging about why this is important. What can be done by whom?

Draft 2016 Action Agenda

Marta discussed the Draft 2016 Action Agenda (AA) process. She noted that the word "protection" is included in the opening of the AA document.

- Public comment period – There will be open houses for public comment on the Draft 2016 Action Agenda:
 - Tuesday April 5, 2016 5pm-7:30pm in Edmunds
 - Thursday April 7, 2016 5pm-7:30pm in Tacoma
 - Tuesday April 12, 2016 5pm – 7:30pm in Mount Vernon
- Ranking and potential funding – There are two parts of the AA:
 - Comprehensive Plan (long term recovery plan)
 - Implementation Plan (2 year plan)

San Juan NTA rankings were disappointing. The rankings placed higher priorities on Federal, State, and Regional actions, with 41% receiving funding priority. King County and the University of Washington NTAs also ranked relatively high. Based on the rankings, 37% of FY16 funds would go toward studies, mostly from Federal and State entities and the University of Washington. It was noted that scores varied considerably between the reviewers who participated in this process.



Current Funding Model

Suzanna reported on the current funding model for the Draft 2016 AA. She said that Peter Murchie did send a letter saying that changes will be made. Marta will send out a copy of the letter to group members. Ranking won't be the last justification for funding. Strategic Initiative (SI) Leads consist of participants from WA State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, WA State Dept. of Natural Resources, WA State Dept. of Ecology, WA State Dept. of Commerce, WA State Dept. of Health, WSU and the WA State Dept. of Agriculture. Groups worked together to identify regional recovery and protection priorities, review the early elements of Local Integrating Organization (LIO) 5-year Ecosystem Recovery Plans, develop criteria for the review of Near Term Actions, solicit, review, and prioritize local and regional Near Term Actions, and help guide the development of the next three Implementation Strategies. Each SI Lead agency will be awarded a contract from EPA.

Suzanna also reported that there is a promise of \$100,000 per year for the next five years from the EPA NEP funds to the LIOs. These funds may be used for a number of different purposes, including implementation of the NTAs, capacity building, etc. NTA rankings will not interfere with these funds. PSP is not directly involved in this funding; this is between the EPA-SIs and the LIOs. Marc Daily is working with Fred Jarrett to find some tangible mechanism to leverage these EPA dollars. Suzanna suggests going to the public comment meeting in Mount Vernon to give input. She will send the creative solutions documents to Marta for distribution to the group.

Ecosystem Protection and Recovery Planning (EPRP) Status

Marta reviewed the purpose of the EPRP status. Questions to consider for the plan include:

- Why is this plan being developed?
- Who will benefit from this plan?
- What role will this plan play in improving human wellbeing and ecosystem protection and recovery in the San Juan Islands?

Marta also reviewed the draft vision statement that LIO members created at the meeting in March.

The draft statement group agreed on is:

“Community stewardship sustains healthy and productive ecosystems.”

Stephanie suggested adding the word *people* to the vision statement.

Human Wellbeing Components/Vital Signs

Skadi Von Reis from PSP talked about why the PSP is including this information in the five year recovery plan:

- Identifying components will help identify priority goals.
- This information will also help determine if goals are being met.
- This information will help create a more holistic view of ecosystems.
- This information will help build stronger strategies.

If there is something that is not on the regional list that should be, that would be something identified separately from the regional components. It was noted by LIO members that there needs to be understanding of what the issues really are and they need to be addressed before moving on. It was also noted by group members that the PSP's definition of "human wellbeing" as being distinct from ecosystem wellbeing differs from tribal understandings.



San Juan Ecosystem and Wellbeing Components

Marta reviewed what the San Juan County priority vital signs are currently listed as:

- Chinook
- Pacific Herring (forge fish)
- Marine water quality
- Orcas
- Summer stream flows
- Eelgrass
- Shoreline armoring

Ecosystem Components:

-What do we care most about?

- What are the most important habitats and species?
- What species are unique?
- Are there any species with special requirements?

Human Wellbeing Components:

-What else do we care about?

- What are the aspects of human wellbeing or quality of life enhanced by healthy ecosystems?
- What are the risks for our communities?
- How are these related to the priority ecosystem components?

Group discussion followed, and lists of habitats and species and human wellbeing items were made.

- Habitats and Species:
- Rain shadow prairie
 - Nearshore habitat
 - *-Biological diversity of all species
 - Pocket beaches
 - Rockfish
 - Salmon
 - Southern resident killer whales
 - Sea birds
 - Shoreline processes that support forge fish
 - Kelp
 - Eelgrass
 - Invertebrates
 - Wetlands and freshwater
 - Habitat
 - *-Everything is interdependent
 - Healthy forests
 - * -Amphibians and reptiles
 - * -Reserves and preserves
 - Tragedy of the commons
- Human Wellbeing:
- Well managed fisheries
 - *-Food sources security
 - *-Clean water



- Open spaces that are healthy
- Stormwater runoff
- Over development
- Sunsets
- Shelter
- Economic vitality
- *-Air quality
- Fire risks
- Nature based recreation
- Tourism
- Quality of life
- Sounds of a healthy ecosystem (soundscape)
- Transboundary issues for protection
- Land use issues
- Effective governance, especially transboundary

*Items with stars indicate an issue of particular importance to LIO group members.

San Juan Goals

Marta guided the group through the process of drafting goals, noting that she will incorporate objectives from the MSA plan.

Qualitative SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) goals for ecosystem components that group members created:

- Protect biodiversity by protecting habitat
- Outreach for biodiversity
- Monitoring effectiveness of strategies
- Strategizing salmon populations
- Decrease shoreline armoring and improve shoreline processes through protection and restoration.
- Use information and data San Juan County already has and maintain current information.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:06 pm



Attachment - Meeting Participants

Members

Name	Affiliation	In Attendance
Barbara Bentley	SJC Marine Resources Committee	X
Arnie Klaus	SJC Marine Resources Committee	X
Alan Chapman	Lummi Natural Resources Department	X
Kyle Dodd	San Juan County Health & Community Services	
Sam Gibboney	San Juan County Environmental Resources Division	X
Patti Gobin	Tulalip Tribes	X
Noreene Ignelzi	San Juan Stewardship Network/EcoNet	
Linda Lyshall (Chair)	San Juan Islands Conservation District	X
Byron Rot	San Juan County/WRIA 2 Lead Entity	
Billie Swalla	University of Washington Friday Harbor Laboratories	X
Kimbal Sundberg	Water Resources Management Committee	X
Stan Walsh	Swinomish Tribe, Skagit River System Cooperative	X
Duncan Wilson	Town of Friday Harbor	
Jamie Stephens	San Juan County Council	X
Terry Williams	Tulalip Tribes	X

Staff and Guests

Name	Affiliation
Laura Arnold	Marine Resources Committee, Stewardship Network
Phil Green	Marine Resources Committee
Marta Green	San Juan Action Agenda Oversight Group
Suzanna Stoike	Puget Sound Partnership
Skadi Von Reis	Puget Sound Partnership
Stephanie Solien	Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council
Chandler Colahan	Recording Secretary