



**San Juan Action Agenda Oversight Group/San Juan Local Integrating Organization (SJ-LIO)  
 Accountability and Oversight Committee Meeting  
 Meeting Summary  
 Wednesday, May 13, 2015, from 10:00 am—2:00 pm  
 Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Mount Vernon, WA**

Action Items	Person(s) Responsible
Provide feedback to Sam Gibboney on Oil Spill Capacity Analysis by June 15.	AOC members
The SJ-LIO Coordination Team will confirm the date of the July AOC meeting.	SJ-LIO Coordination Team
The SJ-LIO Coordination Team will schedule an AOC conference call if needed to approve how to spend the NEP grant.	SJ-LIO Coordination Team
Propose changing the location of some PSP meetings to make them more accessible for people traveling from the San Juan Islands and elsewhere in Northern Puget Sound.	Scott Williamson
Propose creating a PSP annual calendar with meeting dates scheduled for the full year so LIOs can plan ahead.	Scott Williamson

**Introduction and Adoption of Minutes**

Jamie Stephens, Chair of the San Juan Accountability and Oversight Committee (AOC), opened the meeting (see Attachment A for full list of participants). The AOC reviewed the minutes from the February 3, 2015 AOC meeting and several changes were suggested. The minutes were approved as amended.

Jamie Stephens then introduced Betsy Daniels, the new LIO Coordination Lead. He explained that Betsy Daniels is a Senior Facilitator with Triangle Associates and she will be working with Project Associates Megan Johnston and Sophie Glass to help coordinate the activities of the SJ-LIO.

**Previous Action Agenda Processes and Outcomes**

Scott Williamson, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator, gave a presentation on the previous Action Agenda processes and outcomes. Scott covered the SJ-LIO processes before LIOs existed, the LIO process from 2011-12, the 2013-14 Action Agenda update, and the next steps facing all LIOs. Please see this [website link](#) for the full presentation.

**Presentation Discussion**

AOC members expressed concern over the previous compressed timeframe of Near Term Action (NTA) development in 2014. They voiced a desire to have a more thorough and inclusive process for the development of the 2016-18 NTAs. Specifically, members wanted the PSP to be a “true partner in this process” and “avoid top-down mandates.” Members discussed the importance of basing the SJ-LIO’s NTAs and the Action Agenda on goals and core values. Scott clarified the timeline and how some key preparation steps may make NTA development more manageable within the allotted time.

**Puget Sound Pressure Assessment**

Scott Williamson gave a detailed presentation on the [Puget Sound Pressure Assessment](#) (PSPA). He emphasized that the two main purposes of the PSPA were to:

- (1) Identify which parts of Puget Sound ecosystem are most vulnerable to current pressures, and



(2) Identify the greatest pressures on the ecosystem given endpoints of concern.

Scott provided an overview of the pressures facing the San Juan Islands based on the results of an in depth process conducted by a group of scientists. He reviewed the definitions of sources, stressors, and pressures and then discussed the major pressures facing the SJ-LIO that rank as “high”. This included shoreline development, runoff from the built environment, and major oil spills. Please see this [website link](#) for the full presentation.

Results from the PSPA can inform LIOs on “intrinsic vulnerability,” “stressor intensity,” and “potential impact.” The draft 2014 PSPA found that climate change (air-borne pollutants), roads and railroads, runoff from the built environment, and wastewater to sewer were the most highly rated sources of stress. For the San Juan LIO in particular, the draft sources of stress include:

- Air-borne pollutants (source of climate change stressors);
- Roads and railroads;
- Domestic and municipal wastewater to sewer; and
- Industrial wastewater.

Betsy Daniels clarified that the PSPA addresses three scales: Puget Sound wide, San Juan watersheds, and the Whatcom marine basin.

Betsy created a simple version of the graphs depicted on slides 27-31 of Scott’s presentation:

Y	Things to protect against	Things to fix or share
	Point source toxic pollution	Nonpoint pollution
	Large spills	Land cover conversion
	Shore hardening	Peak flows from cover change
X		

**Presentation Discussion**

Members voiced concern that Pressure Assessments are not well-suited to many areas in the San Juans. It was also added that endpoints do not take human health and welfare into account even though humans are part of the ecosystem.

Members also commented that focusing on Pressure Assessments is based on data that is likely to change with climate change. It was added that perhaps modeling exercises like Pressure Assessments can get into the weeds and miss the big picture. Given the absence or flux of data, it was emphasized that local knowledge is crucial to take into consideration.

AOC members also expressed frustration about the location of PSP committee meetings, since traveling to Tacoma from the San Juan Islands is extremely inconvenient. In addition, members commented that there is often insufficient advance notification prior to meetings. There was a suggestion to set meeting dates for an entire year to make travel arrangements in advance. There was also a suggestion to create an organizational chart that AOC members can bring back to their constituents to show the role of the SJ-LIO within the PSP. Other members talked about being “processed to death” with developing Action Agendas. Members discussed the tribal perspective on the habitat strategic initiative, which can be found in the 2012 Action Agenda.



## **Presentation Questions and Answers**

**AOC Question:** What does a “large spill” mean? It is concerning that there are frequent small spills that might add up and have a large impact on our environment.

**PSP Answer:** “Large spills” mean 10,000 gallons or more.

**AOC Question:** What can LIOs do about non-point source pollution? For example, what can be done about the pollution from cars on the ferry line?

**PSP Answer:** The San Juan Islands Conservation District proposed some actionable solutions to this problem but they have not been implemented yet.

**AOC Question:** Are low flows relevant to San Juan County since we don’t have streams?

**Implementation Committee Answer:** Yes. False Bay Watershed and West Beach Creek are two examples of low flows affecting fish habitat.

**AOC Question:** Does the PSPA affect watershed scale funding?

**PSP Answer:** No, it doesn’t.

**AOC Question:** Are “marine species of concern” primarily orcas?

**PSP Answer:** Not sure, need to look into this.

## **Applying the Pressure Assessment to the SJ-LIO**

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Linda Lyshall, chair of the SJ-LIO’s Implementation Committee, provided an overview of how the PSPA applies to the SJ-LIO. Of note, there will be a workshop with the SJ-LIO’s Implementation Committee on June 10<sup>th</sup> that will focus on this and will begin NTA development.

It was suggested that NTAs address the potential for economic development as a result of ecological restoration. AOC members also discussed how environmental degradation impacts local governments and tribes more than other entities, and as such, environmental restoration should occur at these scales. Tribes play a key role in restoration since their treaty rights can be used to enforce environmental protection.

AOC members voiced frustration over a large amount of terminology and “jargon” from PSP. They stressed the importance of easy-to-understand communication and appealing to emotions. Stories, in particular, should be used more to convey the threats facing Puget Sound and the goals of the PSP. One AOC member pointed out that all LIO deliverables should be understandable to children.

## **Update: New funding model for LIOs and Strategic Recovery Plans**

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Betsy Daniels gave an update on the new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding model for the distribution of National Estuary Program (NEP) funds to LIOs.

Betsy explained that EPA has been working with LIOs on how to provide direct awards for projects. To accomplish this EPA will need LIOs to develop longer-term (5-year timeframe) strategic Ecosystem Recovery Plans. Each LIO will have \$175K available to it beginning in July to support the development of LIO-scale strategic recovery plans. Each LIO is responsible for creating the “first installment” of these strategic recovery plans by September 2015. These local recovery plans will allow for NTAs to be eligible for direct NEP funding. The AOC will review this draft installment of the plan at the July AOC meeting.



For the 2015-16 timeframe, EPA has stipulated that this additional \$175K can only be used for capacity and planning purposes – i.e. the development of rigorous, scientifically-defensible recovery plans in each of the nine LIO areas across Puget Sound. The Implementation Committee will be drafting a recommendation for how this funding should be spent for AOC consideration. Betsy explained that the AOC may need to be convened by conference call to make this decision. AOC members agreed to participate in this call.

### **Discussion**

AOC members voiced concern over how fast the first installment of the recovery plan needs to happen. It was also expressed that the short timeline does not allow the SJ-LIO to work with member jurisdictions to understand core values and priorities for this first installment. It was asked whether capacity funding could be used to cover costs of travel – particularly for tribal travel to meetings. PSP clarified that this capacity funding could likely pay for travel expenses but not travel time.

### **Update: NTA Development Process**

Betsy described that despite the changes to the funding model, the SJ-LIO's Implementation Committee will still be responsible for developing the new 2016-2018 NTAs by October 2015. These NTAs should be incorporated into the first installment of the strategic recovery plan and be "shovel ready" for 2016. PSP's 2016 Action Agenda will include these new NTAs. The AOC will review the draft updated NTAs at their July 2015 meeting.

### **Discussion**

AOC members commented that oil spills are still a major threat to the SJ-LIO action area and should be a priority for NTAs.

### **Update: Oil Spill Capacity Analysis and Review Cycle**

Sam Gibboney, member of the SJ-LIO Implementation Committee, explained that San Juan County received a grant to hire a consultant to conduct an oil spill capacity analysis. Local stakeholders and tribal leaders were involved in developing the content of this analysis. Two locations - Rosario Strait (Port Lawrence) and Haro Strait (Turning Point) – were selected and analyzed using ROCK modeling software. Sam pointed out that the Department of Ecology has not been deeply involved in this effort to date. The draft of the Oil Spill Capacity Analysis is due in June and comments are needed by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Proposed Letter re: Marine Spill Response Corporation's Primary Response Contractor**

Sam Gibboney introduced a draft letter from the Implementation Committee regarding whether the Marine Spill Response Corporation, as a Primary Response Contractor, can comply with the San Juan County Planning Standard (see state regulation at WAC 173-182-370). After some discussion, the AOC decided to not send this letter since it would work against the goal of coordination with the Department of Ecology on the Oil Spill grant noted above.

### **Review of Timeline**

Betsy reviewed the "DRAFT San Juan LIO Implementation Committee 2016 NTA Development/Prioritization Schedule v4-29-15." This schedule does not reflect the new funding model and its implications. During the July 15<sup>th</sup> AOC meeting, the AOC will focus on the draft 2016-18 NTAs, the associated logic model, and the proposed process for developing the Strategic Recovery Plan.



## **Open Standards Overview and approach for SJ-LIO**

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Scott Williamson gave an abbreviated version of a presentation on the Open Standards process. Scott emphasized that Open Standards uses a theory of change model that links contributing factors, sources of pressures, stressors, and ecosystem components. EPA is expecting each LIO to generate results chains by mid-August. Please see the [website page](#) for the full presentation.

## **Presentation Discussion**

AOC members discussed that results chains cannot capture traditional knowledge. Also, from a tribal perspective, there is frustration about ignoring hard issues by developing another process. AOC members reiterated the importance of communicating these processes and emphasized that PSP and LIOs need to keep in mind three audiences: EPA, LIO participants, and the public.

## **Adjourn**

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Betsy explained that she would reach out to the AOC members to confirm the date and location of the next AOC meeting in July. Jamie Stephens adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM.



**Attachment A – Meeting Participants**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Alan Chapman	Lummi Nation
Daryl Williams	Tulalip Tribes
Jamie Stephens	San Juan County Council
Lynda Lyshall	San Juan Islands Conservation District
Patti Gobin	Tulalip Tribes
Randy Kinley	Lummi Nation
Sam Gibboney	San Juan County Community Development and Planning
Scott Williamson	Puget Sound Partnership
Sono Hashisaki	Tulalip Tribes/Springwood Association
Stan Walsh	Swinomish Tribe/Skagit River System Cooperative
Stephanie Solien	Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council
Suzanna Stoike	Puget Sound Partnership
Betsy Daniels	LIO Coordinator Lead—Triangle Associates, Inc.
Sophie Glass	LIO Coordination Team—Triangle Associates, Inc.