

Puyallup White River LIO

November 7, 2019

Welcome and Introductions

21 attendees; Allan Warren chaired the meeting.

LIO Governance

Final Approved Charter

- Changes were made to reflect those made in the last meeting, copies provided and posted on website.

Review/Approve Draft September 27, 2019 PW-LIO Meeting Notes

- Moved by Linda Burgess, and seconded. Motion carried.

Affirming and Clarifying what we care about in the Puyallup Watershed – Focus Areas

Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic

Discussion and review of Section 6 focus areas in handout provided by Elizabeth, comments:

- Two meetings ago there were more people from the recreation and Washington Waters groups. Last meeting that wasn't the case.
- Economic impact is huge.
- Each one will be a chapter, and the numbers aren't a prioritization
- If it's an ecosystem, recreation won't help recover an ecosystem. They are important
- People within the Watershed are not included. Important part of the issue. It's easy to get wrapped up in the ecology of the watershed, but there are thousands of people who live in the watershed who will not move because from an ecological standpoint. Farms won't leave their livelihood. Forests can also be thought of as supporting some people's livelihood. The human element should be included.
 - What's the best way to incorporate this into an ecosystem recovery plan?
 - Sense of place and human connections can set the overall tone of the plan in the introductory sections.
 - How do we integrate this?
 - Treat climate change that has a different area that programs need to be created around. View people as different variable in each category. Needs to be clear we need to co-exist in the watershed. Need to close the gap. Forests, AG/farmland.
 - People and policy are the main influencers in the process. We might think about including some recognition of those elements.
 - We are trying to figure out what we need to capture.
 - If we could figure out how to get the right people to the table to represent economic vitality. What would that look like? Does every area have a paragraph on economics and health impacts?
 - We can be cognoscente of tying those to communities of focus under these areas – calling it out separately may not do it justice. Maybe look out the connection under each category? Capture it under a sustainable community aspect.

- Create themes and touch on them in each chapter in which they are applicable.
- Have we reached out to the departments of commerce and economic development organizations? They are interested in improving the quality of their communities. Could have a meeting devoted to specific focus topics. Then they can attend meetings that pertain to their interests and make it easier for them to decide when and when not to come. Try to engage more local commerce if we are having difficulty getting the larger organizations involved. Developers are looking for healthy communities and amenities.
- Need to include human vital signs. Address it up front and weave it into the other topics.
- Look at the plans that already exist in the communities. We are not the only ones who have done this – others are integrating these types of questions.
- Policy – could use some funds to do a policy gap analysis. Permitting process or lack of enforcement. What are those types of policy gaps in our watershed? What policies need to be addressed to further these issues? Not a part of other LIOs. What level and whose policies are we looking at? What are we looking at for the gap analysis? At this stage it is an idea.
 - Maybe have a small group investigate this?
 - Many gaps are due to funding and policy. Some things are in multiple entities. How do you do you do this when a lack of funding limits how much can be done with so many things that need to be addressed? Government must look at the amount of resources available to manage what they are responsible for.
 - People need to see themselves in this plan and the way things they do impact the ecosystem. Calling out equity is an important component because we will never be able to do everything.
 - Salmon Recovery Council – Tribes also have an issue around permitting – need to track permitting and enforcement.
 - Identify in the plan that policy is important – strategies for funding to help us do that. Section 8 could be a good place for this. Policy gap analysis allows change in the future.
 - If the notion of complex systems is not present in working with these elements, we are missing a critical feature we are dealing with. 6 I may be a place to do this.
 - Add biodiversity – are we going to have strategies and actions created? Pierce County already has a report – it’s a big part of showing what humans and animals use. A lot of it is river corridors, but also includes upland and forest areas. We have been thinking about this for a long time. We won’t be inventing something new.

ACTION → Let Elizabeth know about the plans and resources you are aware of that exist.

- THEMES TO FLOW THROUGH THE PLAN (do these need to be a chapter or a theme?)
 - Economic vitality
 - Human health and communities of focus
 - Climate change
 - If we are trying to narrow, this affects everything we care about – should we be addressing the things that are affected?
 - Chapter can be all the pressures in the ecosystems and community. Then address it in the strategies. Looking at the impacts on forests and stormwater.
 - Climate change is so big – what can we do on a local level to make changes? Are we talking about adaptation, mitigation? Not necessarily the big picture, but here are the local issues and here is what we are able to do. Glaciers are melting on Mt Rainier – how do we fit that into that? We can’t stop glacier melt – it’s out of our control, but how to deal with smaller river flows is what we can address.

- How far do we get into this?
 - How does change in climate affect population here. This is becoming a very desirable place.
 - We can't stop it – we need to adapt and make changes. This is an important thing that is missing – this should be the focus. What do we need to do to change what/how we are doing things? Making climate change needs to be called out.
 - Incorporate it into other themes/chapters AND give it its own chapter so it can't be skimmed over.
 - Large companies have climate change plans in place, so they do care.
 - Sense of place – human connection
 - Equity and inclusion
 - Complexity – systems
 - Acknowledging trade offs
 - Land Use
- PUTTING THE PLAN INTO ACTION
 - Funding programs/projects
 - Policy gaps and needs
 - Education and outreach
 - Changes in practices
 - Is land use going to be included in this plan now and for future development? No – the recommendations are that land use will be tracked in a separate focus. It may be going away from vital signs, but will be included as a pressure. Land use is having a big impact on the ecosystem. Terminology is an important part of this process.
 - Some of the themes may not cover everything, but when it does it can be included in a paragraph. We may not have the authority to change it but it, can bring out the connection.
 - Certain things we care about here negatively impact other things we care about.
 - We need to be up front and honest about it. You can hold those things and not demonize the others – find a balance where we find good outcomes for both. We will we make recommendations for how to better manage stormwater for example. We address the realities. Farms is a good example of tensions that exist. This can fall under the strategies.
 - Looking at complex systems, addressing tradeoffs and acknowledgement of costs.
 - Has anyone done a comparative analysis to see where the overlap exists?

As we move through the process, we will decide what's a theme, what's a chapter – we must be flexible. This is about organizing existing plans and drawing lines to make connections. This plan will be used to get projects funded. We want others to use the plan to identify what they are and what they can be doing. We will be letting the Watershed Council know what the themes are and will be seeking their feedback and approval to move forward.

Terminology

This will become more robust as we move through the process. If everything is on the list, nothing is a priority. There are many things going on, but we can't solve all the problems.

- Pressures/drivers – the source of stress

- Stressors – proximate cause of stressors in the ecosystem relating to pressures. Strategies will address the stressors, but won't alleviate them.
- Components – the key ecological areas you care about.
 - We may need some definitions for future users that weren't involved in this process (resiliency). Terminology can be included in an appendix for reference. This plan is being developed to help when working with the bigger picture.

Proposed Meetings Schedule and Next Steps

We will do some clarification work, then we will need to have meetings to address each topic. Maybe we can go to their meetings. We can take some of the low hanging fruit, things that are already fleshed out, at the front of the list of meetings. Won't require a lot of input from us, but give Elizabeth to jumpstart the process. NPDES permit meeting – we can attend. Jurisdictions have their own plans – we can be at those meetings.

With the list of the proposed schedule, if you have interest in the meeting topics you can choose to attend those, but you don't have to come to all the meetings. Subsets of the group can attend. Watershed Council meetings can be attended to get an overview. We need to keep the conversations going but we realize we need a balance between this work and the regular work on your place.

Targeted dates to coordinate with the topic meetings will not be on our regular meeting times/dates. We must adjust for when the other meetings are taking place.

We will do quarterly meetings with the whole groups. Everyone on the list will be provided information for all the meetings in case they want to attend.

Roundtable/Announcements - All

- Puyallup Watershed and Salmon Symposium is on Dec.11-12. Registration is open now at: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4433222>
- Sat Nov 16 LGBTQ enviro education 3-hour training – inclusive language training – anything to use to get in touch with the public: <https://www.pwi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Calendar.eventDetail&eventID=140>
- Cal for abstracts for the 5th annual green infrastructure conference – at UW Tacoma <https://www.12000raingardens.org/summit/> Abstracts are due Nov.21, registration opens in December.
- Orca Recovery Day saw 65 events from BC to Napa Valley and over 2,000 volunteers.
- Puget Sound Partnership's Puget Sound day on the hill and Salmon Days planning meeting is on Nov.19th.