

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
March 19, 2014
7:00-9:00 pm
Snoqualmie Tribal Offices, Snoqualmie, WA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jason Walker	City of Duvall Councilmember, Forum Chair
Bryan Holloway	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember, Vice Chair
Kathy Lambert	King County, Councilmember
Jonathan Rosen	City of North Bend, Councilmember
Lee Grumman	City of Carnation, Councilmember
Cindy Spiry	Snoqualmie Tribe, Alternate
Micah Wait	Wild Fish Conservancy, Non-profit Representative
Kent Reno	Citizen Representative
Matt Gray	Citizen Representative
Jennifer McKeown	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Non-profit Representative, Alternate

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

I. Introductions

- Jason Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed members as well as invited guests. Jason introduced Councilmember Jonathan Rosen, the new Forum representative from North Bend. He also introduced Councilmember Lee Grumman, the new Forum representative from the City of Carnation.
- The Forum approved the January 15th meeting summary without changes.

Forum Updates and Announcements

King County Council Motion – Skykomish Initiative: Janne Kaje, Snoqualmie Watershed Coordinator, relayed to the Forum that on March 10, 2014, Councilmembers Lambert, Dembowski, and Phillips introduced a motion to the King County Council affirming King County’s support for the “Skykomish Valley Economic Development, Recreation, and Natural Resource Conservation Initiative.” This initiative embodies the shared vision of the Town of Skykomish, the Stevens Pass Greenway, and non-profit organizations to enhance the local economy, increase recreational opportunities, and conserve the natural resources of the South Fork Skykomish Valley.

Councilmember Lambert shared with the Forum that the goals of the initiative include preserving old growth and other natural areas, providing recreational opportunities and participating in economic development. Forterra has been an excellent partner and the initiative will likely have full council approval.

Cards for outgoing Forum members: Cards for outgoing Forum Members (Erin Chamberlin – City of Carnation and Ryan Kolodejchuk – City of North Bend) will be circulated to sign for Councilmembers who served on the Forum and thank them for all their hard work.

Biggert-Waters/Grimm-Waters Bills: Beth leDoux gave an update on the Grimm-Waters bill that was moving through the US House of Representatives. The bill deals with how new guidelines for federal flood insurance will be applied and to whom, depending on their location within different hazard area categories.

Since this meeting the H.R. 3370: Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 has been signed by President Obama. To see the summary of the bill as it stands now please go here: [Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 \(H.R. 3370\) - GovTrack.us](http://GovTrack.us).

II. Forum Business

Client Survey

Janne shared the results of the client survey with the Forum. There was a positive gain in the review of Forum Staff and program support. However, there was a decrease in scores overall. Slightly weaker scores were seen in the rating of the Forum's overall engagement in policy/land use issues. Janne would really appreciate getting more feedback on how the Forum staff is doing and what can be done to improve the services.

Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Round Update

The initial list of grant applicants was shared with the Forum. There was discussion about the number of education grants on the list. Councilmember Lambert reminded the Forum that the grants should be about restoration first and monitoring second. She felt that the increase of funding average of 2% to 5% of total funds on education was too much of a jump and that should be less. Councilmember Rosen agreed with Councilmember Lambert and said that there was too much money for education. Janne reminded the Forum of the guidelines that were approved in January regarding grant allocation categories and that these issues can be revisited by the Forum in the future.

III. Snohomish Basin Protection Plan

Beth leDoux presented on the technical approach being used for the Snohomish Basin Protection Plan. This project is looking for different tools to protect hydrology in Snohomish Basin – some of these protection tools exist in current regulations while others are novel concepts that require more vetting and will likely take many years to determine if they are applicable. The goal of the project is create an addendum to the 2005 Snohomish Basin Salmon Conservation Plan that focuses on protection of key hydrologic areas, which acts as a proxy for protecting salmon by protecting the water supply.

Councilmember Lambert expressed concern about two of the protection tools mentioned in the presentation. In particular, she was concerned with the ideas of encouraging more beaver ponds as a source of water storage (to reduce flooding and maintain summer flows) in headwater areas (primarily United State Forest Service lands); as well as the idea of limiting exempt wells in specific areas with low stream flow issues. Janne noted that clearly not all tools are well suited to all locations and that the project is just now shifting from identifying technical solutions to the vetting process with the help of a steering committee.

ACTION: Councilmember Lambert asked Beth to follow up with Christine Jensen regarding exempt well and forestry issues

IV. Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood (FFF) Advisory Committee

Janne asked participants in the FFF effort to share their thoughts about the process so far. Three members of the Forum (Micah Wait, Cindy Spiry and Bryan Holloway) have served on the committee since November 2013.

Cindy Spiry – the last FFF meeting was very productive and people are really starting to talk about the sensitive subject matter. She is encouraged by the amount of discussion occurring and hopes to see it continue.

Micah Wait – Also encourage by the increased dialogue in recent meetings after some prior frustration about the lack of opportunity for conversation. He recognizes there are competing values at the table but it is interesting and people are really “showing their cards”.

Jason Walker – Wonders if emotions can be set aside to talk about these delicate topics and have real, pragmatic discussions.

Janne – The core team is harvesting ideas brought to the table and will begin to work them up into recommendations. He is encouraged by the feedback he has received from the agricultural representatives in particular and looks forward to the substantive discussions ahead.

Councilmember Lambert – Expressed that although folks participating from the Forum are complimentary of the effort, she wants to be clear that there are some very difficult conversations happening and it has not been a smooth process with no conflict.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be May 21st (6:30-9 pm) at the Carnation City Hall council chambers.