

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
May 20, 2015
6:30-9:00 pm
Preston Community Center, Preston, WA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Jason Walker | City of Duvall Councilmember, Chair |
| Lee Grumman | City of Carnation Councilmember, Vice Chair |
| Bryan Holloway | City of Snoqualmie Councilmember |
| Ken Hearing | City of North Bend Councilmember, Forum Member |
| Cindy Spiry | Snoqualmie Tribe, alternate |
| Eileen Carrel | Citizen Representative |
| Jenn McKeown | Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Non-profit Representative |
| Becky Chaney | Citizen Representative |
| Matt Gray | Citizen Representative |

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

I. Updates and Announcements

- Jason Walker, Chair, opened the meeting with meeting participant introductions. Jason invited Henry Sladek, Town of Skykomish Councilmember, to join the Forum at the table due to their interest in joining the Forum. Henry added that the town council has reviewed and discussed the ILA and plans to join the Forum in 2016.
- Jason asked Forum members to review the meeting summary the March 18 meeting. The Forum approved the meeting summary without changes.
- Perry Falcone, Forum staff, reviewed the state funding picture for salmon recovery projects. The Forum sent letters to legislators in April supporting key salmon conservation funding sources. The decision on funding is ongoing as the legislature entered a special session. A Senate budget proviso may create additional challenges for salmon conservation projects. The Senate proposed precluding acquisition projects from the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant program. In WRIA 7, various basin partners have used nearly \$400,000 in PSAR funds to support critical acquisitions that will lead to future restoration projects. This could preclude King County's current \$800,000 PSAR acquisition proposal and other future acquisition projects from state PSAR funds. The Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum, who allocates the PSAR funds for our watershed, is currently drafting a letter to the legislature opposing the budget proviso.
- Over 50 participants attended King County's Upper Carlson Floodplain Reconnection Project celebration event and site tour. Deputy King County Executive Fred Jarrett, Forum Chair Jason Walker, and Snoqualmie Tribe's Angela Wymer, among others, spoke about the enormous effort that went into the project and all of the project's positive outcomes. The event included a tour of

the site to view the construction elements and the first year's project results. Polly Freeman, Forum outreach coordinator, led the development and organization of this event.

- The Forum is sponsoring an amateur photography contest to capture and celebrate the unique character and beauty of the Snoqualmie Valley. Entrants must be residents of the King County portion of the Snoqualmie or SF Skykomish Watersheds. The winning local photo – chosen in July -- will be featured on a poster distributed throughout the Valley this fall. If you have any ideas about Snoqualmie Valley contacts or organizations who could help promote the contest, please contact Polly Freeman at polly.freeman@kingcounty.gov or (206) 477-3724.
- Janne Kaje, Watershed Coordinator, explained that the Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance (SVPA) requested a Forum letter of support for its water bank grant proposal to the Department of Ecology. The purpose of establishing a water bank is to facilitate water right transactions among right holders and to provide a mechanism to promote water conservation. The City of North Bend expressed concern about supporting the proposal due to potential impacts to the city's complex water right which includes a costly mitigation component when flows fall below a specific level. Since members could not reach consensus on a letter of support, the Forum will refrain from submitting a letter at this time. SVPA Executive Director, Cynthia Krass, and North Bend Mayor, Ken Hearing, agreed that additional conversations between the two entities would be very helpful moving forward. Janne invited the SVPA to present at the Forum's July meeting to inform the Forum on the proposed Watershed Improvement District and other efforts.
- Jason Walker announced that Duvall was awarded a King County Green Globe award for the city's EPA-funded watershed planning effort.
- Becky Chaney announced that the King County Noxious Weed Board has created best management practices for reed canary grass. <http://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/weeds/BMPs/Reed-Canarygrass-Control.pdf>

II. 2016 Snoqualmie Project Assistance Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Grant

Perry Falcone provided an overview of the 2016 Snoqualmie Restoration and Project Assistance Program CWM grant proposal totaling \$110,000. This grant covers 90% of the cities' cost share amounts, allowing cities to participate in the Forum. The grant funds Forum staff time in three key areas: (1) assisting project implementers in identifying, developing and advancing watershed projects, (2) conducting Forum-led project coordination activities, and (3) supporting regional watershed management activities. The grant scope of work is similar to the 2015 grant submitted to the Flood District.

Action: The Forum approved the 2016 CWM grant to be forwarded to the Flood District.

III. Snoqualmie Forum Interlocal Agreement (ILA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Renewal Process

Snoqualmie Tribe's Cost Share Proposal

Perry provided an overview of the Snoqualmie Tribe's 2016 cost share proposal. To date, the tribe has contributed \$40,000 which exceeds the combined direct contribution of member cities. Currently the tribe

pays an annual cost share roughly equal to that of the highest paying city, the City of Snoqualmie. Since the ILA cost share formula used in King County does not work very well for tribes in the Snoqualmie Watershed, the tribe proposed a new model. The new tribal cost share would start with the \$5,000 flat rate currently paid and increase each subsequent year at the same rate of increase as other partners. This way tribal cost shares would keep pace with other jurisdictions as the overall ILA costs increase.

Action: The Forum approved the Tribe's cost share proposal.

Forum Ex-officio Membership

At the March Forum meeting, there was discussion around adding ex-officio members in order to include more voices at the table (e.g., agriculture, forestry, etc.). The Forum was interested in adding language to the ILA to allow for expansion of ex-officio representation without requiring an amendment to the ILA to do so. Janne explained the proposed ILA language and several other options to increase engagement with other non-governmental interests. Options included (1) expanding membership, (2) joint meetings with other existing groups (e.g., King County Agriculture Commission), (3) guest speakers and (4) using current ex-officio seats to represent these interests. Janne suggested considering options 2 or 3 in the near term while including new ILA language in Section 4.2 if at a later date the Forum decides to expand membership.

Ken Hearing asked if we could invite more landowners to Forum meetings. Eileen Carrel felt there was a need to engage landowners in the Forum's work since there are several different types of landowners in the watershed. Matt Gray suggested that option 3 was a low cost solution that did not involve a large commitment of resources. Lee Grumman favored option 2 involving periodic joint meetings with groups such as the King County Agriculture Commission. Jason Walker supported new language into the ILA to allow for the addition of ex-officio members in the future.

Action: The Forum approved the new ILA language in Section 4.2 and directed staff to explore options 2 & 3 at this time.

Interlocal Agreement (ILA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Janne described changes to the draft ILA dated April 24, 2015. The most recent version of the ILA included changes from the March meeting and technical edits from the King County attorney. The changes included revised whereas statements in the preamble and minor technical edits throughout the document. Janne also described one minor change to the MOU document clarifying how Counties and Tribes pay their portion of the ILA cost shares. Janne asked if Forum members were comfortable with the current versions of the ILA and MOU.

Becky Chaney suggested adding "biodiversity" to the fourth whereas statement in ILA on page 2. Becky explained that the term wildlife, currently in the ILA, does not always incorporate broader biodiversity since government agencies have different definitions for wildlife. Forum members agreed to this change in the ILA. Janne added that the next step would be to send a final review draft to member jurisdiction staff and attorneys for final review in June.

Action: The Forum approved the final review draft to be sent to member jurisdictions for final review including Becky Chaney's suggested change on page 2. After staff report back on any final edits, the Forum agreed the ILA could be sent to jurisdictions for council approval. The Forum also approved the MOU language.

IV. 2015 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Grants

Beth leDoux described the 2015 CWM grant selection process. The Forum received 16 grant proposals from 11 project sponsors totaling \$1,192,733, but this year the Forum has only \$839,113 to allocate in Flood District funding, though this is higher than in any prior year of the grant. The Project Review Committee consisted of a representative from each member jurisdiction that thoroughly reviewed the grant proposals, met with project sponsors and prioritized the projects.

Beth presented the Committee's recommended list of 2015 CWM grants in the Snoqualmie and SF Skykomish Watersheds. The Committee recommendation was to fund all high, medium-high and three medium projects (see Attachment A) including 12 of the 16 applications. Though four projects were not recommended for funding, Beth explained that Forum staff would assist these applicants with developing improved projects for future funding. Once the Forum makes the final project recommendation, the grants will be sent to the Flood District for final approval and contracting expected in July.

Forum members provided input and asked project questions. Several members asked if there was a need for more project maintenance and if the Forum could fund more maintenance work in the watershed. Staff responded that there will be a small amount of ongoing maintenance work each year, but that the Forum has funded a significant amount of maintenance in the last ten years in order to catch up on maintenance needs. The Forum continues to have funds available through the CWM grant round to allocate to maintenance projects. Jason Walker added that he would like to see the Greenway's Watershed Warriors education project funded in the future.

Action: The Forum approved the 12 CWM projects recommended by the Committee. The Forum instructed staff to forward these grants along with the Forum's Project Assistance grant to the Flood District for final approval (see Attachment A).

V. Public Comment

- The Snoqualmie Tribe and North Bend will be holding a recycling event on May 30th.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be July 15 at the Meadowbrook Farm Interpretive Center. The watershed project tour will be 5:00pm to 7:00pm and the meeting will follow from 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

ATTACHMENT A

| Snoqualmie Forum 2015 CWM Awards | | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Project Name | Project Sponsor | Match Fund | CWM Request |
| 2016 Snoqualmie Restoration and Project Assistance Program | King County WLRD | \$127,477.92 | \$110,000 |
| Snoqualmie Footbridge Revetment Removal - Feasibility | Wild Fish Conservancy | - | \$ 94,358.00 |
| Tolt San Souci - Floodplain Restoration Feasibility and Design | King County WLRD | \$ 298,752.80 | \$ 180,704.00 |
| Snoqualmie River Juvenile Salmon Outmigration Monitoring | Tulalip Tribes | \$ 62,984.24 | \$ 60,000.00 |
| Tolt Steelhead Census | Wild Fish Conservancy | \$ 1,252.00 | \$ 19,500.00 |
| South Fork Skykomish Headwaters Knotweed Control Project | King County WLRD | \$ 19,531.80 | \$ 40,000.00 |
| Lower Cherry Creek Designs Phase II and III | Sound Salmon Solutions | - | \$ 58,000.00 |
| Blue Heron Golf Course - Phase I | Sound Salmon Solutions | \$ 15,113.65 | \$ 60,000.00 |
| Restoring Riparian Functions along the Snoqualmie River: Monitoring, Maintenance and Knotweed Treatment at Oxbow Farm and Conservation Center | Oxbow Farm | \$ 81,521.15 | \$ 55,000.00 |
| Stream Habitat Enhancement Feasibility Study | Town of Skykomish | \$ 4,000.00 | \$ 18,000.00 |
| Watershed Education for Decision Makers | Sound Salmon Solutions | - | \$ 15,000.00 |
| Kimball Creek Water Quality Improvement Project: Phase III | Snoqualmie Tribe | \$ 42,338.40 | \$ 78,551.00 |
| Riverwalk Phase I Restoration | City of Snoqualmie | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 50,000.00 |
| | | \$662,972 | |
| | | | \$839,113 |