



San Juan County Action Agenda Oversight Group/San Juan Local Integrating Organization (SJ-LIO)
Implementation Committee
Meeting Summary
Thursday November 4, 2021, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Web Meeting

Action Items	Person(s) Responsible
• Ask project leads to clarify questions about potential projects for the \$100K direct funding options and report back to committee members. • Report to Marta on any communication efforts members will be making to the Canadian government regarding improving shipping safety.	-Marta -Everyone

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

Marta Green convened the meeting at 11:02 am. Marta shared a Coast Salish Acknowledgement with the group. The meeting agenda was approved. The meeting summary for the September 2nd 2021 meeting also was approved.

Marta also took this time to introduce Erin Licata, the newest member of the LIO representing the Stewardship Network of the San Juans.

Public Comment

None.

Near Term Action Report: SJC Shoreline Armor Change Regulatory Review

Tina Whitman and Maddie Feaster from Friends of the San Juans gave the group a report on the project. Tina began with a review of the two phases of the project. Phase 1 was completed in 2019 and consisted of armor mapping through a boat-based survey that documented armoring location, condition, material, and if the armoring was new since 2009. It was noted that Phase 1 took several steps to verify and complete. Phase 2 consists of the regulatory review of permit records followed by management recommendations. The final project reports and presentations will happen in the spring of 2022.

Tina reported that shoreline armoring causes many problems, including 50% lower surf smelt egg survival; less beneficial vegetation, beach wrack, driftwood, and invertebrates; steeper beaches; less food for juvenile salmon; and less resilience for sea level rise. Looking at the collected data from the project, it was determined that there are 875 segments of existing armor, 108 new armor segments, and 17 removed armor segments, resulting in a total of 27 miles of armor in San Juan County. Out of the 108 segments of new shoreline armor, 80 of them, or 74%, were unpermitted. The analysis of the permits generated many questions. Some common themes have emerged as a result. Maddie reviewed what

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was learned through the project. More armoring is going in than coming out in San Juan County. The majority of what is actually happening on the ground is being missed by the regulatory system (permit or enforcement.) A small percentage of unauthorized structures make it into the code enforcement system. Regulators rely heavily on application materials and findings that may be incomplete, inconsistent, or inaccurate. San Juan County does not assess impacts armoring has on habitat, and there is no mitigation. WDFW does not address the need for the structures and no one is consistently following up to check compliance with permit. Most armor is above MHHW but below OHWM. Complaint driven code enforcement systems are not effective. And even when enforcement happens, it is very slow and often authorizes the impact to remain. There also needs to be improved tracking and transparency of permitting. The next step of Phase 2 of the project is to engage with managers to identify solutions. That will happen in the fall of 2021 and winter of 2022. Final reports for the project will be completed in spring of 2022.

Near Term Action FFY2021 \$100K Direct Funding Options

Marta reviewed the options for the \$100K direct funding options. These funds can either go to support a 2018 NTA now, or the funds will be deferred until next fall to be included in the five year work plan. Marta sent out a request for letters of interest for project ideas that could use the funds, and she got two replies. The first was from Friends of the San Juans for a land acquisition by the Land Bank of one of two beach areas that are important habitats for surf smelt spawning. Both areas are priority protection parcels and known spawning areas. The funds offered here would be helping to provide matching funds from other grant sources. This is a unique opportunity for this kind of real estate transaction.

The second reply was from SJC Environmental Stewardship s with a request for help funding a creosote pilings removal project on Jackson Beach. This beach is also a known surf smelt spawning area. An aquatic survey has already been done and removal should be feasible. There is still a pending cultural resources report about the site that will be forthcoming.

Committee members had several questions about both projects. After some discussion, Marta said she will ask the project leads to review the questions and find solid answers. She will send that information out to LIO members so that a decision can be made at the January meeting.

Puget Sound Partnership Updates

Laura gave updates. The State of the Sound report was released at the beginning of November. The next legislative session is coming up in January. And the Action Agenda development workshops are coming up. Laura is happy to help everyone prepare for it.

Member Updates

Marta gave an update on transboundary communications on improving shipping safety. There is communication already being planned to relay the Vessel Drift and Response Analysis results and to request that Canada's emergency towing capability be extended to inland waters. Marta asked that others who are planning to reach out to the Canadian government about these issues including the M/V Zim Kingston incident inform her so efforts can be coordinated.

Next meeting is January 6, 2022 [Update: January 13, 2022].

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Meeting Adjourned at 1:06 pm

Meeting Participants

Members

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

Staff and Guests

Name	Affiliation
Marta Green	San Juan Action Agenda Oversight Group
Laura Rivas	Puget Sound Partnership
Tina Whitman	Friends of the San Juans
Maddie Feaster	Friends of the San Juans
Don Gourlie	Puget Sound Partnership
Alexandra Brown-Law	Cascadia Consulting Group
Angela Broderick	San Juan County
Laura Jo Severson	SJC Marine Resources Committee
Byron Rot	San Juan County
Christina Koons	SJC Marine Resources Committee
Haley Harguth	Hood Canal Coordinating Group/LIO
Mary Ann Rozance	Cascadia Consulting Group
Ruth Bell	South Central Caucus Group/LIO
Chandler Colahan	Recording Secretary
Alan Chapman	Self
Laura Arnold	Self

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