

Puyallup White River Local Integrating Organization (PWR-LIO) LIO Meeting Notes

September 27, 2019 - 9:00am-11:00am

Tacoma Mall Plaza

2702 S. 42nd St., Suite 210, Tacoma WA 98409



Attendance: 20

Introductions & Welcome – Allan Warren, Chair

LIO Governance – Allan Warren

- Allan led a review of the draft Charter and requested motion to approve. A copy of the draft charter was shared. Background:
- Summary: A draft charter was created as part of the LIO proposal, developed by the Pilot LIO participants, and approved by the PRWC Board of Directors. It is draft so that the current participants in the LIO may decide how to operate. As a subcommittee of the PRWC, we need to agree to how the decision making will take place. The draft is by consensus, and we've used a thumb up, sideways, down system in the past. Organizations only have one vote, even though there may be more than one person in an organization who is part of the LIO. If we can't get to consensus, we need to use the supermajority vote. There was a motion to approve.
- Discussion:
 - Is there a list of membership organizations? It would make it easier if there was a list of the organizations on the website. It will ebb and flow as to who informs the discussion depending on the meeting topic. It is not a formal membership, rather it is a subcommittee. Additionally, we have participants rather than memberships.
 - Is there a need for someone from every group to be represented at every meeting? No, what we are providing is recommendations to the PRWC. Each person is here of their own free will and has the same goal of improving the watershed.
 - Are the Tribes involved? They have been invited and have shown interest, but their time has been restricted. It is going to be more about our continued outreach and continued messaging. However, when the salmon issues come up, their presence will likely be seen.
 - Concerns about requiring a quorum.
 - We should provide advance notification to participants when a vote will be taking place.

ACTION:

1. Change references to 'membership' to 'participant.'
 2. Change Supermajority from 60% to 2/3, reserved to be used when consensus can't be reached.
 3. Remove references to a quorum.
 4. Add language about providing advance notice of a vote prior to the meeting.
- Motion approved by consensus to approve the Charter, as amended.

- Motion approved by consensus to accept the August 29, 2019 PWR-LIO meeting notes without changes.

Map Exercise: What do we care about in the Puyallup watershed? – Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic
 We anticipate 8-9 meetings. Each meeting could have a different topic or focus area. We can reference the Vital Signs, but not let that be the focus that drives the discussion. We will crosswalk the topics we identify in the exercise with the Vital Signs.

Participants had table conversations using maps about attributes, projects that are being working on, where more work is needed, and where the most opportunities are to make revisions. Table groups reported out their areas of interest that they would want to see in the plan.

Key Takeaways:

1. Table 1 Summary:

- Area designated as Biodiversity Management Areas along the Lower White River, and encroachment on habitat corridors.
- Water quality, nutrients, leaky septic, stormwater
- Spring Chinook runs on the White River
- Climate change
- Whatever we pick as our areas of focus, that we use a lens that we might want to focus on is having a sense of place that the environmental is important and bringing that into the things we focus on and bringing that to the community – how do we incorporate that?
- Sense of human well-being. Industrial world separates humans from the natural world. This may be a lift into the platform that this group may not want to do. However, it is an important development we should look at. How do we name a new way to begin regenerative processes? This is a regenerative enterprise, not preservation, because it's already been damaged. We are trying to move toward something new. Diversity of the watershed – urban/rural/parks/human wellbeing. Equity in the watershed.

2. Table 2 Summary:

- What makes our area unusual? Volcano, glacial rivers, two active tribes, snow fed streams, salmon runs, Port of Tacoma. A lot of work and concerns – forest land in the headwater. Open space, but worried about conservation land and preserving biodiversity. Loss of floodplains and infrastructure, AG maintenance, health and food equity, shellfish and fish harvest and habitat in Commencement Bay, sea level rise, changing rainfall patterns will result from climate change, air quality, Hwy 167 completion, wildfires, levees. Wildlife concerns. Upland forests – illegal ORV and shooting ranges impacting water quality.
- Lack of adequate funding for fish habitat.
- We want to continue providing education, sharing information, etc. – perhaps a preamble – allowing everyone to see themselves in this plan because there are different interpretations depending on how people use these areas.

3. Table 3 Summary:

- Focused on Agricultural land/resources. Two elements -conservation and supporting AG viability. If a farm is forced to sell it will likely go to commercial adding impervious, not beneficial to watershed.

- Working lands could include forest lands. Maybe separate AG from Forests in the plan.
- Stormwater in Clarks Creek downstream impacts on water quality and salmon. Stormwater will be increased by climate change.
- Social justice is laced through all these areas. TPCHD's community of focus is also the area where we are looking at exempt wells and water extraction.
- Ag v. Forest as working lands – different and not necessarily identified by those people as part of their communities
- Lower area of mid-county plan – tributaries to Clarks Creek, Clear Creek and Swan Creek expects a lot of population growth, which will impact farms in Clear Creek area downstream.
- Is recreation something that needs to be embedded into each chapter?
- Does urban AG fit into ecosystem benefits or food access benefits? It could fall under equity.

Considerations and strategies that emerge from table report-outs:

- Farms and Ag Land – are you talking about the farms or the soil? We need to address those separately. Ag lands are designated based off soils. Majority of farms aren't on designated Ag lands. It is an important distinction. We are losing Ag land at an alarming rate. Although a farm isn't on prime Ag soils doesn't mean it can't be used for an Ag use (chickens, etc.).
- Forests – missing from the greater discussion. There are many ways forests have benefits.
- Be conscious about how things are being written – not policy language, but in a way that the average person can understand. Land Use is understood by those who work with it, but may not mean much to the community.

Main topics that surfaced:

1. Salmon
2. Forests
3. Farms and Agricultural lands
4. Estuaries
5. Floodplains
6. Stormwater/water quality
7. Sense of place – human connection
8. Climate change

Future Meetings Schedule and Tasks – Allan Warren

- Topics from this meeting will be compiled and presented to the group.

Roundtable/Announcements – all

- Vital signs – there's an effort to revise what the vital signs are – to rethink the targets are. Kick off collaboration Workshop on Oct 10 in Kingston to help think about how to reshape the vision of the vital signs. Can sign up for small groups on specific areas of interest.
- Oct 19 is Orca Recovery Day. Visit www.Betterground.org to find out how to get involved
- Dec 11 is the Puyallup Watershed Symposium
- Dec 12 is the Salmon Recovery Symposium

- Future LIO meetings are to be scheduled. A Doodle poll will be sent in October.
- Pierce County updates to four community plans areas are postponed so that additional studies can be considered. Contact Dan Cardwell for more info.

Next Meeting

To be announced