

**Puyallup White River (PWR LIO) Regular Meeting**

**January 25 2023, 10:00 – 12:00 pm**

**Participants**

Tom Kantz, Pierce County

Dan Sternkopf, Federal Way

Anand Jayakaran, WSU

Emile Ancelet, Pierce County

Erick Thompson, Pierce County

Erika Harris, Puget Sound Regional Council

James Hodges, WDFW

Joan Wu, WSU

Kaella Arellano, Foss Waterway Seaport

Kat Brooks, Pierce County

Dana Coggon, Pierce Conservation District

Desiree Radice, City of Tacoma

Heather Green, Pierce Conservation District

Rikki McGee, Clover Creek Watershed Council

Paul Herrera, Pierce County Councilmember

Melissa Buckingham, Pierce Conservation District

Linda Burgess, PRWC

Lauren Rellinger, MacKay Sposito

Krystal Kyer, Pierce County/LIO Chair

Kristin Evered, Port of Tacoma

Kevin Du, Federal Way

Cindy Callahan, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department

Tim Obrien, Enumclaw Plateau Community Association

Ahren Stroming, PSP

Robert Wright, City of Sumner/PRWC

Aaron Hallenberg, Pierce County

Cassandra Moore, City of Tacoma

Shauna Hansen, City of Tacoma

Larry Leven

*Meeting Facilitation*

Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic

Andres Sheikh, Ross Strategic

**Meeting Summary**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**II. Informal Networking**

* 1:1 sessions with other LIO members

**III. Round Robin Announcements**

* Pierce County new hires joining todays meeting
* PRWC annual retreat on Jan 26
* PSRC Stromwater Parks planning in Pierce County

**IV. Federal Funding Updates and Puget Sound SOS –** Ahren Stroming PSP

* Puget Sound SOS (Federal)
  + Elevates the stature of Puget Sound recovery nationally. Creates a Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office at EPA.
  + Coordinates alignment across AA, salmon recovery, Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, Coastal Non Point Pollution Control Program.
  + Serves as federal coordination point for Canada for Salish Sea
  + Codifies the PS Federal Leadership Task Force
  + Selected annual appropriations increases:
    - Puget Sound Geographic Program ($19m increase, $54m total) to support projects in alignment with the Action Agenda.
    - National Estuary Program: Additional $100k.
    - Coastal Watershed Grants (administered by Restore America's Estuaries): Additional $500k ($2.5million total)
    - $3 million to the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative
* PSP Federal funding online reference
  + BIL Funding Tracker: List of upcoming Federal Grants ([Link](https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiNjE3ZGJlYTktMGFkYy00OWNlLTgyYWUtYjMyMDBkNWM0ZDE5IiwidCI6IjExZDBlMjE3LTI2NGUtNDAwYS04YmEwLTU3ZGNjMTI3ZDcyZCJ9&pageName=ReportSection4135b7dbe5123b276369))
  + Repackaged as part of LIO Email Updates

*Discussion*

* Increase in funding is available for fiscal year 2023 (hasn’t been pushed out to the SILs yet – but likely EPA is moving forward to the next round of funding applications).
* New Program office webpage hasn’t been developed yet – office will be likely launched in late spring/early summer.
* Strategic Initiatives are three EPA efforts/supports to advance Puget Sound Recovery associated with federal funds. Programs are administered by various Washington State agencies. SILs focus on planning and fund distribution.
* Puget Sound Day on the Hill will take place in May with a virtual participation option.

**V. State Legislative Session**

* PSP legislative priorities
  + Support PS friendly GMA amendments and implementation (especially around salmon, climate, and population growth management)
  + Protect and restore riparian areas (pointing to Governor’s stakeholder group recommendations)
  + Accelerate fish passage barrier correction implementation (greater state support for existing programs)
  + Protect and restore nearshore areas (strengthen monitoring programs, increase tools and incentives)
  + Fully fund capital grant programs for PS restoration (SRFB, BAFBRB, Centennial Clean Water Fund, PSAR, Floodplains by Design, ESRP)
  + Address toxic pollution from stormwater (6PPD/6PPD-Quinone)
  + Consider proposals for a rapid response capability to avoid or mitigate salmon die-offs (Salmon Recovery Council efforts in progress)

*Discussion*

* To get on PSPs Legislative Update Calls please see this [link](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAPSP/bulletins/33b026f).
* Floodplains by Design Legislative Day is happening in Olympia (today) meeting with legislatures requesting fully funding the program.
* Interest has been shown around Growth Management Act changes and input opportunities for pushing specific legislation – see [here](https://pspwa.app.box.com/s/2zw2ie7bitforbdktv8gqybsqw395kh5) for the most current list of GMA related bills and their status.

**VI. Project Submissions for Funding Opportunities**

* What SIL RFPs did you pursue or are planning on pursuing in upcoming grant rounds?​ (PSAR, SIL, SRF Board, others…)

*Discussion*

* Pierce County applied to Habitat and Shellfish SIL funding for projects in the South Sound.
* Pierce County have applied for federal funding for fish passage projects in Pierce County.
* City of Tacoma and PCD and other partners are working on Green Jobs youth pilot program to be launched in late 2023/2024.

**VII. Lightening Round Deep Dives**

* What issues / topics / questions / ideas do you have that would be interesting and helpful to organize a meeting around in 2023
  + Community Forest Exploration
  + Green Infrastructure
  + Sea Level Rise Challenges and Opportunities
  + Chambers Creek restoration and next steps

*Discussion*

* WSU is looking to partner with folks in the watershed to pilot resources on green infrastructure
* WSU is doing research on stormwater impacts from trees/community forests
* GMA connection with local issues
* Chambers Creek
* Commencement Bay Nearshore Restoration, City of Tacoma working on reapplying for additional grants to identify best locations for restoration and baseline for conditions – maybe loop in the Tideflats Subarea Plan team
* Sea Level Rise challenges affecting farmland
* Tacoma Tree Foundation work on urban tree canopy, community forests, and Equity/Environmental Justice impacts
* Engagement opportunities on how to utilize the PWR LIO webmap
* Ecology TDML on Lower White River

**VIII. Closing and Next Steps**