



San Juan Action Agenda Oversight Group/San Juan Local Integrating Organization (SJ-LIO)
Implementation Committee (IC) Meeting
Meeting Summary
January 20, 2016, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm
 Key Bank, 95 Second Street, Friday Harbor, WA

Action Items	Person(s) Responsible
Provide updates on current NTAs by January 22 (submit updates to SJ-LIO Coordination Team or directly into Smartsheet).	Current NTA owners with assistance from SJ-LIO Coordination Team
Revise NTA proposals as needed and submit to the Puget Sound Partnership by February 3.	NTA proponents with assistance from SJ-LIO Coordination Team

Welcome and Introductions

Linda Lyshall, SJ-LIO Implementation Committee Chair, opened the meeting. The Implementation Committee (IC or Committee) members provided brief introductions. It was noted that Noreene Ignelzi is the new SJ-LIO IC ECONet representative (the position was previously held by Stephanie Buffum). The IC also reviewed the meeting agenda, and agreed to add one more item to the agenda to discuss a letter of support for an upcoming National Estuary Program (NEP) grant application.

Public Comment

A member of the public shared comments regarding the NTA submission process. These comments are summarized below.

- They hope the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) will review and evaluate the Near-Term Action (NTA) submittal process, and make changes that can address the short-comings of the process. There was some confusion where people did not understand what was being provided. Also, there were space limitations, the timeline was truncated, and guidance was late. In some cases reviewers may not have fully understood what was being proposed. The comments they provided are relevant, but may not be relevant in light of what’s being proposed. Those outside the process are observing this issue.

Current SJ-LIO NTA Updates

Marta Green, San Juan County Puget Sound Recovery Coordinator, noted that the SJ-LIO must provide quarterly updates on the current NTAs that are in the Action Agenda (due Friday, January 22). Reporters for the current NTAs were asked to provide updates to the SJ-LIO Coordination Team or directly into Smartsheet by January 22.

Overview of NTAs Submitted to the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)

Suzanna Stoike, PSP Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator, provided an update on the regional NTA review process. She noted that 398 NTAs were submitted to PSP. The Strategic Initiative Transition Teams (SITTs) reviewed all NTAs submitted and provided comments on those proposals. The SITTs used “triage categories” 1-2-3 to indicate the status of the proposals. NTAs indicated as levels 1-2 will move forward for final review and ranking, whereas level 3 proposals have issues that need to be addressed before final review and ranking. There were three parts to the initial NTA review: SITTs review, Tribal review, and LIO review. The expectation is that NTA proponents will revise proposals as needed based on review comments and re-submit final proposals by February 3, 2016. After that time, NTAs will be reviewed again and ranked. PSP has provided guidance on next steps for the NTA process, with details about how



to package and submit final NTA proposals. In addition, PSP will host webinars in the next several weeks to provide additional information and respond to questions related to different NTA proposal topics.

The IC discussed that the purpose of the NTA submittal and review process is to build the Action Agenda. The Action Agenda will serve as a guide for future funding. National Estuary Program (NEP) funds through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be channeled through the Action Agenda, and NEP funding will be connected with high-priority projects. A ranked list of projects in the Action Agenda is also required for the Governor’s Budget. Various aspects of this process are still being determined. It was noted that questions regarding the new funding model will be discussed at the February 3 AOC meeting, which will include PSP and EPA leadership.

There were 20 NTAs submitted through the SJ-LIO. Additionally, there were a number of regional and soundwide NTAs that indicated that their projects would take place in the SJ-LIO area. The IC discussed how the LIO will coordinate with the regional and sound-wide NTA owners if those projects are accepted into the Action Agenda. It was noted that if there are synergies across projects, connections can be made once actions are approved. The IC also discussed the process for LIO review of revised NTAs. A member noted that if a proposal is a level 2-3 and needs to make significant changes, then there is not adequate time for the LIO to review the revised proposal prior to submission. The IC discussed this topic and agreed to send all updated proposals to Marta Green for review prior to submittal on February 3. She will filter for any significant proposal changes and will notify the LIO of any such changes.

2016 SJ-LIO NTA Proposal Feedback from SITTs

The IC reviewed and discussed feedback from the SITTs on several SJ-LIO NTA proposals. It was noted that there were four levels of review and comments for the NTAs: 1) SITTs review; 2) LIO review; 3) Tribal review; and 4) errors or omissions in proposals. The table below summarizes the NTA projects discussed and comments/suggestions from the IC.

NTA Project Name	SITTs Triage Category	IC Comments/Suggestions
Advancing Sea Level Rise Adaptation in San Juan County	1	A question was raised about potentially strengthening ties to the Shoreline Management Plan. It was discussed that the project is not focused on a sea level rise vulnerability analysis, but rather implementing a habitat protection strategy working with private landowners.
Spring Street Waterfront Stormwater Filtration Vault	2	Some questions were raised about a “pristine” waters classification, and other classifications that may be appropriate (such as impaired/not impaired). The SITTs reviewers asked some questions about water quality monitoring, which is still being determined in phase 1 of the project. The NTA owner will make the corrections needed for the proposal, and will acknowledge assumptions and expectations when possible.
Improving Soil Health to Reduce Runoff and Conserve Water	3	This proposal will be updated to fit under the Stormwater instead of Shellfish. The proposal will also be updated to highlight assumptions and how improving soil health helps to sequester carbon, increase drought resiliency, increase



NTA Project Name	SITTs Triage Category	IC Comments/Suggestions
		vegetation productivity, and reduce erosion and stormwater runoff.
Water for People, Habitat, and Agriculture: Drought and Climate Resiliency	3	This topic is not captured within the current regional strategies. This was added based on comments from the October SITTs presentation. This is a programmatic policy issue to address concerns with climate change, and is the first step. Suggestion to clearly define environmental benefit (such as connections with fish habitat).
Citizen science: Natural Resource Damage Assessment for Oil Spills	3	The proposal will need to address in more detail the types of analyses to be performed. It may also be possible to coordinate with others on a regional level for this work.
Pilot Testing of Mycological Augmentation of Stormwater BMPs	3	This proposal will be revised and re-submitted. There may have been some confusion about the intention of this project and how it would be implemented. The term “BMP” will likely be changed to “stormwater treatment facility” to address this.
Stormwater Pond BMP Retrofits	2	See comments directly above. The proposal will be revised and re-submitted.
Vessel Traffic Risk Consequences in the Salish Sea	2	This project will include analysis of risk level in addition to a workshop. It was noted that a number of stakeholders/entities are working to address this issue.
Salish Sea Particularly Sensitive Sea Area Designation: A Report and Nomination to the IMO	2	Highlight that further outreach and coordination will occur. Articulate that outreach and education will occur across the Salish Sea with stakeholders at different levels about the designation process. Several comments from other LIOs and one Tribe regarding this issue. The project proponent will follow-up with commenters directly to gather more information.

Several IC members raised questions about the role PSP plays/will play around coordination of complimentary NTAs throughout the region. Some noted that there was not adequate time in the process for NTA owners to coordinate and collaborate with other NTA owners (regional and local), and additional coordination assistance may be needed.

There was some discussion about comments provided by Tribes during the initial review process. Several IC members noted that some Tribes may need additional time to review NTAs and provide comments. On January 25, 2016 there will be a meeting convened by PSP to discuss the Action Agenda timeline and list of NTAs with tribal representatives. Any additional comments on NTAs from Tribes will be communicated with project proponents.

The IC recommended the following for responding to SITTs comments:

- NTA proponents should address all valid feedback despite receiving a triage category of 1 or 2 for their NTA.



- No concerns were raised with the types of revisions discussed. To maintain the LIO awareness of the revisions/submittals, proponents should forward revised NTA proposals to Marta Green and she will upload the proposals to the PSP submittal portal.

The IC also discussed guidance from PSP regarding NTA revisions, which is summarized below:

- Additional space will not be provided to add text in response to comments, or to itemize comments/responses. Make the best use of the space provided. Make sure proposals are focused and concise.
- Some comments may not be valid; take them for what they're worth.
- If space allows it may be useful to call out revisions by prefacing with 'In response to SITTs feedback:'
- The SITTs will be reviewing NTAs from different LIOs or regional entities for 'connections', but it's not clear whether/when that will affect selection to the Action Agenda.
- Proponents are encouraged to contact suzanna.stoike@psp.wa.gov with questions.

The SJ-LIO Coordinator will follow-up with NTA proponents of triage category 3 NTAs who did not attend the meeting. The SJ-LIO Coordination Team is available to assist NTA proponents with revising results chains or making other changes to their proposals. The SJ-LIO Coordinator will upload the final SJ-LIO NTA proposals to the PSP submittal portal prior to the deadline.

Overview of Regional NTAs to be Implemented in the SJ-LIO Area

The SJ-LIO Coordination Team reviewed regional and sound-wide NTA proposals that indicated the action will be implemented in the SJ-LIO area. The purpose of this review was to identify if the action conflicted with the LIO's 5-Year Ecosystem Recovery Plan- Early Elements, and if there may be opportunities for connections or synergies amongst local and regional/sound-wide actions. Several of the regional/sound-wide NTAs were shared with LIO members and NTA proponents to review based on their expertise and/or NTA focus areas. They did not identify any proposals that would be in conflict with the LIO's local priorities. The IC reviewed the list of local, regional, and sound-wide actions to be implemented in the SJ-LIO area, and provided comments regarding several regional and sound-wide proposals, including:

- Washington Department of Natural Resources, Innovative Nursery and Restoration Techniques for Puget Sound Eelgrass: The IC agreed that they would be supportive of implementing this proposal in the SJ-LIO area, as it ties into the Salmon Recovery Chapter update. Marta Green will follow-up with Byron Rot regarding this.
- Washington Department of Ecology, Ecology BMP Implementation Coordinator: This project does not seem to conflict with the SJ-LIO priorities, and could potentially relate to some of the work taking place in the San Juans.
- Northwest Straits Commission, Armoring Reduction Project: The San Juan Marine Resources Committee (MRC) is listed as a partner. There were some questions as to whether or not the MRC will be implementing this project. It was noted that San Juan County, San Juan Islands Conservation District, and FRIENDS of the San Juans are also engaged with this work, and have an NTA on this topic. There were some concerns about potential "brand confusion."
- Drought Resiliency: This project was proposed both regionally and locally, and could be funded through either.

Some questions were raised about whether there will be any vetting of the partners identified in the NTA proposals. The IC also discussed that partners listed in proposals may be tentative at this point.



Grant Proposal Letter of Support

An IC member asked the LIO for a letter of support for a NEP watershed protection and restoration grant proposal for restoration efforts in the False Bay Watershed. The IC noted that the AOC would need to issue the letter of support, and some AOC members requested to review the proposal first. The IC discussed that a draft could be shared with AOC members and they can vote via email on whether or not to move forward with this.

AOC Meeting on February 3, 2016

The IC discussed that the next AOC meeting will take place on February 3, 2016. Sheida Sahandy, PSP Executive Director, and Peter Murchie, U.S. EPA Puget Sound Manager, have been invited to attend this meeting. The IC discussed the purpose and priorities of this meeting. It was noted that the AOC requested this meeting as they have some questions about the new funding model, as well as recovery and protection priorities. They also would like to share more information about SJ-LIO priorities and concerns, particularly issues regarding increased vessel traffic.

Next Steps

The IC will not meet in February. There is tentatively a joint IC/AOC meeting scheduled for March 2 to discuss next steps for long-term strategic planning. In mid-February, PSP will provide LIOs with guidance for development of the 5-Year Ecosystem Recovery Plans.

Meeting Adjourned



Attachment A- Meeting Participants

Members

Name	Affiliation	In Attendance
Barbara Bentley	SJC Marine Resources Committee	
Marta Branch	SJC Marine Resources Committee	
Alan Chapman	Lummi Natural Resources Department	
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 Representative	X
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	
Kimbal Sundberg	Water Resources Management Committee	X
Stan Walsh	Swinomish Tribe, Skagit River System Cooperative	X
Duncan Wilson	Town of Friday Harbor	X

Staff and Guests

Name	Affiliation
Laura Arnold	Stewardship Network Coordinator, MRC member
John Cook	San Juan County Public Works, Environmental Resources
Marta Green	San Juan AAOG Puget Sound Recovery Coordinator
Megan Johnston	LIO Coordination Team – Triangle Associates
Lovel Pratt	Interested Party
Suzanna Stoike	Puget Sound Partnership
Jennifer Thomas	Water and Land Natural Resource Consulting
Tina Whitman	FRIENDS of the San Juans