

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
January 21, 2009
Meeting 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Snoqualmie Tribal Offices, Snoqualmie

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth Walker	City of Duvall Councilmember, Forum Vice-Chair
Ross Loudenback	City of North Bend Councilmember
Kathy Lambert	King County Councilmember
William Harper	Citizen Representative
Gary Roberts	Citizen Representative
Ray Mullen	Snoqualmie Tribe Councilmember
Bill Knutsen	Citizen Representative

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Introductions and Minutes

- The Forum approved the Agenda
- The Forum approved the Meeting Summary from the September 17, 2008 meeting.

Announcements

Forum members spoke of recent flooding

- Bill Knutsen noted damages to farms as a result of the December snow storm, such as collapsed barn roofs, followed by the more recent flood damages.
- Kathy Lambert mentioned that there were not enough snow plows and she spent much of her time making sure people were prepared. She noted that the flooding was particularly difficult because it occurred back to back with the snow. She thinks the County needs a better response plan.
- William Harper mentioned that Patterson Creek came off fairly well. Patterson Creek flooded but there was not much damage, it was just inconvenient.
- Elizabeth Walker stated that Duvall worked around the clock to keep SR 203 open during the snows. Duvall became an island when floods came; it was cut off from Carnation and from Monroe for 30-36 hours. Aerials are available if anyone is interested.
- Ross Loudenback noted that North Bend was very fortunate; there were no levee failures and flooding was minor by 'blue hole'. 415th Ave. was closed due to slide damage but the county

was quick in clearing it. Shamrock Park also had flood damage. He also mentioned that there was exceptional turnout of volunteers.

- Gary Roberts was out of town during the flooding but noticed evidence of siltation and erosion on SR 203. He said the County put in rock and was rebuilding the road banks.

Kathy Lambert announced a King County Council Town Hall Meeting at the Tolt Middle School, February 11 at 6PM. The meeting is sponsored by the County and Kathy's office. The Council will discuss the recent flooding in the Snoqualmie Valley with residents. She asked for pictures to be brought to the meeting.

Perry Falcone, Acting Watershed Coordinator, provided the following announcements:

- Forum Staffing Update - Monica Walker is taking on the duties of the project coordinator position through the end of April. Monica will administer the 2009 KCD grant rounds, provide grant writing services to partner organizations and lead project coordination activities in the Snoqualmie Watershed.
- Funding update - At our last meeting, the Forum approved an additional \$2,500 for Nature Vision to expand the *2008-2009 Snoqualmie Valley Water Education and Stewardship* grant. Since that meeting, Nature Vision has returned approximately \$2500 in unused funds from the 2007 education grant. KCD and Forum staff agreed to use these funds to meet Nature Vision's request.
- Other funding sources - The governor's proposed budget includes funding for salmon habitat projects but at a reduced amount from last year. Puget Sound wide, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) will distribute \$10M in 2009 (down from \$16M in 2008) and the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) fund will distribute \$33M (down from \$44M in 2007). This will likely lead to approximately \$400,000 in SRFB funds and \$2.2M in PSAR funds available in the Snohomish Basin. These numbers will not be finalized until the state legislature approves the budget in April. Grant rounds will open in March and close in May.

Janne Kaje, Forum Staff, provided the following updates:

- Future of Farming Meeting - The King County Agriculture Commission is sponsoring a series of public meetings in early 2009 to gather information that will help shape the future of agriculture in King County. A meeting will be held in Carnation on Thursday, January 22nd from 7:00-9:00 PM, at the Carnation Elementary School, 4950 Tolt Ave, in the Multi-Purpose room. Two additional meetings are scheduled in Auburn and Enumclaw on February 12th and March 12th respectively.
- Snoqualmie Flooding updates
 - This event was a flood of record (**provisional data**) at the following locations: Snoqualmie River at Duvall (Gage height: 45.18 ft.), Snoqualmie River at Carnation (84,100 cfs), Tolt River at Carnation (17,900 cfs), North Fork Snoqualmie (17,100 cfs), Middle Fork Snoqualmie (31,200 cfs).

- The King County Agriculture Program heard from two landowners, Michelle Blakely and Dan Byers, whose farm pads worked successfully for livestock. This was not the case for every landowner with a new farm pad.

- There has been damage to several levees on the Snoqualmie mainstem, including the MacElhoe Pearson and Schiessel-Phiffer levees. Damage on the Middle Fork Snoqualmie included the Mason Thorson Ells levee and the Mason Thorson Ext. levee. An emergency repair was completed to protect the Kaplan Residence. The levee on the left bank of the Tolt River, at river mile 1.1, was breached - severely damaging 5-6 homes. This levee was repaired on an emergency basis only. There was a partial breach on the Frew levee which was repaired on an emergency basis. No homes were damaged near the San Souci levee but the road was severely damaged and subsequently re-graded.

- Forum staff will distribute final data regarding the flood when it is available.

Modeling and Analysis of Chinook Bend Restoration Project

John Bethel, geologist with the King County Flood District, presented the modeling and analysis for potential future scenarios following Chinook Bend project construction, with Phase II work currently scheduled for 2009. One important benefit to this work is to predict how the project will affect downstream landowners (river flow and sediment).

- Phase I of the project was completed in the fall of 2008. Cottonwood boles were buried into the soil to provide roughness, accumulate debris and reduce water velocity. Phase II will begin in 2009. The plan is to remove the levees and revetments on site to remove impediments and restore natural river functions.
- John worked with Dr. Eric Larsen, University of California at Davis on a Meander Migration Model. Key questions: Would the river alter its course if the levees are removed? How would this affect downstream properties, and how far downstream, if the meander pattern is changed? Where would the river be in 100 years? Six scenarios were modeled to get at these questions under a variety of assumptions.

Scenario description and results: 1) Levees and revetments remain (current condition): the river will not move substantially from current alignment. 2) Remove the revetment on the Chinook Bend site, but no other changes: the effect would be modest and completely attenuated within a short distance. The river would migrate slightly into the left bank upstream of the bend. 3) The revetments are removed and the river cuts across the neck of the meander: the effect downstream will not extend very far, and the effect on adjacent properties is no different than if no action were taken. 4) The revetments are removed and the river cuts off further upstream: there will be significant migration but minimal downstream effect from the project. 5) WDFW and King County both remove their revetments: the result would be increased right bank migration. 6) Both revetments at Chinook bend and the Stillwater revetment on the Right bank removed: Assuming the Snoqualmie follows "northerly" cutoff across Chinook Bend and then flows into abandoned oxbow on WDFW property across the river: minimal impact to one downstream landowner, but a major change in alignment through the Stillwater site.

- Results from the Larsen Model lead to the conclusion that irrespective of the projects chosen, the river will migrate, but only modestly, with the exception of scenario 6. None of the scenarios showed impact to private or public structures. No effect seen more than one mile past project. A key qualifier is that this was a modeling exercise and thus not necessarily an accurate prediction of future condition.

Questions and Comments

- Bill Knutsen asked what phase I of the project cost. Forum staff will get that information.
- Gary Roberts asked if there was any legal protection in place in case of downstream property was damaged. John didn't know specifically what the legal liability would be. Anybody can sue or allege damage for anything. They would have to demonstrate (on a moving river) that this project had impacts downstream.
- Kathy Lambert was curious why cottonwood was chosen. Cottonwood trees produce cotton-like seeds that could affect children with respiratory problems, such as some of the children at Camp Korey. John mentioned that they worked closely with Camp Korey and that concern wasn't raised. In addition, the vast majority of existing trees in that reach are cottonwood.
- Kathy Lambert expressed concern about the proposed Stillwater project because this is an important recreation area, especially for duck hunting, and doesn't want the site damaged. John answered that since WDFW is investigating the removal of their revetment, they will surely take all existing uses and user groups into account. Another concern was access to the property under scenario #6.
- Did Dr Larsen consider extraordinary flood events? The formula predicts forces based on bank full flow. The model used 1936-1964 as the calibration period, so the effects of extraordinary events are captured via the calibration process.
- Are channel migrations more impacted by extraordinary events? Good question and difficult to answer.
- Does FEMA accept this as a model? To John's knowledge, the model has not been evaluated by FEMA.
- How many boles were installed in the flood fence and how were they installed?
Approximately 150 boles were installed and all of the boles were augured first.

2009 KCD Grant Process

Monica described the 2009 KCD grant process and schedule. There are no major changes proposed to the Areas of Focus. One change to the process includes the use of a shorter pre-application intended to facilitate review. There was discussion on extending the minimum maintenance period from three to five years. While proponents may be encouraged to do so this year, any change in the required maintenance period is likely to be postponed for at least one year and coordinated with KCD.

DECISION: Approved 2009 Areas of Focus.

Perry described the proposed 2009 Opportunity Fund process and schedule. He noted that the Opportunity Fund schedule was bumped back a month. More time is needed for this round since we will be working with landowners. The Opportunity Fund will be open longer than the regular round to allow time to connect landowners with a non-profit or government partner. The grant applications will be considered at the Forum in July.

Target areas for mailing – Similar to 2008, five target areas have been selected to send postcards to landowners. As was the case last year, projects will be accepted from anywhere in the watershed despite the targeted mailings.

Prioritization criteria – In order to streamline and standardize the review process, several high priority types of actions have been selected. Other types of actions such as riparian planting are still eligible for funding. There was much discussion regarding the septic system proposal. Although there was a lot of interest, this issue will be set aside for now.

Questions and Comments

- William Harper thought that the septic system idea was a great addition and encouraged the development of the program in higher density areas. He suggests creating regulations that mandate septic clean outs every 5-10 years.
- Janne mentioned that they wanted to get the septic system topic on people's radar, especially new landowners who may not know much about how to use and maintain septic systems.
- Gary asked if any specific properties had been identified in the target areas. Staff could use GIS to hone in on streamside residents, but that takes a bit of planning. Identifying specific properties is a possible direction to go, but not this year.
- Elizabeth asked if we will be notifying landowners adjacent to these target areas. Staff will only be mailing landowners adjacent to aquatic areas in the target areas.

DECISION: Approve 2009 Opportunity Fund process. Staff are authorized to work out details of the process with KCD staff.

Snoqualmie Water Quality Synthesis Report

Janne distributed the Water Quality Synthesis Report to the Forum and described next steps.

- Janne thanked the forum for their support of the project. He thanked Charles Peterson (absent) for his detailed comments on the draft report. Janne also gave Bill Knutsen special recognition for putting the Water Quality Synthesis Report to work in Ames Creek before it was even completed.
- Janne plans to share this information with interested parties – such as landowners and non-profit groups – in each sub-basin and provide outreach to programs that can benefit from this report. There will be a web version of the report out soon. Copies will be given to jurisdictions, tribal staff and non-profit partners. Updates will come as more work is done in specific areas.

Other Emerging Issues

Janne discussed some of the proposed 2009 emerging issues that he will focus on.

- No news on WDFW decisions concerning Steelhead. There will be updates as needed.
- Staff will produce a "Report card" on where we are on salmon recovery relative to milestones in the plan.
- Alluvial fans. Continue previous efforts to identify solutions to alluvial fan challenges that meet both landowner interests and protect fish resources..
- Mitigation. The goal is to help jurisdictions ensure that mitigation requirements and their implementation programs achieve the stated goals of protecting the functions and values of critical areas, while also streamlining processes for planning staff.

Election of Forum Chair and Vice-Chair

- Two city representatives and the current chair were not present. This item will be tabled until the next meeting.

Public Comments

- No public comment.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be March 18, 2009 from 7-9 pm at the Carnation City Hall.

