

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
September 21, 2011
Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm
Carnation City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles Peterson	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember, Forum Vice-Chair
Jim Berger	City of Carnation Councilmember
Chris Garcia	City of North Bend Councilmember
Jeff Wolf	City of Duvall, Councilmember (Alternate)
Cindy Spiry	Snoqualmie Tribe
Kathy Lambert	King County Councilmember
Bill Knutsen	King Conservation District
David Burger	Stewardship Partners, Non-profit Representative
Kent Renno	Citizen Representative
Isaac Cunningham	Citizen Representative

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Introductions and Minutes

- Councilmember Charles Peterson (acting as Chair) asked if there were changes to the July 20 meeting summary. The Forum approved the July 20 meeting summary in current form.
- Yvette Lizée-Smith introduced Isaac Cunningham, the Forum's new citizen representative. Mr. Cunningham is filling the seat vacated by the departure of Allyson Schrier. Isaac's formal appointment by the County Executive has not been finalized but is in process.
- Councilmember Jeff Wolf attended as the alternate for the City of Duvall in Elizabeth Walker's absence.

Updates and Announcements

- *2011 Forest Stewardship Classes:* WSU Extension has started its 10-week series of forest stewardship classes for small woodland owners on September 20 at Preston Community Center. Thirty-four participants have signed up to learn how to develop forest stewardship plans and meet forest management goals. The classes are partially funded through a 2010 Snoqualmie Watershed Forum-King Conservation District grant.
- *Harvest Farm Tour:* Snoqualmie Valley farms will be hosting the annual Harvest Farm Tour this Saturday, September 24, 10 am - 4 pm. Seven Snoqualmie Valley farms are participating this year – Baxter Barn, Alpacas at Legacy Ranch, Fall City Farms, Jubilee Farm, Carnation Tree Farm/Hjertoos Farm, Dog Mountain Farm, and Oxbow Farm.
- *Watershed Investment District Update:* The draft Watershed Investment District legislation is currently being shared with outside groups – including local watershed forums, Puget Sound Partnership, the Washington Environmental Coalition, and other watersheds in Puget Sound. The Cross-WRIA work group is compiling feedback from these various groups.

They will meet later this fall to review the comments, potentially amend the legislation and discuss next steps.

- *Whidbey Basin Science Symposium:* Puget Sound Partnership will be holding a Whidbey Basin Science Symposium on September 30 at the Byrnes Performing Arts Center in Arlington. The event will include participants from throughout the Whidbey Basin Action Area (including the Snoqualmie Watershed) to discuss climate change-related issues and strategies for our area. Forum staff will attend to ensure that the Snoqualmie watershed perspective is represented in workshop discussions and products.
- *Forum 2012 Grant Application Approved:* KCD Board has approved the Forum's 2012 grant application for the *2012 Snoqualmie Restoration and Protection Assistance Program*. This grant will fund part of our team's 2012 project support work including a new initiative aimed at working with partners to identify and coordinate support for habitat protection initiatives.
- *Cherry Valley Floodplain Restoration Project on Waterwheel Creek:* Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) convened a meeting with Drainage District #7 (DD#7) on Wednesday, August 31st to move the Waterwheel Creek project forward. Recall that the Waterwheel Creek project, which has received funding from KCD and from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, has been stymied by DD#7 concerns about the effects of the project on field drainage on neighboring properties as well as access to the Lateral A pump station. The goal is to develop a "letter of intent" to be signed by WDFW, DD #7 and Wild Fish Conservancy that would address the District's concerns and outline next steps to achieve project construction in the summer of 2012. The letter of intent was expected to be signed by September 23rd. If so, the project would move to the permitting phase. The primary construction grant from the SRFB has been extended but any delay beyond summer 2012 would likely lead to the loss of the current grant.

2011 Opportunity Fund Grant Recommendations

Perry Falcone reviewed the history and purpose of the KCD "Regular" and "Opportunity Fund" grant rounds. The Opportunity Fund is an annual \$200,000 grant round established in 2007 with a \$100,000 earmark from the Forum grant program matched by \$100,000 from the KCD's internal funding. The program differs from the Regular round in several ways: the Opportunity Fund emphasizes smaller habitat improvement projects; support to private landowners is highly encouraged; no matching funds are required; and the criteria are not as tightly linked to the identified top priorities in the salmon recovery plan. Moreover, the grant proposals are evaluated by both the KCD and by the Forum grant ranking staff committee. Projects must be approved by both groups to get funding.

Perry then reviewed the grant evaluation schedule, action priorities and geographic priorities. For 2011, the amount of funding requested by applicants closely matched the amount available. This is quite different from the early years of the program when requests vastly outpaced the available funds. The lower number of funding requests may reflect capacity shortages in sponsor organizations as many past applicants did not come forward with new proposals this year. For example, no applications were submitted by Forum member cities.

Project summaries [applicant in parentheses]:

1. *Cherry Ck NE 157th Place Culvert Replacement [Rick Wood (landowner)]*: Replacement of a 48 inch culvert with 8 foot by 15 foot bottomless culvert on an unnamed tributary of Cherry Ck. A small amount of riparian planting will also occur. The grant, if approved, would provide retroactive funding as the culvert replacement project has already been completed. The grant committee recommends the project for funding because the new culvert is well above and beyond a typical culvert repair and provides much improved fish passage at the site.
2. *Raging River Side Channel Fish Passage Design Project [Wild Fish Conservancy]*: Complete design of fish passage improvement project for the culvert on the Wilkinson property and 30% design for four other fish passage restoration projects upstream. Pre-application was submitted in 2010 but assessment was not available until 2011.
3. *Lien Lower Patterson Riparian Restoration [King County DNRP]*: Remove invasive plants and replant approximately a 25-foot buffer along 1000 feet of lower Patterson Creek (approx. 1.25 acres). The existing vegetation canopy is significantly degraded.
4. *Growing Things Phase II [Stewardship Partners]*: The project will add willows to an existing 700 foot planting on a tributary to Ames Creek and extend a new 15foot wide hedgerow planting along 650 feet of stream. The existing vegetation canopy is significantly degraded.
5. *Meyer Property Riparian Restoration along Raging River [EarthCorps]*: Removal of knotweed and English ivy along Raging River (River Mile 1.5). The project will install 640 understory plants in the riparian area. Existing forest canopy consists of 50% native plants. Application was originally submitted in 2010 but funding was unavailable.
6. *Lake Alice Eradication of Noxious Weeds and Habitat Restoration [Lake Alice Community Association]*: Manual and chemical control of invasive water lily, yellow iris and loosestrife in Lake Alice for 2011 and 2012. LACA has already implemented 2 years of eradication and has a community member certified to control weeds. Applications submitted in 2009 & 2010 but funding unavailable.
7. *Planting Project Maintenance on Oxbow Farm and Hart Properties [Stewardship Partners]*: Stewardship Partners has requested funding for maintaining two existing projects: Oxbow Farm Wetland Restoration and Hart Property Restoration (No application submitted since Opportunity Fund applications already exist).
8. *Patterson Creek Culvert Barrier Removal [Wild Fish Conservancy]*: Design and improve fish passage barrier and riparian habitat along Patterson Creek. Located at stream mile 9, there is approximately 2.5 miles of fish habitat upstream of this culvert. This project is located on a known alluvial fan and is directly upstream of a property (Stevlingson) that is significantly affected by deposition of gravel and fine sediment.

The grant ranking committee recommendation consists of the following:

1. Approve projects #1-6 for 2011 funding
2. Approve project #7 for partial funding
3. Approve project #8 subject to a Project Review Committee approved scope revision to address the alluvial fan on the property

[NOTE: See Attachment A for the summary list of projects and grant amounts.]

Forum Discussion:

Regarding project #1, Charles Peterson expressed concern about whether this could set a precedent for funding projects retroactively in the future.

Regarding project #6, Councilmember Lambert asked whether the King County Noxious Weed program is underfunded and thus unable to take on these types of projects. Perry responded that the program generally prioritizes Class A noxious weeds which does not include the targeted weeds in this effort, but may be able to support the project in other ways, such as by providing educational materials that were previously developed for a similar project on Lake Marcel.

Regarding project #7, Perry explained that the project needs \$28,000 but the Project Review Committee was only recommending \$16,056 in 2011 funds since that is the remaining amount available in the Opportunity Fund. The balance of grant funding would be taken from 2012 funds or from funds available if project #8 is not funded.

Project #8 generated substantial discussion about conditions on surrounding lands and the likelihood of fixing the underlying problem (associated with the alluvial fan) that is contributing to the fish passage barrier with the amount of funds available. Bill Knutsen expressed his view that any solution to the problem at the site must consider the whole system, including upstream conditions as well as the downstream Stevlingson property. He believes the grant money would not be well spent absent a better understanding of the larger alluvial fan context. Chris Garcia echoed that sentiment and also questioned whether the Forum was in effect trying to find a way to spend the money, rather than judging the project on its merits.

Decision: The Forum agreed with the staff recommendations for projects 1-7. Project #8 was remanded to staff for further investigation in collaboration with KCD. The project should be considered within the context of the broader alluvial fan initiative by King County and KCD staff. **See Attachment A for the final grant recommendations.**

Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO

Yvette provided a brief background description of the Puget Sound Partnership, the Action Agenda, the geographic construct of Action Areas and recent efforts to form Local Integrating Organizations within each Action Area. The Snohomish Basin (including the Snoqualmie watershed) is within the Whidbey Action Area, together with the Skagit and Stillaguamish Rivers, as well as Whidbey Island. The current plan is to have a joint Local Integrating Organization (LIO) for the Stillaguamish and Snohomish Basins.

Snohomish County, and specifically County Councilmember Somers, has taken the lead on organizing the LIO, with substantial involvement by the Tulalip Tribes. A substantial point of discussion is the proposed composition of an Executive Steering Committee. A recent proposal, reflected in the meeting packet handout, would include the two counties, two tribes (Tulalip and Stillaguamish, but not Snoqualmie), one large city (likely Everett), one small city and each of the watershed forums on the committee. However, during a conference call earlier today (September 21, 2011), the Tulalip Tribes put forward a proposal for an alternate structure that would limit steering committee membership to elected representatives from the two counties, two tribes (Tulalip Tribes and Stillaguamish Tribes) and possibly city representatives. The Tulalip Tribes felt it important that the Steering Committee be comprised of governments responsible for land management decisions to allow for these higher level policy discussions to occur across

governments. Under this alternate proposals Forums would not have a seat on the Steering Committee, but would instead serve on an Implementation Committee (comprised of action agenda implementers) set up to advise the Steering Committee and coordinate across actions.

Yvette explained that, on the call, the Tulalip Tribes agreed to put their alternative proposal in writing so groups could be clear on the changes they were seeking. Yvette recommended that the Forum postpone its discussion on the LIO proposal until these proposed revisions were received and it was determined whether they would be in fact considered or not.

Several Forum members voiced strong concerns about the exclusion of watershed forums from the steering committee. Bill Knutsen described the Snoqualmie watershed as underrepresented in the regional context and raised concern that exclusion from the steering committee would only exacerbate the problem. Several members agreed and also voiced disapproval about the exclusion of the Snoqualmie Tribe. Councilmember Wolf (Duvall) and Councilmember Berger (Carnation) recommended that the Forum voice its interests quickly as possible, before the alternate proposal was put forward and discussions moved further along – so the Forum’s interests would be given due consideration before any further changes were made.

Decision: Forum staff were asked to draft a letter to the core government representatives involved in the LIO proposal drafting discussions. The letter should 1) highlight the importance of Forum representation on the steering committee, and 2) express support for the inclusion of the Snoqualmie Tribe on the Steering Committee commensurate with their status as a federally recognized tribe.

Puget Sound Partnership – Action Agenda Update

On September 20, Puget Sound Partnership hosted a meeting in Everett to receive input on Action Agenda strategy refinement in the Snohomish and Stillaguamish basins, including the Snoqualmie watershed. The Snoqualmie Forum was represented at the meeting by Yvette, Janne, Councilmember Walker and Bill Knutsen.

The discussion itself was far-ranging. We emphasized the need for greater support for rural communities and small cities on a number of fronts, including increased funding for restoration and protection actions; support for NPDES permit implementation in small cities; support for tax incentive programs and other forms of landowner support; and the development of Low Impact Development tools for the rural/small-city context.

Staff will keep the Forum apprised of further developments in the Action Agenda update process.

2012 Work Program

Yvette reviewed the Forum work program for 2012 and emphasized those activities that are new or are likely to receive heightened emphasis in 2012.

Some of the highlighted items include:

- Supporting cities on 2012 planning priorities such as: Shoreline Master Program implementation, Comprehensive Plan updates, NPDES and low impact development, or other initiatives;

- Arranging tours or issue-related field visits for Snohomish LIO representatives;
- Coordinating Snoqualmie-based participation in the Snohomish Basin Protection Strategy, a project led by Snohomish County under a grant from EPA. This task is aligned closely with a key element of the 2012 KCD Grant discussed today as part of Announcements;
- Various policy and technical priorities, such as the renewal of the KCD Assessment, steelhead recovery plan development, tracking FERC hydropower relicensing in the basin, fish-farm-flood coordination;
- One-on-one assistance to local governments and project sponsors to help develop and advance restoration projects;
- Follow up on results of the 2011-12 Tolt River Corridor Study to identify potential restoration opportunities along the lower six miles of the Tolt River.

David Burger inquired about how the activities of the Project Working Group (PWG) and the recently formed Restoration Round Table (RRT) related to each other. Perry explained that the PWG operates at the broader Snohomish Basin scale and is a collaborative effort with Snohomish County under its watershed lead-entity obligations. The group meets to discuss basin scale restoration priorities and implementation hurdles, and the development of the three-year work plan. The RRT was recently convened by Deborah Oaks (Stewardship Partners) as a less formal venue among on-the-ground restoration project implementers to share knowledge and identify opportunities for collaboration in the Snoqualmie watershed.

David also identified needs to strengthen public outreach and to “sell the watershed” – to tell a compelling story that will attract funding for restoration and other actions from a wider variety of sources. Yvette agreed with the need to strengthen the Forum’s outreach efforts. Forum staff hope to work with on-the-ground partners to identify strategies to do this.

Decision: The 2012 work program was approved by consensus.

Public Comment

Councilmember Chris Garcia informed the Forum that this would likely be his final meeting as he is not running for re-election. Forum Chair Peterson and other members thanked Chris Garcia for his service.

Next Meeting & Project Tour

The November 16 Forum meeting will be held at Snoqualmie City Hall, 7:00-9:00 PM.

Attachment A: 2011 Snoqualmie Watershed/Opportunity Fund Grant Awards

ID #	River/ Subbasin	Project Name	Applicant	Total KCD Request	Total Project Cost	Criteria Tier	Meets Priority Geographic Criteria	Meets Priority Action Criteria	Forum Funding Decision	Joint Project Review Comm./ KCD Grant Subcommittee Recommendation
1	Cherry Creek	Cherry Ck NE 157th Place Culvert Replacement	Rick Wood (landowner)	30,000	62,341	Tier 1	✓	✓	\$30,000	Recommend Funding
2	Raging River	Raging River Side Channel Fish Passage Design Project	Wild Fish Conservancy	30,000	31,950	Tier 1	✓	✓	\$30,000	Recommend Funding
3	Patterson Creek	Lien Lower Patterson Riparian Restoration	King County DNRP	30,000	40,000	Tier 1	✓	✓	\$30,000	Recommend Funding
4	Ames Creek	Growing Things PII	Stewardship Partners	30,000	30,000	Tier 1	✓	✓	\$30,000	Recommend Funding: Due to the small planting area, we are requesting more budget detail.
5	Raging River	Meyer Property Riparian Restoration along Raging River	EarthCorps	23,014	23,014	Tier 2	✓		\$23,014	Recommend Funding
6	Raging River	Lake Alice Eradication of Noxious Weeds and Habitat Restoration	Lake Alice Community Association	10,930	12,930	Tier 2	✓		\$10,930	Recommend Funding: Committee requests that the LACA consider educational signage and materials for landowners to increase awareness of invasive weeds.
7	Snoq. River & Ames Creek	Planting Project Maintenance on Oxbow Farm and Hart Properties	Stewardship Partners	28,000	16,056	Tier 2	✓		\$16,056	Recommend Partial Funding: Only \$16,056 is available in 2011 so additional funds may be necessary in 2012.
8	Patterson Creek	Patterson Ck Culvert 101P-26 Barrier Removal	Wild Fish Conservancy	30,000	30,000	Tier 2		✓	\$0	Recommend Conditional Funding: Application needs to address alluvial fan issue on site.
				211,944	246,291				\$170,000	

Ranking Criteria Tiers *

- Tier 1 : Project meets both priority action and priority geographic area criteria
- Tier 2 : Project meets either priority action or priority geographic area criteria
- Tier 3 : All other project proposals

