

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
September 17, 2014
7:00-9:00 pm
North Bend Senior Center, North Bend, WA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jason Walker	City of Duvall Councilmember, City of Duvall, Chair
Charles Peterson	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember
Kathy Lambert	King County Councilmember
Lee Grumman	City of Carnation Councilmember
Jonathon Rosen	City of North Bend
Becky Chaney	Citizen Representative
Kent Renno	Citizen Representative
Micah Wait	Wild Fish Conservancy, Non-profit Representative
Bill Knutsen	King Conservation District

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

I. Introductions

- Jason Walker, Forum Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed members as well as invited guests.
- The Forum approved the July 16th meeting summary.

Forum Updates and Announcements

Welcome to Town of Skykomish Councilmember – Henry Sladek, Town of Skykomish Councilmember, introduced himself and explained the town’s interest in the Forum and various watershed issues. Councilmember Sladek also serves as the President of the Stevens Pass Greenway. The town plans to work with the town council and mayor to determine the best timing to request membership in the Forum.

Forum Member Updates – Jason Walker asked each member jurisdiction to provide a brief update of activities in their area. Jason began by highlighting the EPA funded Duvall Watershed Planning grant. Lee Grumman discussed some development growth in Carnation and the design process for downtown corridor improvements. Charles Peterson appreciates Councilmember Sladek travelling so far to join the Forum. He separately expressed concern around gravel accumulation in the Three Forks area of the upper Snoqualmie River. Kathy Lambert talked about her interest in King County’s alluvial fan study, gravel studies and the potential need for gravel maintenance. Micah Wait commented that in the lower valley gravel removal may have negative impacts on salmon. Charles suggested the Forum receive a presentation at a future Forum meeting on King County’s gravel studies in the watershed.

Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood (FFF) Update – Janne Kaje, Watershed Coordinator, provided a brief update on the Fish, Farm, Flood Advisory Committee. The committee will meet each month this fall in October, November, and December with the possibility of an all day workshop as well. The committee

continues to work on narrowing the list of solutions and creating a meaningful package of strategies to improve natural resource management in the lower valley. The committee work will culminate in a final meeting in the spring of 2015 and a final report with recommendations for King County.

Upper Carlson Project Tour – Janne asked Forum members if they would be interested in attending a post construction site tour of King County’s Upper Carlson Floodplain Restoration project. Micah, Jason, Becky and Kent were interested in attending. Perry Falcone, Project Coordinator, will organize a site tour with county staff in October.

II. Snoqualmie Riverfront Project Update

Lauren Hollenbeck, City of Snoqualmie Senior Planner, presented an overview of the city’s Riverfront Project. The project has three main elements including flood hazard reduction, habitat restoration and trail improvements along the Snoqualmie River in downtown Snoqualmie. Since the 1990 flood, the city has launched a significant program of flood hazard acquisitions and home elevations. Multiple flood events in the city have caused \$18M in private property damage and 953 flood claims which was the most in the State of Washington. The city has used King Conservation District, Conservation Futures, FEMA, King County Flood District and city funding to accomplish acquisitions and riparian enhancement to date. Snoqualmie has also completed a Riverwalk Master Plan to develop a vision for trails in the city that connect to regional trails in the area.

In September, the city submitted a \$3.6M grant to the state’s Floodplains by Design program. The grant would acquire 5 flood prone homes, restore 8.5 acres of riparian area and design and build 1.2 miles of trail. The overall project will have two more phases with an overall project cost of \$5.1M and acquisition of 17 properties. The city continues to move forward with work in this reach and hopes to secure more funding from other sources. Lauren highlighted several challenges developing and funding this type of large effort including: recent reductions of FEMA funding, management of multiple grant sources, securing trail funding and working with adjacent landowners.

III. Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Interlocal Agreement (ILA)

Janne Kaje provided an overview of the current Snoqualmie Forum ILA, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and discussed the process and timeline for renewal. The ILA governs the relationship between jurisdictions and the Forum while the MOU governs the relationship between the Forum and King County as service provider. The current ILA will be in place until December 2015 so the Forum will need to have a draft version of a new ILA by March 2015 in order to provide enough review time by jurisdictions and their legal counsel.

Janne highlighted some of the key areas for the 2015 ILA renewal discussion:

- How does the Forum approach flood hazard reduction work since the formation of the county-wide Flood District?
- How does the Forum continue to support multi-objective watershed projects?
- How long should the term of the ILA agreement be? (currently the ILA is 5 years but other WRIAs are considering at 10 years)
- How much public outreach activity does the Forum want perform in the next ILA?
- Should the Forum consider any changes to the existing cost share structure?
- Are there any other significant program changes that should be added or changed in the new ILA?
- What is the mechanism for renewing the ILA (new ILA or an amendment)?

Councilmember Lambert supports keeping the flood hazard language in the ILA since Flood District capital funds are limited and the Forum may need to support these types of projects.

Janne explained that the ILA renewal process will include informal briefings of member jurisdictions in the winter followed by an extended March meeting to hammer out draft ILA language. In the 2nd quarter of 2015, Forum staff will brief government councils on the proposed ILA language. The Forum will approve final language in May with the hope that governments will sign the new ILA by the 4th quarter of 2015. Janne concluded by mentioning the possibility of new members such as the Town of Skykomish and the Tulalip Tribes. These potential members are currently eligible and can request to join the Forum any time. Finally, Janne provided the Forum with estimated jurisdictional cost-share amounts for 2016.

IV. Forum Business

2015 Forum Work Plan

Perry Falcone gave an overview of the 2015 Forum work plan and highlighted changes from the 2014 work plan. The 2015 Forum work plan includes the general work activities that the Forum and Forum staff perform during the year. The majority of the work program did not change from 2014. There were a few significant changes to the work program including: completing 2015 ILA renewal process, conducting ILA renewal council briefings, participating in the ongoing Fish, Farm, Flood Advisory Committee work, and assisting on outreach efforts (due to a new temporary employee). Perry asked the Forum if they had any suggested changes to the 2015 work plan. Forum members did not have any changes to the work program and moved to approve the document.

Action: The Forum approved the 2015 work program.

New Nonprofit Organization Representative and Alternate Selection

Janne Kaje informed the Forum members that Micah Wait's term as the nonprofit organization representative seat expires in Dec. 2014. Janne asked if the Forum would like to nominate Jenn McKeown (currently the nonprofit alternate) as the nonprofit representative. The Forum agreed with this approach and voted on the approval of the seat.

Action: The Forum approved Jenn McKeown as nonprofit representative from 2015 through the end of 2016.

As the nonprofit alternate representative seat will be vacant in 2015, Janne explained that Forum staff will begin soliciting applications for the seat. The application period will be open in October and the Forum will appoint the new nonprofit alternate at the November meeting.

V. Public Comment

Bill Knutsen, chair of the King Conservation District (KCD) Board, gave an overview of the 2015 KCD program and the potential for a funding increase at the agency. KCD has already held several public meetings on the proposed expanded \$6M program. The program includes six main areas of focus: rural small lot forestry, regional food system, rural farm planning and assistance, urban farm planning and assistance, and landowner incentive programs. The program has support from the Sound Cities Association and the King County Council will consider the increase in funding during the fall budget process.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be November 19 (6:30 – 9:00 pm) at the Snoqualmie City Hall in Snoqualmie.