



*As a collaborative network, we work toward a healthy and resilient ecosystem that sustains all life and human wellbeing on the North Olympic Peninsula and along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.*

**January 2024 Quarterly Meeting - NOTES & NEXT STEPS**

Friday, January 26, 2024 - 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Dungeness River Nature Center - Raven Room

All meeting materials, including agenda, zoom link and documents can be found here:

[Meetings — Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network](#)

Agenda Item	Discussions/Conclusions	Next Steps/Resources
<p><b>Welcome &amp; introductions around the room and zoom</b></p>	<p><i>Commissioner Heidi Eisenhour, Strait ERN Co-Chair</i> welcomed everyone to the meeting - both in the room and on zoom</p>	
<p><b>Presentation &amp; discussion: LIO strategic vision and goal-setting status update:</b></p>	<p><i>Kara Cardinal, Strait ERN Coordinator:</i> How can we strengthen and optimize the role that LIOs play in the Puget Sound recovery system and improve integration and alignment between local and regional recovery efforts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We need stronger mechanisms for local voices to guide ecosystem recovery and get that information to the funders and decision makers (SIATs, SILs, PSP)</li> <li>● LIOs are one of the most effective mechanisms for getting restoration underway on the ground</li> <li>● What was the INTENT of the increased Federal funding - was it intended, asking our legislators, to help fund work on the ground at the local level. Right now it seems like there is a tremendous disconnect.</li> <li>● Local communities need to feel like they are more part of the process, helping to guide local priority projects on the ground.</li> <li>● We need new systems in place. We are moving from a money-limited competitive grant process system to a capacity-limited system. See National League of Cities model.</li> <li>● LIOs have the right people at the table to get the money moving and on the ground</li> <li>● Can LIOs have a similar model like the MRCs and Lead Entities that have greater say in how and where money gets spent locally.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Potential follow up discussion with PSP Leadership Council Reps Kate Dean and Russel Hepfer</i></p>

<p><b>Roundtable updates</b></p>	<p><i>Cathy Lear, Clallam County:</i> Restoration project in lower Dungeness - 2024 people from WA Bee Atlas will be monitoring native bee populations. “How to live with beavers” workshop coming up!</p> <p><i>Tom Sanford, NOLT:</i> Beautiful 40 acre property called Wood Duck Hollow was protected! Conservation Futures Clallam County accepting applications through March 11. April 6 Annual Conservation Breakfast.</p> <p><i>Karen Affeld, NODC:</i> NODC leading a collaborative regional application to NOAA’s climate resilience regional challenge, centered on SLR, nearshore flooding, and water availability and water quality for humans and agriculture, and on where to site resilience hubs around the region.</p> <p><i>Mike Dawson, Jefferson County:</i> PCIC in East Jefferson, focusing in Discovery Bay, Salmon and Snow creeks. Partnering with CD in Chimacum Hadlock area. Ecology beginning TMDL study of Chimacum, Salmon and Snow drainages. Jefferson Conservation Futures - deadline is March 22, contact Tami Pokorny. New county climate/emergency stuff, and a few positions open in Jefferson County Environmental Health positions.</p> <p><i>Elizabeth Spaulding, Habitt SIL:</i> RFPs coming out in March for Habitat SIL. EPA also just awarded a cooperative agreement funding opportunity with Dept of Ecology, focused on riparian restoration and climate resilience. Hoping to get RFPs out this year.</p> <p><i>Heidi Eisenhour, Jefferson County Commissioner:</i> Very active in forest legislation - able to get \$83 million proviso, that included 2000 acres of structural complex forests in Jefferson County. \$68 million proviso moving through the current legislative process, so we are hopeful we get that. Jefferson County updating our SMP and in the final rounds of public comments, most issues center around geoduck permitting. Still working on derelict vessels, in partnership with DNR.</p> <p><i>Monica Montgomery, Jefferson WSU/MRC:</i> MRC funding for derelict vessel removal. In our planning time of year, gearing up for spring and summer season. Planning a large native oyster shell spread in Discovery Bay. Continue ROV crab pot removal efforts. Exploring partnership with WDFW for forage fish surveys, leading up to and during Duckabush restoration work. Adelma Beach bulk head removal project. 5 new MRC members. Beach naturalist training this spring.</p> <p><i>Joel Green, Clallam County:</i> Streamkeepers in Clallam County engaged in quarterly monitoring of 10 streams. Lots of volunteer opportunities coming up this spring.</p> <p><i>Rebecca Mahan, Clallam County/MRC:</i> Awarded a grant with Ecology to complete a channel migration zone study of the Elwha River. MRC doing native oyster shell spreading, pinto abalone presence/absence, partnership with OCNMS and North Pacific Coast MRC for film festival,</p>	<p><i>See latest newsletter for links and resources</i></p> <p><i>Strait ERN submitted a letter of support for this application, signed by Heidi Eisenhour</i></p>
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hosting a Hazwoper Oiled Wildlife class, continuing some forage fish studies.

*Rebecca Benjamin, NOSC:* Big focus on fish passage projects in Clallam County - some on the Hoko ready for construction this summer. Project with the Makah for their hatchery intake and an associated culvert. Partnering with Jamestown Tribe on culvert work. Putting in 9 grant applications for SRFB, FBRB, FBD. Legislature allocates some funding specifically for riparian work. Opportunity is coming up to work with a willing landowner near the big lagoon on Discovery Bay to purchase a parcel of the bay and design and build a restoration project there. Completed a big project on Snow Creek, going into Discovery Bay.

*Danielle Zitomer, WDFW:* Removal of derelict infrastructure out at Indian Creek. As well as West Twin acquisition project.

*Jenna Rolf, Makah:* NOAA marine debris funding for derelict pier in the bay. Also a National Sanctuary Foundation grant to remove a handful of debris from the marina and around the area.

*Joe Holtrop, Jefferson Conservation District:* Chimacum monitoring projects, and Hadlock drainage district planning processes. In April we are hosting a couple natural landscaping courses, waiting list already.

*John Cambalik, Volunteer:* Back to volunteering with OCA and People's Voice for Climate. Encourage people to get out and VOTE!

*Allyce Miller, LEKT:* DOT putting in 12 log jams on southern end of Lake Aldwell, and some other log jams throughout the summer in the Rainy Reach area. Gratitude to LIO for helping with revegetation funding in the past. Got some PSP funding for monitoring of salmon. Grant from ANA for tribal youth. Ediz hook water quality monitoring. Working with Clallam MRC to do coastal backshore native plant planting on March 27 and 28. Working with Coast Guard on noxious weeds on Ediz Hook. Some work on the Little Hoko for log jams and habitat restoration, and Hoko in partnership with Makah and Hoh and State Parks.

*Lindsey Schromen-Wawrin, City of PA:* City of PA has a trust land transfer application into DNR for about 3000 acres of land in the river, but we have not heard back yet. Balancing housing and restoration & conservation work - waiving fees for infill and ADUs, etc. Important for us all to be engaged in the comprehensive plan updates if we want to build walkable, livable cities with low carbon footprint and be able to preserve open space and rural character of our region.

Bob Simmons, WSU Extension: Intensive rain garden maintenance in May, after the master gardener training course. DEI efforts in partnership with Strait ERN, working with local consultant Usawa.

	WWRP RCO - Farms, forest, habitat - funding is available.	
<b>Presentation &amp; input request: Proposed oil spills progress indicators</b>	This presentation and discussion needed to be postponed, so we will have a special opportunity to hear more and provide feedback on the oil spill progress indicators.	<i>Presentation and discussion planned for Monday, March 11, 2024 - calendar invite to come</i>
<b>Ecosystem Recovery Board Local Forum presentation and begin discussion on topic selection</b>	<p><i>Jillian Reitz, Boards Policy Advisor, Puget Sound Partnership:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ECB Strait ERN Presentation - May 9, 2024</li> <li>● Organize subcommittee to determine topics and speakers</li> </ul>	<i>Stay tuned for invite to subcommittee to develop topics and speakers</i>

**Proposed future meeting dates:**

- **Friday, April 19, 2024**
- **Friday, September 20, 2024**

This meeting will be recorded only for the purpose of drafting Notes and Next Steps.  
Times/speakers subject to change depending on schedule & availability.