



San Juan Action Agenda Oversight Group/San Juan Local Integration Organization (SJ-LIO)
Accountability Oversight Committee Meeting
Meeting Summary
September 23, 2015, 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM
Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Mount Vernon, WA

Action Items	Person(s) Responsible
The LIO Coordination Team will finalize the early elements of the SJ-LIO 5-Year Ecosystem Recovery Plan, due by October 8 th .	Coordination Team
The LIO Coordination Team will confirm the date of the next AOC meeting (tentatively December 9 th).	Coordination Team
Linda Lyshall and the LIO Coordination Team will lead the presentation to the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams in October.	Coordination Team
The LIO Coordination Team will work with the Implementation Committee to review and update the NTA criteria, and develop and advertise a call for NTAs.	Coordination Team
The LIO will host a public meeting to review NTAs on November 5 th .	Coordination Team

Introduction and Public Comments

Jamie Stephens, SJ-LIO Accountability Oversight Committee (AOC) Chair, opened the meeting. He invited members of the public to provide comments. One member of the public provided an overview of a document that was recently produced for Friends of the San Juans and Islanders for Safe Shipping, which outlines vessel traffic projections for the Salish Sea. The document includes the number of projects and proposed increases in vessel traffic, as well as the products the vessels are transporting (with 2013 as a baseline). Additional information regarding this is available on the Friends of the San Juans website. It was noted that this may be helpful when reviewing future proposed projects.

Adopt Agenda and Approve Minutes

The AOC discussed several updates and reviewed the agenda. No additions to the agenda were made. The meeting summary from the May 13, 2015 AOC meeting was also accepted without any comments or edits. Betsy Daniels, SJ-LIO Coordination Lead, noted that San Juan County is in the process of hiring a new SJ-LIO Coordinator (a role currently being filled by Triangle Associates). Triangle Associates will continue to lead work related to Task 5 and the associated deliverables.

The AOC discussed some issues related to the current LIO planning process. An AOC member noted the current LIO planning process is happening quickly, and as a result it can be more difficult to provide input. The AOC discussed the process used by the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams (SITTs) to review the sub-strategies to be included under the Strategic Initiatives. It was clarified that two of the sub-strategies related to oil spills (C8.1 and C8.3) are included under the Strategic Initiatives and any Near Term Actions (NTAs) proposed under those sub-strategies will be considered for inclusion in the Action Agenda and eligibility for direct funding. An AOC member suggested that there needs to be some flexibility in the process, particularly related to adjusting goals and objectives based on new information.



Review Background and Timeline for 5-Year Ecosystem Recovery Plan

Betsy Daniels provided an overview of the timeline for deliverables for the SJ-LIO, and the AOC discussed different aspects of the deliverables. The Committee also discussed the importance of addressing issues related to climate change (such as sea level rise) with the local ecosystem recovery plan. It was noted that there is work happening on the ground in the San Juan Islands area to address issues around climate resiliency and mitigation, and in particular, sea level rise. There were some questions about how the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) is addressing issues of climate change. It was noted the PSP recognizes that climate change impacts all of the Strategic Initiatives, and is considering these issues. The AOC discussed that collaboration, coordination, and communication around these issues is critical. An AOC member also noted that federal, state, and local governments have conflicting rules and regulations that can impede addressing these issues.

First Installment of SJ-LIO 5-Year Ecosystem Recovery Plan

Linda Lyshall, SJ-LIO Implementation Committee Chair, and Betsy Daniels provided an overview of the 5-year ecosystem recovery planning process for the SJ-LIO, and the AOC reviewed a list of priority SJ-LIO pressures and Vital Signs identified by the Implementation Committee (IC). It was noted that the IC identified pressures based on the Puget Sound Pressures Assessment (PSPA), as well as local knowledge of the ecosystem (there is documentation behind each pressure). Based on the priority pressures, the IC identified six Vital Signs to focus on. The SJ-LIO is now working on mapping the pressures and Vital Signs using Miradi software, and next will develop NTAs to address those priorities. The AOC discussed clarifying questions about the priority pressures and Vital Signs, including: why altered low flows from withdrawals and landcover change is a priority, issues with the local water supply, what metrics could be used to evaluate progress made on the pressures, and how well we are projecting the types of impacts we will face in the future.

The SJ-LIO will provide a presentation to the SITTs on the early elements of the 5-Year Ecosystem Recovery Plan in late-October, the purpose of which is to receive feedback to incorporate into further development of the Recovery Plan. The AOC suggested that Linda Lyshall and Betsy Daniels be the leads for the presentation, and that AOC members may attend and provide additional information/responses to questions, as needed. Stan Walsh will plan on attending this presentation. The AOC also discussed conveying that oil spills should be a regional priority during the SITTs presentation.

Report-Out on Regional Priorities and Strategic Initiative Transition Teams

Suzanna Stoike, PSP Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator, provided an update from PSP on regional priorities and processes. She shared that the regional guidance on NTAs (2-Year Implementation Plan) was recently release. She also provided an overview of the deliverables due as part of the first elements of the local 5-Year Ecosystem Recovery Plan. These deliverables will inform the development of NTAs. Each LIO is responsible for submitting NTAs based on the regional guidance. The Committee discussed that the SJ-LIO could have a regional strategy/NTA with multiple LIOs (such as the Straits LIO and Island LIO to address shared issues). It was clarified that “region” refers to Puget Sound as a whole and “local” refers to the SJ-LIO area.

Once NTAs are submitted, a ranked NTA list will be developed. Each SITT will review NTAs submitted under each Strategic Initiative, and will develop a list of prioritized actions. The exact process for completing this prioritization is still being clarified, and the funding process is also still being identified. The AOC expressed some concerns regarding this ranking process and how this may impact future funding. AOC members asked a number of questions regarding the process, particularly if the LIOs



would be receiving funds to enact local priority projects. It was noted that there have not been any firm decisions yet on how funding will be allocated, and that PSP is working with EPA to get more clarity around this. The next steps for the LIO is to develop a solicitation for NTAs based on the PSP guidance and the early elements of the local 5-Year Ecosystem Recovery Plan to meet the December NTA submittal deadline.

Upcoming Work: Developing NTAs

The AOC discussed the SJ-LIO process for soliciting and reviewing NTAs. They reviewed the draft SJ-LIO NTA criteria document, which was previously reviewed by the IC. It was noted that the NTA criteria will need to be updated based on the new PSP NTA guidance. Next, a local call for NTAs will be developed. The Committee discussed the process for developing NTAs and establishing partnerships for region-wide NTAs. Regarding the public process for NTA development, the AOC suggested distributing a call for NTAs, holding a public workshop on November 5th, and posting an article on the NTA development process in the paper. The outcomes of the NTA solicitation process will come to the AOC at the December meeting (this meeting will focus on NTAs and any follow-up from the SITTs presentation). NTAs submitted to PSP on December 31st will be considered drafts. They will be forwarded to the appropriate SITTs and by January 18th, NTA sponsors will receive feedback about their NTAs. They will then have the opportunity to make changes before the final submittal on February 1st.

Report from the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council

Stephanie Solien, Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council Member, thanked everyone for their participation in the Puget Sound recovery planning process and shared several Leadership Council updates. She shared that the Leadership Council will soon be reviewing the new *State of the Sound* report, which highlights progress made on implementing the Action Agenda. They have also been working with Congressmen Heck and Kilmer on implementing federal legislation to provide Puget Sound with the designation status that it needs. She noted that PSP is also working on their outreach program to the legislature, and are looking to put together a team to reach a bi-partisan coalition. The AOC discussed the issue of conflicting rules and regulations, and the need to bring together federal, state, local, and tribal governments to identify what is needed to reach recovery.

Other Business

The Town of Friday Harbor is working to develop a stormwater vault at the end of Spring Street in Friday Harbor. The design has been completed and there is a grant opportunity to construct. The Town of Friday Harbor has asked for a letter of support from the AOC regarding this. The Committee agreed to support their application, and Linda Lyshall will follow-up with a letter for signature.

Adjourn



Attachment A – Meeting Participants

Name	Affiliation
Alan Chapman	Lummi Nation
Patti Gobin	Tulalip Tribes
Lynda Lyshall	San Juan Islands Conservation District
Stephanie Solien	Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council
Jamie Stephens	San Juan County Council
Suzanna Stoike	Puget Sound Partnership
Stan Walsh	Swinomish Tribe/Skagit River System Cooperative
Terry Williams	Tulalip Tribes
Betsy Daniels, LIO Coordination Lead	Triangle Associates, Inc.
Megan Johnston, LIO Coordination Team	Triangle Associates, Inc.