

**Snoqualmie Watershed Forum  
MEETING SUMMARY  
May 17, 2017, 7:00-9:00 pm  
Preston Community Center, Preston**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Lee Grumman     | City of Carnation Councilmember, Chair              |
| Henry Sladek    | Town of Skykomish Councilmember, Vice-Chair         |
| Jason Walker    | City of Duvall Councilmember                        |
| Cindy Spiry     | Snoqualmie Tribe (Alternate)                        |
| Chris LaPointe  | Stewardship Partners, Non-governmental Organization |
| Scott Powell    | Seattle City Light                                  |
| Jim Haack       | King Conservation District Supervisor               |
| Brian Bodenbach | SVGA Citizen Representative                         |
| Becky Chaney    | Citizen Representative                              |
| Ryan Miller     | Tulalip Tribes                                      |
| Ken Hearing     | City of North Bend Mayor (Alternate)                |

**Other Attendees:** Tim Woolett, Carnation; Heather Khan, Ecology; Bob de los Angeles, Snoqualmie Tribe Councilmember; Matt Baerwalde & Angela Dillon, Snoqualmie Tribe; Janne Kaje, King County; Perry Falcone, Beth leDoux, Elissa Ostergaard, Forum staff; Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County; Cynthia Krass, SVPA; Colin Wahl & Molly Alves, Tulalip Tribes; Josh Latterell, Chris Gregersen, King County; Dan Calvert, Puget Sound Partnership; Jamie Burrell, North Bend; John Velimesis, citizen; Jessica Lange, Sound Salmon Solutions; Laura Hanna, citizen; Ginny Sanchez, Nature Vision; Lisa Nelson, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

## MEETING PROCEEDINGS

### I. Introductions, Updates and Announcements

Lee Grumman, Forum Chair, welcomed everyone to the May Forum meeting and led off introductions for the meeting. She introduced Elissa Ostergaard, the new Snoqualmie Salmon Recovery Manager supporting the Snoqualmie Forum.

New Forum Members: Lee welcomed two new Snoqualmie Watershed Forum members: Ryan Miller, from the Tulalip Tribes, and Brian Bodenbach, the new Snoqualmie Valley Government's Association citizen representative.

ACTION: The Forum approved the minutes from the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting with the following changes: Brian Bodenbach's statement about the importance of small streams, and climate change issue paper section – approved as amended.

Update on state & federal capital funding – The state legislature is in special session. Negotiations have been dominated by the McCleary decision and funding education, but so far, the state budget for salmon funds appears close to last biennium. We may have enough for our regular Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant rounds. Floodplains by Design is likely to be funded, and the Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) could fund culvert projects.

Congress passed a continuing budget resolution through September 2017 at same level as last year for western states - \$68M for Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) and \$28.5M for the National Estuary Program. The 2018 budget will come out later this month. A number of people attended Puget Sound Day on the Hill in early May, to request funding for Puget Sound in Washington DC.

Q: Jason Walker asked who administers the FBRB?

A: Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish Lead Entity Coordinator, replied she thinks it will be Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. It would be the first year they've had this type of funding.

Update on Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Pre-proposals for WRIA 7: The Snohomish Basin SRFB grant round received six pre-proposals, resulting in four full grant applications submitted, requesting a total of \$292,100. The final allocation will not be known until July, and since WRIA 7 borrowed \$156,000 from WRIA 8 in 2016, the allocation will be less than normal because we will pay WRIA 8 back.

Announcement about the South Fork Skykomish: The group American Rivers has designated the SF Skykomish River in their annual top 10 list of "America's Most Endangered Rivers." This is due to a proposed hydroelectric project, proposed by the Snohomish Public Utility District, between Canyon Falls and Sunset Falls that would remove water for energy generation.

## **II. Charles Peterson Remembrance**

Perry Falcone, Snoqualmie Forum Project Coordinator, asked the group to pause and gave people an opportunity to say a word about Charles Peterson, who passed away in April. Charles lived in Snoqualmie almost his entire life, and held various roles on the Snoqualmie council. He was a steelheader and he cared about the river. He was honest, respectful, and fun, and will be greatly missed.

## **III. 2018 Snoqualmie Cooperative Watershed Management Grant for Staffing**

Perry Falcone went over the 2018 Snoqualmie Project Assistance Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant proposal for \$115,000 that funds Forum staffing and supplements the cities' cost share. The grant is similar to 2017, and covers project assistance work by staff (primarily Perry) including Forum coordination, helping with grant writing; and technical assistance to help projects move forward to recover salmon at a faster pace. Perry asked the Forum to consider approval of the grant so it can be submitted to the King County Flood Control District with the other CWM grants.

ACTION: The Forum unanimously approved the grant proposal.

## **IV. Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Recommendations**

Beth leDoux, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Technical Coordinator, presented the Project Review Committee's recommendations for the 2017 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant round. The committee used grant ranking procedures and criteria, approved by the Forum. King County Flood Control District (FCD) funds this program at \$4.39M per year for the 4 WRIs in King County. The Snoqualmie receives \$872,286 of that, plus there are some return funds from projects from previous years. We received 19 applications from 14 project sponsors, and have \$474,622 more in requests than we have funding. The final approved list will be presented to the FCD this summer. Beth walked the Forum members through the list of 19 proposals, including background, description, and the review committee's assessment.

Applications that did not get funded were all good projects, just need to work through some issues or wait for the appropriate sequencing. The Forum staff will work with those sponsors. The Tulalip Tribes' Screw Trap grant was preapproved by the Forum (\$60,000/year for next 3 years) back in January. Beth also reviewed the Forum's funding guidance which included 70% for capital projects, 5% for education, 10% for monitoring/maintenance, and 15% for watershed coordination. Overall since 2012, the Forum has been pretty close to this guidance, which gives us some flexibility to sequence and make decisions. The Ranking Committee works hard to stay in line with the funding guidance.

During the presentation, Forum members had the following discussion.

Brian Bodenbach asked if the acquisition site on the South Fork Skykomish provides off-channel habitat. Beth said yes, this stretch of the SF Skykomish is heavily used by salmon. Perry added this is a very wet site with a year-round creek.

Regarding the Tulalip Tribes' beaver relocation proposal, Becky Chaney asked if there is a lack of beavers in the upper watershed. Beth responded yes, they were trapped almost to extinction, and the area is still lacking beavers.

Ken Hearing asked whether the goal of relocating beavers is to hold back water. Beth said a primary goal of the project is to recharge groundwater, which slowly moves through the aquifers and discharges into the mainstem. Brian says he thinks this is a wonderful idea from hydrologic perspective.

Henry Sladek asked if the amount for the CWM grant round stays relatively stable from year to year, and are there usually more requests than can be funded? Beth responded that the CWM amount goes up slightly with inflation each year. We tend to get 18-19 proposals, some more expensive projects like levee setbacks may ask for \$120K, and then we fund fewer projects. However, the number of funded projects is pretty similar each year.

Henry asked about the rationale for the different amounts to the King County WRIAs from the FCD. Beth said the allocation favors higher population areas. This issue has been brought up before, because the Snoqualmie is King County's longest river and largest watershed, and gets the least amount of money. Perry Falcone commented that Councilmember Lambert was able to get a slight increase, but this continues to be an issue. Jason Walker and others have advocated through the SVPA and PIC, but the issue has been a non-starter.

Brian commented that flood control projects are like slapping bandaids on bandaids. He contended that efforts should focus on acquisition to purchase forests in headwaters for free flood control; it can include timber harvest if done properly. These practices are one of best ways to control floods. Ken Hearing of North Bend is the chair of Flood control and commented that acquisition is highest priority wherever possible.

**ACTION:** The Forum unanimously approved the list of projects proposed for funding (see Attachment A).

## **V. 2018 Forum Budget**

Elissa Ostergaard went over the 2018 Snoqualmie Watershed Forum budget and member cost shares; the Forum will be asked to approve it in July. The budget assumes slightly higher operating costs and consistent staffing levels (2.6 FTEs), with cost of living adjustments. The total estimated 2018 Forum budget based on preliminary projections is \$548,976. This is a 4.25% increase over last year.

Per the ILA, cities and towns are asked to contribute 10% of their respective cost shares for the 2018 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. Further information about the work program will be discussed at the September Forum meeting.

Henry Sladek asked what the basis of the cost shares is, and how the formula for the Snoqualmie compares with what the WRIA 8 and WRIA 9 cities pay. Janne Kaje, King County Regional Partnerships Unit Supervisor, explained the formula has to do with the per-capita amount that the small cities would be required to pay if we didn't offset it with a grant. We have always done it this way, to make it more equitable.

Henry asked why the King County overhead is higher than last year. Janne said that the overhead covers not just the office building and supplies, but also management, services such as graphics, GIS, finance, and personnel, and that King County had to readjust to make up for lack of increases in prior years.

### **Next Meeting and Tour**

**Note schedule change:** The watershed tour and next meeting were scheduled for July 19, 2017. There is a conflict in Skykomish on the 19<sup>th</sup>, so the group decided it would be best to reschedule the tour, and have the July 19 meeting in a more central location. The tour will be in Skykomish on September 20, from approximately 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., followed by the Forum meeting from 6:15 – 8:15, also in Skykomish.

The next meeting will be July 19, 2017 at the **Duvall Visitor Center (new location)** from **7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**.

Attachment A:

Snoqualmie Forum 2017 CWM Awards

| <b>Project</b>                                  | <b>Applicant</b>                  | <b>Match Funds</b> | <b>PRC Recommendation</b> |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 2018 Snoqualmie Project Assistance              | Forum/Cities                      |                    | <b>\$ 115,000</b>         |
| Snoqualmie Juvenile Screw Trap                  | Tulalip Tribes                    |                    | <b>\$ 60,000</b>          |
| Cherry Creek Phase I                            | Sound Salmon Solutions            | \$ 30,000          | <b>\$ 75,000</b>          |
| Upper Carlson Fish Monitoring                   | King County ERES                  |                    | <b>\$ 28,431</b>          |
| Griffin Creek Riparian Restoration              | Sound Salmon Solutions            | \$ 7,200           | <b>\$ 99,898</b>          |
| Wallace Acres                                   | Stewardship Partners              | \$ 5,000           | <b>\$ 29,586</b>          |
| Fall City Farms                                 | Snoqualmie Tribe                  | \$ 39,417          | <b>\$ 81,157</b>          |
| Baring North Acquisition                        | Forterra                          | \$ 477,294         | <b>\$ 75,000</b>          |
| South Fork Skykomish Riparian Health            | King County Noxious Weeds         | \$ 38,031          | <b>\$ 70,000</b>          |
| Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Education           | NatureVision                      | \$ 5,745           | <b>\$ 17,354</b>          |
| North Fork Cherry Creek                         | Wild Fish Conservancy             | \$ 126,500         | <b>\$ 99,333</b>          |
| Using Nuisance Beaver to Restore Salmon Habitat | Tulalip Tribes                    | \$ 63,634          | <b>\$ 64,512</b>          |
| Meadowbrook Farm Forest                         | Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust | \$ 11,000          | <b>\$ 57,015</b>          |
|   |                                   | <b>\$ 803,821</b>  | <b>\$ 872,286</b>         |