

**Snoqualmie Watershed Forum**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**July 15, 2015**  
**7:00-9:00 pm**  
**Meadowbrook Farm Interpretive Center, North Bend, WA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Jason Walker   | City of Duvall Councilmember, Chair                         |
| Lee Grumman    | City of Carnation Councilmember, Vice Chair                 |
| Ken Hearing    | City of North Bend Mayor, Forum Member                      |
| Dan Willoughby | Snoqualmie Tribe Councilmember                              |
| Eileen Carrel  | Citizen Representative                                      |
| Chris LaPointe | Stewardship Partners, Non-profit Representative (Alternate) |
| Kathy Lambert  | King County Councilmember, Forum Member                     |
| Matt Gray      | Citizen Representative                                      |

**MEETING PROCEEDINGS**

**I. Updates and Announcements**

- Jason Walker, Chair, opened the meeting with introductions. Jason introduced the new Forum representative for the Snoqualmie Tribe, Dan Willoughby.
- Jason asked Forum members to review the meeting summary the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Forum approved the meeting summary without changes.
- Perry Falcone, Forum Project Coordinator, reviewed the state funding picture for salmon recovery projects. The state legislature completed budget negotiations in July. The state 2015-17 budget includes \$35.5 million for the Floodplains by Design program providing funding for seven regional projects across the state but, unfortunately, not the City of Snoqualmie's Riverfront Project. The Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) program received \$37 million in the state budget with \$1.9 million going to WRIA 7. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) program received \$16.5 million from the state budget. This amount will be enough to provide \$550,000 toward the 2015 WRIA 7 grant round. Unfortunately, the 2016 SFRB round will only have partial funding for local watershed grant rounds. The Forum may want to consider sending letters of support for a fully funded 2016 SRFB budget if there is a possibility of a supplemental budget request.
- Polly Freeman, Forum Outreach Coordinator, updated everyone on the "Focus on Snoqualmie" photo contest. 24 photos were submitted with photographers from all parts of the basin. Two of the four judges have ranked the photos; a winner is expected to be announced by July 30th. Kathy Lambert asked if there will be an announcement for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Photos will be ranked 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and possibly featured on the poster depending on the layout featuring the winner.

- Beth leDoux, Forum Technical Coordinator, shared that on July 13<sup>th</sup> the Flood District Board of Supervisors voted to approve funding for the 2015 Cooperative Watershed Management grant program. King County will begin the contracting process this summer. This decision comes two months earlier than last year allowing some projects to begin work in 2015. She also mentioned that a press release will be done sharing the grant news with valley residents through the Snoqualmie Valley Record.
- Beth leDoux informed the Forum about the temperature study occurring in the basin this summer to understand the impacts of the drought and high summer temperatures. In late June, 27 continuously recording thermometers were deployed into the mainstem Snoqualmie and several tributaries. The goal is to capture the temperature impacts of a ‘worst case scenario’ to better understand the risks to salmon in years of low snowpack and precipitation. Several farms in the lower Snoqualmie have graciously offered to host these thermometers on their properties through the summer season. Matt Gray asked if we were tracking the fish as part of this effort and the Forum is not but other agencies, such as WDFW, are monitoring fish directly. A forum member asked how the Forum can use this data and Janne mentioned that maps and graphs will be provided to the Forum members and further analysis will occur in the fall. This stimulated a discussion as to how to disseminate information about conserving water in cities. This conversation led to the decision the at the Forum would like to write a letter to City of Seattle (Seattle Public Utilities) urging water conservation to help protect the fisheries in this hot, dry year. SPU draws roughly one third of its supply from the South Fork Tolt river.

*Action: Forum Staff will draft letter to City of Seattle urging water conservation to protect fisheries.*

- Janne shared information about Black Canyon Hydroelectric project that is proposed in the North Fork of the Snoqualmie above Ernie’s Grove. In recent weeks there has been a lot of discussion in the community about this project. Concerns in the community have to do with the environmental impact on a unique canyon system as well as the impacts this withdrawal may have on the aquifer the City of Snoqualmie uses for its primary municipal water supply. Janne is tracking this development closely and briefing King County management as needed. Forum staff are planning an in depth presentation at the September meeting.

## **II. Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance**

Cynthia Krass, Executive Director of the Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance (SVPA), introduced the SVPA and the proposed Watershed Improvement District (WID). SVPA is a non-profit that works with local citizens to protect and preserve the rural landscape of the Snoqualmie Valley. This includes engaging with local landowners, county and state government, and other organizations in the valley ensuring that proposed projects and policies are compatible with the long term viability of the lower Snoqualmie Valley, and especially its agricultural sector.

One project SVPA has initiated and has gained a lot of support in the lower valley is the development of the Watershed Improvement District (WID). This District would be organized as an irrigation district under state law and would focus on water issues in the valley on a system-wide basis. Specifically, the district would help to secure existing water rights, promote conservation, facilitate legal access to irrigation water for those who currently lack a sufficient supply, and address drainage issues. New water rights have been very limited in the basin since the establishment of regulatory instream flows in 1979, and 70% of the area that is zoned for agriculture has no legal access to irrigation water. The goal is to help build an efficient and effective way to deal with water resources. By definition, WIDs must be organized to address multiple-benefits that include net benefits to stream flows.

Currently the WID is drafted to be its own assessment district where the properties involved in the WID will set assessment rates and the benefit is determined on a per acre basis. As the district boundaries are currently drawn it would include 600 parcels owned by 300 unique property owners and encompass 14,000 acres. Property owners are supportive of this effort as it allows them to assess themselves and it creates an entity that is eligible for grant projects. The WID would be run by five commissioners and to date eight people have put their hat into the ring to hold those positions.

The petition to King County was submitted in June and included two times more signatures than required. Currently the ballot date to vote on the WID is still in flux. Washington State Department of Ecology is also supportive of this effort.

### **III. Snoqualmie Forum Interlocal Agreement (ILA) and 2016 Budget**

Janne gave an update on the ILA process. Currently, all the ILAs are at the respective county, city, town and tribal councils for review and approval. Staff provided a summary of ILA changes which includes:

- A description of the history of the Forum
- The commitment to multi-objective projects
- How the grant funding is applied to the cost share
- The ILA term has changed from a 5 year contract to a 10 year contract
- The potential to add an ex-officio member without amending the ILA
- Establish a cost share recalculation schedule (every 3 years)
- Tribal cost share will increase at the same rate as any increase to other jurisdictions
- Membership may potentially increase with the addition of the Town of Skykomish and the Tulalip Tribes.

The hope is that all ILAs will be signed by September of 2015. Once the ILA is signed by at least two cities and King County, the Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by the Forum chair and King County.

#### **2016 Budget**

Janne presented the Snoqualmie Forum 2016 budget. The first item presented showed the cost share equation and subsequent amounts for each of the Forum Member Jurisdictions. These cost estimates are based on land appraisal, population and area included in the jurisdictional boundaries. Cities and towns are responsible for 10% of the cost share with the remaining 90% filled through grant dollars. The total budget for 2015 is \$510,512, a 3% increase over last year.

Snoqualmie saw the biggest change because the city's population grew significantly since the last calculation. The King County calculation does not include South Fork Tolt River Basin (owned by City of Seattle), Alpine Lake Wilderness Area, City of Sammamish and the Wild Skykomish Wilderness Area. There will be a small change made for the Forum Staff overhead calculation; it is known that the 2016 overhead costs are lower than reported on this budget sheet.

Action: *The Forum approved the budget with the correction for the overhead.*

#### **IV. Public Comment**

John Velimesis recommended that the Forum Members and/or staff become trained in social media. He recently attended a training focused on social media in the context of emergency response, but found the training to be highly applicable for other purposes.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be September 16 at Carnation City Hall [change from original location in Duvall] 7:00pm to 9:00pm.