



San Juan County Action Agenda Oversight Group/San Juan Local Integrating Organization (SJ-LIO)
Implementation Committee
Meeting Summary
Thursday September 2, 2021, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Web Meeting

Action Items	Person(s) Responsible
Include Selection of NTA for Direct Funding in November meeting agenda	Marta

Welcome and Introductions, Coast Salish Acknowledgement, and Meeting Agenda and Summary

Marta Green convened the meeting at 11:03 am. Marta shared a Coast Salish Acknowledgement with the group. The meeting agenda was approved. The meeting summary for the July 1st, 2021 meeting was also approved.

Public Comment

None.

2022-2026 Action Agenda Development

Marta explained that the list of 151 Strategies had been consolidated to a short list of 26. She summarized comments that she has submitted on the list of 26, including suggestion to remove the term 'ensure' from strategies (can't ensure any human behavior) and replace with another term e.g., promote, advance, encourage, incentivize. Another comment was to clarify what needs to change to strategies that simply state the need to implement existing programs. And she recommended revising the oil spill strategy (vaguely worded as 'prevent oil spill and plan and prepare to respond to any that occur') distinguishing the prevention from the response strategy:

- Further reduce the risk of a large oil spill by assessing and implementing additional preventative and proactive safety measures.
- Reduce the impacts and consequences of oil spills by improving response readiness, increasing response capacity, and decreasing response time.

Kim Sundberg acknowledged these are good comments that he supports 100%. Laura Rivas added that some, not all of Marta comments, were incorporated and that the list remained at 26.

Laura explained the next phase of AA development in defining Actions, and encouraged members to participate in the upcoming Phase 4 workshops. She explained what actions are and what they are not (they do not identify specific actors nor specific geographies).

Follow-up to July 2nd Cultural Resources Discussion – Marta shared with the group that the County plans additional preparatory discussions with tribal partners on how best to communicate cultural resources considerations early in project planning. Patti Gobin agreed that more discussion is needed within that group.



Active NTA Updates

- Jackson Beach creosote pilings removal feasibility assessment – Kendra Smith explained that consultant has completed aquatic survey, not finding any eelgrass within the pilings, and are working to complete the mitigation credit calculation. Initial estimate to remove pilings is \$100k.
- Fish Tales of the San Juans—Then and Now – Marta let members know that 10 interviews with storytellers were scheduled.
- Pacific sand lance habitat and salmon foraging biomass – Marta provided an update that some salmon gut samples had been collected and will be analyzed by FHL this fall. Owner has requested an extension to try to collect more samples.
- Shoreline armor change analysis regulatory review – Of the 100+ armor segments installed from 2009-2019 only 15% had both state and local permits. The owner will present the findings at the November 4th meeting. Members noted importance of getting the report to DCD director and environmental inspector upon filling those positions. Kendra noted that the findings may support code changes to further discourage unpermitted shoreline modification.
- Vessel Drift and Response Analysis – Marta informed members that broad communications on study results continue including presentation to Islands' Trust 9/22. She explained some differences between SJC drift modeling and ECY's approach.
- False Bay Creek Watershed – Kim provided an update that new ECY grant being sought (late fall) for flow studies, for which there may be more funds than people to execute the work. Water rights remain major issue, and one rancher is withdrawing too much water. It was suggested that we may apply lessons from FBC to flow studies at Garrison and Crow Valley creeks.

EPA Funding Guidance to SI Leads

Marta shared slides from EPA's presentation on the funding guidance and explained the options for Direct Funding (\$100k now or in larger batches in year 2 with development of a 5-yr workplan), and the path forward to work with LIOs on competitive grants.

2018 NTA Funding Status and Option for FY21 \$100k Direct Funding

Marta presented the list of 2018 NTA categorized as Completed, Fully Funded, and Not Fully Funded. She asked members what they felt priorities should be for \$100k in Direct Funding, assuming that unfunded NTAs remain viable and benefit from that level of funding. There was general interest in pursuing funds sooner rather than a year from now when 5-yr workplan may be available.

Kendra noted that work on County shoreline armor is planned for August 2022 and that sea level rise efforts are focused on MacKay Harbor Rd. There was some discussion on the intent of the dispersants action and that could address sinking oils. Patti noted that all of the non-funded NTAs appear valuable with the potential to help salmon. It was acknowledged that until the Jackson Beach mitigation credits is available and discussed with decision makers, consideration of other NTAs for this funding can be put on hold.



Puget Sound Partnership Update

Laura provided updates including updates to indicator data on [natural resource industry output](#), [employment in natural resource industries](#), and [percent employment in natural resource industries](#), which all contribute to the Economic Vitality Vital Sign. There were also updates to the two indicators for Shoreline Armoring – [net change in permitted shoreline armor](#) and [use of soft shore techniques](#) – although conversations continue about how to improve these indicators. Finally, the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference in April 2022 will be virtual.

Member Updates

Kim described the offline water line and fencing work contributing to FBC watershed recovery. They are working on a planting scheme for next year. A suite of options is being discussed for Zylstra Lake, some favoring increased public recreational access.

Patti shared that she had recently visited Doe Bay to meet with the community, and interface with National Parks regarding a Coast Salish imprint at American Camp. She emphasized that we ‘haven’t done enough’ to address climate change and concerns of recreational impacts, eelgrass loss, risks of bunkering and vessel awaiting ports. She encourages further partnering on projects including MacKay Harbor Rd, and enhanced partnering for funding and to leverage treaty rights.

Next meeting is November 4, 2021

Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 pm



Meeting Participants Members

Name	Affiliation	In Attendance
Frances Robertson	SJC Marine Resources Committee	
Kyle Dodd	San Juan County Health & Community Services	
Kendra Smith	San Juan County Environmental Resources Division	X
Patti Gobin	Tulalip Tribes	X
Paul Andersson	SJI Conservation District	
Sam Whitridge	San Juan County/WRIA 2 Lead Entity	X
Megan Dethier	University of Washington Friday Harbor Laboratories	
Kimbal Sundberg	Water Resources Management Committee	X
Stan Walsh	Swinomish Tribe, Skagit River System Cooperative	
Phil Green	San Juan Marine Resources Committee	X
Jamie Stephens	San Juan Action Agenda Oversight Group, chair	

Staff and Guests

Name	Affiliation
Marta Green	San Juan Action Agenda Oversight Group
Laura Rivas	Puget Sound Partnership