

**Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
September 19, 2012
Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm
Snoqualmie Tribal Office, Snoqualmie, WA**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth Walker	City of Duvall Councilmember, Forum Chair
Charles Peterson	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember, Forum Vice-Chair
Erin Chamberlain	City of Carnation Councilmember
Ryan Kolodejchuk	City of North Bend Councilmember
Cindy Spiry	Snoqualmie Tribe (Alternate)
David Burger	Stewardship Partners, Non-profit Representative
Kent Renno	Citizen Representative
Derek Young	Citizen Representative
Bill Knutsen	King Conservation District
Jake Repin	Snoqualmie Tribe

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Introductions and Minutes

- The Forum approved the July 18th, 2012 meeting summary without changes.

Updates and Announcements

Janne Kaje, acting Watershed Coordinator, gave the following updates:

- *Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund:* The PSAR fund has become smaller over the years. However, in the next biennium there is a push to lobby the legislature to fund “pre-vetted” large-scale projects that are too expensive to fund otherwise. The overall PSAR proposal will include \$30 million dollars to the PSAR watershed allocations and \$50 million will be reserved for the selected large-scale projects. King County’s Upper Carlson project in the Snoqualmie Watershed has been added to the list and will be considered. The project’s proposed budget is \$3M with up to \$2.5M being awarded in 2014. There is the possibility the Forum will need to write letters of support to the Governor and/or Legislature.
- *King County Flood Hazard Management Plan update:* The public review draft of the plan should be available on December 3rd and a public meeting will occur in December.
- *Twilight Tour:* This was a great event thanks to the great partners involved. The Forum wants to see follow up on the connections and relationships made during the tour. King Conservation District (KCD) plans to get the tour on video.
- *Puget Sound Partnerships Local Integrating Organization (LIO):* The goal of the LIO is to bring together leaders to act as a forum for basin partners to coordinate implementation of the Action Agenda. The first meeting is on September 20th. Janne and Perry will report back on the overall time commitment and future work plan.

- *Sound Salmon Solutions grant:* Congratulations to Sound Salmon Solutions for receiving a Department of Ecology grant award of roughly \$109,000 for riparian projects in the lower Snoqualmie!
- *Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) Puget Sound Grants:* There is another round of DOE watershed grants this fall. Staff will keep the Forum posted on any applications or awards in WRIA 7.

Forum Business

Non-profit Representative Selection – 2013/2014

Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy Director of Conservation, was recommended by Forum staff to fill the position of the non-profit representative for the 2013 – 2014 term.

- Micah Wait introduced himself to the Forum, described his interest in the Forum's work and his background in conservation projects.
- Janne explained that an alternate for the non-profit seat should be investigated and appointed by the November Forum meeting. David Burger expressed the potential that a 2 month recruitment period for the alternate will not be enough. Elizabeth Walker, Janne and David will talk further about the timeline for alternate position recruitment and bring the Forum a recommendation in November.

Decision:

- The Forum approved the appointment of Micah Wait as non-profit representative.
- Forum staff and David will follow up on the alternate position recruitment.

2013 Forum Work Program

Perry Falcone presented the Forum's 2013 work program focusing on new initiatives and changes from the 2012 Forum work. The highlights included:

- 2013 priority project assistance as determined by the local jurisdictions
- Janne will no longer co-chair the Technical Committee in 2013 though he will still participate in the committee. The co-chair positions will rotate between King County, Snohomish County and the Tulalip Tribes.
- Fish, farm and flood coordination is still a Forum priority though implementation of that work is still a question. The King County Comprehensive Plan update is a multi-objective process for stakeholders to be involved in this issue. The time commitment for Forum staff may be limited.
- Two significant restoration feasibility studies will be completed in 2013. The Lower Tolt Corridor Study and the South Fork Skykomish study will identify numerous future projects and priorities.
- The Forum questioned the amount of staff time to devote to the Puget Sound Partnership Local Integrating Organization (LIO). Janne and Perry will attend the first meeting (9/20) and report back on the anticipated work load.

Decision: Work plan was approved by Forum.

Update on Forum Staffing Strategy 2012-2013

Janne provided a brief update on Forum staffing changes. In order to temporarily fill Janne's vacant forum staff position, while he is acting Watershed Coordinator, King County has temporarily hire two staff on a part-time basis. Beth leDoux will be assisting the Forum with technical coordination work and Charlotte Spang will be providing project assistance to member jurisdictions.

Wild Fish Conservancy's (WFC) Waterwheel Creek Restoration Presentation

Jamie Glasgow, WFC's Director of Science, provided an overview of the Waterwheel Creek Restoration project. Jamie thanked the Forum and staff for the funding and planning support during the project's long history.

- The restoration project was many years in the making and it meets both agriculture and fish needs. This include a bridge to access the pump station and a wide creek floodplain to improve drainage in Drainage District #7.
- The project took three ditches and created one sinuous creek through the Cherry Valley.
- The rare, endemic Olympic mud minnows were discovered in the project area where 10 years prior they were not found.
- The project created a meandering channel 2600 feet long and 13,000 fish will be released back into the stream after construction.
- Phase 2 involving riparian plating will occur this fall.
- The overall project cost was approximately \$550K including planning, design and implementation

Ryan Kolodejchuk asked how this project enhanced the farming in the area. Jamie explained that he could provide some data regarding improvements to farming in the area.

King Conservation District and Flood District Updates

Joan Lee, Rural and Resource Services Section Manager for King County, provided an update on the Flood Control District 2013 budget and salmon recovery funding.

- In 2012 the Flood Control District (FCD) stepped in to provide a stop gap in funding of WRIA projects including those for the Snoqualmie Forum grant program. There is interest at FCD to continue this funding in the future.
- The previous KCD assessment included a \$10 per-parcel fee including \$5 for WRIA grant programs, \$2 going to jurisdictional grant programs and \$3 to KCD operations.
- If the FCD continues to support a WRIA grant programs that will likely equate to approximately \$5 per parcel. However, they may be charged by King County Council to remain revenue neutral across both KCD and FCD funding sources. Moving the WRIA grant programs to the FCD may mean reducing the KCD funding by an equal amount.

Sarah Hemphill, Executive Director for KCD, provided an update on the status of the new KCD rates and charges proposal to replace the previous KCD assessment.

- KCD has underestimated the costs of business but cannot assess a fee higher than \$10 per parcel by state rule. KCD needs \$6.5 million dollars to continue operations.
- KCD is still working out if the fee will be charged by parcel, acre, or both. KCD prefers a per parcel charge.
- The new KCD rates and charges proposal is currently before the King County Council for review and approval.
- KCD proposed a new competitive grant program that would be much more like the Opportunity Fund. It would expand to urban areas and include engineering services, such as a Landowner Incentives Program (LIP) for Low Impact Development (LID) and on-going programs supporting working land.
- The Forum can help the KCD by talking elected officials to support this new KCD proposal.

Charles Peterson would like to see a how the KCD proposal funding breaks down by program and by jurisdiction.

Public Comment

Two residents from Fall City were present to ask for support to deal with recreational floaters impacts along the Snoqualmie River in downtown Fall City. They are hoping to increase lavatories and trash receptacles at the park or boat launch in order to improve littering and water quality in the Snoqualmie River. The Forum had forwarded a grant proposal in 2011 to improve the situation but the KCD Board did not approve the grant.

Decision: Forum staff will follow up with these residents regarding this issue.

Next Meeting

The November 14th Forum meeting will be held at the Snoqualmie City Hall from 6:45 to 9:00 pm. There will be light refreshments served to toast the work done in 2012.