

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
September 15, 2010
Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm
Carnation City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth Walker	City of Duvall Councilmember, Forum Chair
Charles Peterson	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember, Forum Vice-Chair
Jim Berger	City of Carnation Councilmember
Chris Garcia	City of North Bend Councilmember

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Introductions and Minutes

The Forum approved the July 21, 2010 meeting summary.

Updates and Announcements

Yvette Lizée-Smith (Watershed Coordinator) gave the following announcements:

- *Approval of the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum ILA Amendment* – As of July 2010 the ILA Amendment was approved by all member governments except King County. King County Council is expected to approve the ILA Amendment on September 27th. Once we get this last approval, we will gather signature pages from all member governments to finalize the agreement.
- *Culvert Assessment* – Snoqualmie Watershed staff have been working with the King County Watershed Steward and Wild Fish Conservancy (WFC) staff to fill some fish passage barrier data gaps in the Snoqualmie Watershed. King County is contracting with WFC to conduct a barrier assessment including: a survey of 27 culverts (predominantly in the Raging River), prioritization of these barriers with existing barrier information and development of barrier improvement project concepts for the five highest priority sites.
- *Lower Tolt River Corridor Study* – The King County Flood District has initiated a corridor study of the lower 6 miles of the Tolt River to determine strategic flood hazard reduction and salmon habitat projects. The Forum provided \$10K toward the \$260K contract that is currently in the RFP review phase. The study should begin in November 2010 and be completed by June 2011.
- *2010 Forest Stewardship Workshops* – WSU Extension will be holding a 10-week series of forest stewardship classes for small woodland owners beginning September 21. The Snoqualmie Forum helped fund these workshops in 2010 (as a stop gap measure) following the loss of WSU funding under the King County 2010 budget. WSU Extension recently received a KCD grant to continue these courses in 2011 and 2012.

- *2010 Harvest Celebration Farm Tour* – WSU Extension and King County will host the Harvest Celebration Farm Tour in the Snoqualmie Valley on Saturday September 25.
- *Presentations to Partner Organizations* – On September 15, Janne Kaje presented on salmon recovery to the King County Rural Forest Commission and discussed areas for future collaboration. In October, Janne (with KC Agriculture and Stormwater staff) will give a presentation on farm-fish responses to alluvial fans to the KC Agriculture Commission.

2010 Opportunity Fund Grant Recommendations

Perry Falcone provided an overview of the King Conservation District (KCD) Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Opportunity Fund purpose, areas of focus, schedule and criteria. Geographic focus areas and priority activities were identified for this round, although proposals were welcome from the entire watershed.

Perry briefly described the projects that submitted full applications, and the project ranking process used in this round.

- We received a total of 14 applications totaling \$304,681. **See Attachment A for the list of projects.**
- The Opportunity Fund is unique in that both the Forum and KCD contribute \$100K from our respective assessment allocations -- for a combined grant pool of \$200,000.
- Due to this co-funding arrangement, both KCD and the Forum must agree to a project for it to get funded. The Forum and KCD ranking committees scored their projects independently. Unfortunately we had hoped to have a joint ranking meeting this year, but ultimately it could not be arranged. In most cases our scores aligned, but there were a few projects where they did not. In reconciling the rankings and coming to a joint recommendation, both the Forum and KCD ranking committees had to make concessions.
- The Forum and KCD ranking committees will coordinate a joint project review process in 2011 to better align funding recommendations and cut the need to reconcile ranked lists.

Project Funding Recommendation

Perry presented the final joint funding recommendations negotiated with KCD referring to the numbered list in Attachment A. The joint recommendation included funding for grants #1-7, #9 and partial funding for #10 – for a total of \$200,000.

The projects recommended for funding included:

- Raging River Knotweed Control, Phase 2 – Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust (\$30,000)
- Bridge Installation at Ames Creek Farm – Stewardship Partners (\$16,500)
- Stewardship in Action Raging River Project – Partnership for Rural King County (\$24,050)
- Weiss Creek Barrier Removal Project – Wild Fish Conservancy (\$30,000)
- Raging River Enhancement at 33306 SE 126th St. – Mountains to Sound Greenway (\$7,000)

- Leslie Morton Invasive Removal and Riparian Forest Enhancement – Restoration Logistics (\$27,650)
- YMCA Camp Terry Environmental Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Project – Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust (\$26,000)
- Invasive Removal and Forest Enhancement – Restoration Logistics (\$24,000)
- Kimball Crk Watershed Pollution Mitigation/Habitat Restoration – City of Snoqualmie (\$14,800)

Decision: The Forum approved the ranking committee’s funding recommendations listed above.

Action: Forum members discussed interest in securing alternate funding for the Nature Vision Classroom Education proposal (#8). In particular, they suggested contacting Hancock Timber, Weyerhaeuser, Puget Sound Energy and Seattle Public Utilities to see if they might be interested in helping to sponsor the school education program. They also discussed exploring the use of the cities’ KCD member jurisdiction funds to support the program. Perry and Yvette will work with Nature Vision to explore funding options.

2011 Snoqualmie Forum ILA Budget

Yvette reviewed the proposed 2011 Forum budget and ILA cost shares. Per the Forum’s May 26 decision, the total 2011 ILA budget and member government cost shares have been kept at 2010 levels.

On September 13, the King Conservation District Board approved funding for the Forum’s 2011 Snoqualmie Project Implementation Assistance Program grant – which will provide \$110,000 towards the Forum’s 2011 budget. Yvette and Elizabeth Walker (Forum Chair) attended the KCD meeting. They provided these added details on the grant decision.

- Initially, KCD Board members proposed partial funding for the Forum grant (ranging from 75-90% of our grant request) as they wanted to see more of the grant dollars going to on-the-ground projects. The Board also felt it important that Snoqualmie Valley cities contribute some amount to the grant and Forum budget.
- In the course of deliberations, however, the Board amended their decision and agreed to cover the full Forum grant in 2011 – with the expectation that they would transition to a partial funding arrangement in future years.
- The KCD Board conditioned its 2011 grant award with two requests: a) They asked that the Forum provide a description of project-related accomplishments under past Forum grants. b) The KCD Board also asked that the Forum come back with a co-funding proposal for future grants that would outline what cities could contribute to ILA grants in future years (2012 and beyond).

Speaking to the latter request, Elizabeth Walker asked cities to investigate whether they could contribute at least 10% of their respective cost share amounts in 2012. This would place the

Snoqualmie Valley cities' ILA contributions on par with similar-sized cities in WRIA8 and WRIA9. Elizabeth acknowledged that this could be difficult since 2012 city budgets will be tight. She felt that the discussions needed to begin in early 2011 before cities begin budgeting for 2012.

Decisions: The Forum approved the 2011 Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Budget and Cost-Share.

2011 Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Work Program

Yvette gave an overview of the 2011 Forum Work Program. The work program includes many ongoing activities from 2010 as well as new initiatives for 2011. Some examples highlighted in the presentation included:

- Coordinating Snoqualmie-based participation in the Snohomish Basin Protection Strategy
- Using the results of the Tolt River Corridor Study to identify and advance potential restoration opportunities in the lower 6 miles of the Tolt River
- Working with the Tolt Fish Habitat Restoration Group to identify other water quality actions in the watershed - potentially focused on Cherry Creek
- Developing and implementing a project evaluation framework (in conjunction with KCD) to assess the success of past KCD projects, pinpoint sites needing corrective actions, and identify/share best practices.
- Acting on recommendations identified in the Snoqualmie Watershed status report
- Coordinating Shoreline Master Program update meetings to assist the cities' information gathering work and support the development of SMP restoration plans.
- Providing orientation briefings and possible watershed tours for new Forum representatives.

Decision: The Forum approved the 2011 Snoqualmie Watershed Forum work program.

Appointing Non-Profit and Citizen Representatives

Janne Kaje reviewed the proposed process for appointing representatives to new and existing ex-officio seats on the Forum. With the ILA extension now approved, we will need to appoint representatives to the following 5 ex-officio seats over the next several months:

- 1 non-profit representative seat (Forum appointed)
- 2 King County Council District 3 citizen seats (King County appointed)
- 1 Snoqualmie Valley Governments' Association citizen seat (SVGA appointed)
- 1 King Conservation District seat (KCD appointed)

Forum staff will help recruit candidates for the non-profit and 3 citizen seats by developing an application form and soliciting applications via newspaper announcements, email, and the Forum's website. Forum staff will review the submitted applications and forward these to the

appropriate decision body designated to appoint each of the seats. Applicants will be expected to meet several qualifications including:

- location of residence (depending on the seat);
- familiarity with the Snoqualmie Watershed and its natural resources;
- understanding of habitat restoration, stewardship programs and water quality best practices;
- and a commitment to regular and active participation in Forum meetings.

Staff proposed the following schedule to appoint each of the seats:

- Non-profit seat: The Forum will discuss the applications and select the non-profit representative at the November 17 meeting. Applicants for this seat will be encouraged to attend the meeting to answer any questions.
- KCD / Citizen seats: It is hoped that King County Executive, SVGA and KCD will select their respective representatives in time for the January 19, 2011 meeting, so the Forum can open the year with its full membership at the table.

Elizabeth Walker offered to inform SVGA of the need to appoint a new citizen representative at their September 22nd meeting. Forum members suggested soliciting the current grant email list and soliciting citizens involved in the Stewardship in Action project.

Sarah Ogier (King County) advised that King County may not be able to appoint its 2 citizen representatives in time for the January 19 Forum meeting. The King County approval process can take several weeks as packages need to pass through department, Executive and Council approval. Also no new decision items will be considered by Council until the 2011 budget process is complete in late November.

Action: Staff were asked to prepare a letter to SVGA (inviting them to appoint a new SVGA citizen representative) so Elizabeth could present it at their September 22 meeting.

Public Comment

- Matt Baerwalde (Snoqualmie Tribe) thanked the Forum city representatives for agreeing to investigate possible partial cost-share contributions in future years.
- Ralph Svrjek (Washington Department of Ecology) announced that the Snoqualmie River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study Report for temperature will be released by Ecology in the fall of 2010. He looks forward to partners' review of the document and input on the recommendations for water quality improvements.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be November 17, 2010 from 6:45-9:00 pm at the Snoqualmie Tribal Office. *[Note – the Nov 17 meeting has since been moved to Snoqualmie City Hall].*

ATTACHMENT A -- 2010 Forum/KCD Opportunity Fund Joint Recommendation

RANK #	River/ Subbasin	Project Name	Applicant	Total Grant Request	Total Project Cost	Joint KCD/Forum Rank	Joint KCD/Forum Grant Decision
1	Raging River	Raging River Knotweed Control, Phase 2	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	\$30,000	\$60,000	High	\$30,000
2	Ames Creek	Bridge Installations at Ames Creek Farm	Stewardship Partners	\$16,500	\$16,500	High-Med	\$16,500
3	Raging River	Stewardship in Action Raging River Project	Partnership for Rural King County	\$24,050	\$32,535	High-Med	\$24,050
4	Weiss Creek	Weiss Creek Barrier Removal Project	Wild Fish Conservancy	\$30,000	\$31,800	High-Med	\$30,000
5	Raging River	Raging River Enhancement at 33306 SE 126th St	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	\$7,000	\$8,000	Medium	\$7,000
6	Raging River	Leslie Morton Invasive Removal and Riparian Forest Enhancement	Restoration Logistics	\$27,650	\$27,650	Medium	\$27,650
7	Raging River	YMCA Camp Terry Environmental Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Project	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	\$26,000	\$31,000	Medium	\$26,000
8	Watershed Wide	2010-11 Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Education and Stewardship Project	Nature Vision	\$15,000	\$15,000	Medium	
9	Cherry Creek	Invasive Removal and Forest Enhancement	Restoration Logistics	\$24,000	\$24,000	Med-Low	\$24,000
10	Kimball Creek	Kimball Creek Watershed: Pollution Mitigation and Habitat Restoration	City of Snoqualmie	\$30,000	\$30,000	Med-Low	\$14,800
11	Raging River	Lake Alice Eradication of Noxious Weeds and Habitat Restoration	Lake Alice Community Assn.	\$16,392	\$19,392	Med-Low	
12	Raging River	Meyer-Hurley Property Riparian Restoration along the Raging River	EarthCorps	\$23,014	\$23,014	Med-Low	
13	Cherry Creek	Phase 1: Upper Waterwheel Creek habitat and riparian restoration project (development and initial implementation phase)	Wild Fish Conservancy	\$29,945	\$32,595	Med-Low	
14	Harris Creek	Control of Noxious Weeds in Lake Marcel: Eurasian Milfoil, Fragrant Water Lily and Yellow Iris	Lake Marcel Community Club	\$5,130	\$5,130	Low	
Total				\$304,681			\$200,000