

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
May 18, 2016
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
Cindy Spiry	Snoqualmie Tribe (Alternate)
Henry Sladek	Town of Skykomish Councilmember
Eileen Carrel	Citizen Representative
Becky Chaney	Citizen Representative
Matt Gray	Citizen Representative
Jenn McKeown	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Non-profit Representative
Trevor Kostanich	City of North Bend Councilmember
Jim Haack	King Conservation District Supervisor

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

I. Introductions

Jason Walker, Forum Chair, welcomed everyone to the May Forum meeting. The Forum then approved the minutes from the March 16th meeting.

II. Updates and Announcements

- ***Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood Update***

Janne Kaje, Salmon Recovery Manager, provided an update on the Fish, Farm, Flood Advisory Committee process. On Wednesday, May 11, the committee reached an agreement in principle on a set of recommendations that seek to advance salmon recovery efforts, strengthen the Snoqualmie Valley agricultural sector, and reduce flood risk for Snoqualmie Valley landowners. The agreement is the culmination of 25 committee meetings over 2.5 years, as well as extensive outreach to valley landowners through partnerships with KCD, the Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance, Sno-Valley Tilth, and others. Central to the broad set of recommendation are actions to make drainage maintenance more predictable for farmers; accelerate the elevation of farm homes in the floodplain; accelerate the implementation of the highest priority salmon habitat restoration efforts; conduct a study of low-flow hydrology in the valley identifying ways to enhance summer flows for salmon while also identifying ways to support irrigation needs, etc. Over the next few months, King County staff will prepare documentation of the agreement that will be vetted with committee member organizations, setting the stage for a formal signing event in fall 2016.

- ***Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund Update***

This year, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SFRB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund (PSAR) have a combined total of approximately \$2.5 million to distribute in the Snohomish Basin. Ten Snohomish Basin projects were submitted this round and five are located in the Snoqualmie/South Fork Skykomish Watershed including: the Beckler River Confluence Large Wood Design Project (Wild Fish Conservancy), the Cherry Creek Construction Project Phase II and

III (Sound Salmon Solutions), the Lower Frew Floodplain Reconnection Design Project (King County), the South Fork Skykomish River Acquisitions (Forterra), and the South Fork Snoqualmie River Levee Setback Project (North Bend).

- ***Floodplains by Design Program Update***

On January 29, 2016 the state Department of Ecology received 56 pre-proposals totaling \$280M from across the state for the next round of Floodplains by Design grant funding. Ecology has invited 35 project proponents – counties, cities, tribes, conservation districts, and non-profit organizations – to submit full proposals by July 1, with an estimated state funding request of approximately \$138M. There were three projects from the Snoqualmie Watershed invited to submit full proposals. The City of North Bend will be submitting the South Fork Snoqualmie River Levee Setback project and the City of Snoqualmie will be submitting two projects related to the city’s Riverfront Acquisition and Restoration Project. This fall, Ecology will include a subset of these – a prioritized list of the most compelling, highest priority projects – in its 2017-2019 biennial state budget request.

- ***Current Flow Status of Rivers and Streams in the Snoqualmie Watershed***

Janne Kaje provided an update on the stream flows in the state, remarking that we may have a summer similar to the summer of 2015 with low flows and warm temperatures. The snowpack was below normal again this year and stream flows were also below normal.

III. Public Comment

Craig Edwards and Michael Butine with the local Raging River Conservation Group spoke about their conservation work along the river between Fall City and Preston, WA. They are particularly concerned about a proposed expansion of the Raging River quarry along Preston-Fall City Road. The 26 acre expansion would involve up to 100 trucks per day and could have impacts along 2100 feet of the river. The site is currently forested with some wetlands and there are 58 residents that live within half a mile of the site. The group is opposed to the proposed expansion and is looking for an agency or non-profit interested in conserving the land at the quarry.

Brian Bodenbach, resident of Fall City, would like to see more stream flow gages installed in the watershed. He would also like to see a study of aquifer recharge alternatives to combat the impacts of climate change.

Bob Seana, lower valley farmer, asked the Forum if they were concerned about urban expansion and rural development in the uplands. Bob is concerned that the increased development and impervious surfaces are exacerbating flooding conditions for lower valley residents and farmers. Jason Walker, Forum Chair, responded that this topic could be part of the Forum’s work plan and he added that King County is currently embarking on a flood assessment and low flow study that may answer some of these questions.

IV. 2016 Snoqualmie Project Assistance Grant

Perry Falcone, Forum Project Coordinator, reviewed the 2017 Snoqualmie Project Assistance Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant proposal totaling \$115,000. This grant provides funding for Forum staffing for critical project assistance activities as well as supplementing the cities’ cost shares. The grant is similar to the approved 2016 grant and includes: (1) assisting project implementers in identifying, designing and advancing high priority watershed projects, (2) conducting Forum-led project coordination activities, and (3) supporting regional watershed management through policy and technical coordination. Perry asked the Forum to consider approval of the grant so that it could be submitted to the King County Flood Control District along with the other CWM grants.

ACTION: The Forum approved the 2017 Snoqualmie Project Assistance grant proposal.

V. 2016 Cooperative Watershed Management Grants

Beth leDoux, Forum Technical Coordinator, described the 2016 CWM grant review process and presented the 2016 CWM grant proposals. Eighteen applications were submitted in 2016 for a total of \$1.37M. The Project Review Committee, including representatives from each member jurisdiction, reviewed the technical merits of the projects using criteria based on the Forum's approved funding priorities. The committee met on March 28th to hear presentations from project sponsors and again on April 25th to prioritize the projects in a recommended project list for the Forum. Beth walked the Forum members through the project list providing a little background and project summary on each of the recommended projects, explaining the projects' benefit to salmon and the watershed as well as their certainty of success. The Forum was then asked to discuss the projects and approve a final project list totaling \$855,141.

Eileen Carrel asked what matching sources a restoration project on the Aronica Farm had secured. Chris LaPointe, Stewardship Partners, explained that the match came from the Raven Foundation and the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account.

Jim Haack asked if the South Fork Snoqualmie Levee Setback project will improve stormwater conditions for the city. Beth responded that it would improve drainage issues in the city along Ribary Creek.

Becky Chaney asked where the project implementers sourced their plant material, how they ensured good plant genetics and limited transport of invasive species. Cindy Spiry responded that the Snoqualmie Tribe scrutinizes the nurseries that supply plants to the Tribe's restoration projects. Janne Kaje added that the Forum could provide guidance to project sponsors on this topic and discuss it at the Project Work Group.

ACTION: The Forum approved the recommended list of CWM projects (see attachment A)

VI. Forum Business

2017 Budget

Janne presented the 2017 draft Forum budget and the member cost shares. The budget assumes consistent operating costs and staffing levels (2.6 FTEs), with cost of living adjustments. The total estimated 2017 Forum budget based on preliminary projections is \$526,594. This is 3.15% increase over the 2016 budget.

Per the approved ILA, Cities and towns are asked to contribute 10% of their respective cost shares for the 2017 budget. King County and the tribes will pay the full approved cost share amount. The tribes' cost share will increase at the same rate as the overall budget. The approved \$115,000 CWM grant will be added to the cost shares along with cost savings to reach the total budget amount. City representatives should ensure that cost share amounts are included in their respective budgets. The Forum budget will be approved at the Forum's July meeting. The Forum's work program will focus on salmon recovery coordination, project guidance and support, outreach and facilitating actions on broader water resource issues like water quality. Further information about the work program will be discussed at the September Forum meeting.

Eileen Carrel commented regarding equity explaining that rural landowners pay for a lot of voluntary restoration activities in addition to their taxes. Jim Haack added that we need to collect better watershed data from landowners in order to engage them and help us secure more project funding.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be July 20 at the Tolt-MacDonald Barn Shelter in Carnation from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. The annual project tour will occur from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Please note the earlier start time.

Attachment A:**Snoqualmie Forum 2016 CWM Awards**

Project Name	Project Sponsor	Match Funding	CWM Award
2017 Snoqualmie Restoration and Project Assistance Program	King County WLRD	\$127,478	\$ 115,000
Habitat Conditions Report	King County WLRD	\$ -	\$ 68,056
Cherry Creek Phase I Riparian Restoration	Sound Salmon Solutions	\$ -	\$ 27,330
Aronica Farm Riparian Restoration Phase II	Stewardship Partners	\$ 22,000	\$ 74,476
Snoqualmie River Juvenile Salmon Outmigration Monitoring	Tulalip Tribes	\$ 45,326	\$ 72,000
Beckler River Confluence Large Wood Design	Wild Fish Conservancy	\$ 59,947	\$ 59,947
Patterson Creek Floodplain Restoration	King County WLRD	\$ 10,000	\$ 125,000
South Fork Skykomish Riparian Health	King County Noxious Weeds	\$ 18,718	\$ 40,000
South Fork Snoqualmie River Levee Setback Project	City of North Bend	\$ 13,800,000	\$ 125,000
Camp Terry Environmental Education	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	\$ 7,900	\$ 20,000
Kimball Creek Restoration	City of Snoqualmie	\$ 19,944	\$ 78,023
Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Education and Stewardship Project	NatureVision	\$ 8,518	\$ 16,704
Citizen Action Training School	Sound Salmon Solutions	\$ 11,540	\$ 15,695
Middle Fork Snoqualmie Stewardship	King County Parks	\$ 12,850	\$ 17,910
Totals		\$ 14,144,221	\$ 855,141