

**Snoqualmie Watershed Forum**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**May 16, 2018, 6:30-9:00 pm**  
**Preston Community Center, Preston**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Cindy Spiry	Snoqualmie Tribe, Chair
Henry Sladek	City of Skykomish Councilmember, Vice-Chair
Jim Ribail	City of Carnation Councilmember
Jason Walker	City of Duvall Councilmember
Brian Bodenbach	SVGA Citizen Representative
Chris LaPointe	Stewardship Partners, Non-profit Organization Representative
Ryan Miller	Tulalip Tribes Representative
Kathy Lambert	King County Councilmember
Peggy Shepard	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember
Trevor Kostanich	City of North Bend Councilmember
Charles Kellogg	Citizen Representative
Becky Chaney	Citizen Representative

**Other Attendees:** Matt Baerwalde and Joseph Old Elk, Snoqualmie Tribe; Jamie Burrell, City of North Bend; John Velimesis; Jessica Lange, Sound Salmon Solutions; Tim Woolett, City of Carnation; Heather Khan and Chelsea Morris, Washington State Department of Ecology; Stewart Reinbold, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife; Janne Kaje, Chase Barton, and Teresa Lewis, King County; Perry Falcone, Elissa Ostergaard, Beth leDoux, and Laura West, Forum Staff

## MEETING PROCEEDINGS

### I. Introductions, Updates and Announcements

Cindy Spiry, Forum Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35pm and led introductions.

**ACTION:** The Forum unanimously approved the meeting minutes from the March 21, 2018 Forum meeting.

**Client Satisfaction Survey:** Elissa Ostergaard, Snoqualmie Salmon Recovery Manager, summarized the results of the 2017 King County service provider survey. One comment that stood out to Elissa was “Recommend more regular/comprehensive updates on fish population(s), water quality/quantity and recovery plan status and trends; and importantly, practical translations on what is needed to achieve environmental targets, and what jurisdictions need to do to help get us there.” A majority of respondents support public outreach and communications and our current methods of communication have been appreciated. Elissa thanked those who filled out the survey.

**Hirst Decision and Senate Bill 6091:** Perry Falcone, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Project Coordinator, informed the Forum that in January 2018, the Washington State Legislature and Governor signed the Hirst Legislation, Bill 6091, as a result of a Supreme Court decision. Perry explained that the bill has had two major impacts. One, it changed the rules around building permits for developments that use private water supplies, specifically changing the fee and amount of water that can be taken. Two, the Department of Ecology was directed to create watershed restoration and enhancement committees, which will have some overlap with WRIA work, focused on water supply. WRIA 7 was listed as one of the WRIsAs that would be involved in these committees. Perry noted \$15 million per year over 20 years will be available

to implement the plans, which includes purchasing water rights and doing active restoration. Heather Khan, Department of Ecology, noted that the Water Resources Department at the Department of Ecology is leading this effort and will be hiring a few staff members, one of whom will be a WRIA 7 coordinator. Heather said it is likely the new Ecology staff will make the rounds to present on the process in September-October 2018.

2018 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Grant Proposals for the Snohomish Basin (WRIA 7): Beth leDoux, Snoqualmie Technical Coordinator, and Perry Falcone attended grant project site visits this week in the Snohomish Basin. This year, 17 project sponsors submitted notices of intent, and 10 submitted pre-proposals. The proposal requests total about \$5.7 million, which is double the amount of available funding. King County proposed nearly \$1 million for the design phase of the Hafner and Barfuse floodplain restoration projects in the Snoqualmie at Fall City reach, and the Tulalip Tribes submitted a proposal to the PSAR large capacity program for \$1.3 million for the Pilchuck Dam Removal, which would open up 30+ miles of salmon habitat. Beth is on the ranking committee and can answer any questions.

## **II. Lee Grumman Remembrance**

Elissa Ostergaard announced that Lee Grumman, former Forum Chair, passed away from lung cancer on April 4. Lee served on the Forum from 2014-2017 and was extremely active on the Carnation City Council. Forum members remembered Lee's kindness, leadership, authenticity, dedication, and clarity and how she served as an inspiration to many of them to get involved with community efforts. Elissa will reach out to Lee's partner and the City of Carnation to see how the Forum can contribute to her remembrance. There will be a life celebration for Lee at Carnation Farm on July 22.

## **III. Public Comment**

No public comment.

## **IV. Snoqualmie Basin 2018 Work Program – King County Flood Control District**

### **A. Snoqualmie Watershed Forum 10-year Capital Project List**

Perry Falcone introduced the 10 year Capital Project list, which focuses on the King County portion of WRIA 7. The project list is driven by the Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan and lays out what would be needed to reach the 2025 habitat goals for the Snoqualmie and SF Skykomish portions of WRIA 7, as well as make up for a few incomplete goals from 2005-2015. Perry outlined trend lines in Snoqualmie River Chinook escapement numbers, explaining that they are currently at 6% of the 50 year target of 25,000. Perry noted the Tulalip Tribes will provide a more in-depth presentation on fish numbers for the Forum in the fall. Perry walked through the progress made on each of the Snohomish 10-year habitat goals. We are approaching the nearshore and estuary goals in 2018, but are significantly behind in the mainstem edge and off-channel goals. We have achieved the mainstem riparian and large wood jam goals. To fully reach the goals, we need to implement more projects, which are limited by funding. Many projects provide both habitat and flood control benefits, and therefore can be funded by both habitat and flood control funding sources. Perry emphasized the need for collaboration with King County Flood Control District and the River and Floodplain Management group at King County Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) on projects that meet both flood hazard and habitat goals. The community is also supportive of these types of multi-objective projects.

## **B. King County Flood Control District – Snoqualmie Basin 2018 Work Program**

Perry introduced Chase Barton, Snoqualmie/South Fork Skykomish Supervising Engineer, and Teresa Lewis, Snoqualmie/South Fork Skykomish Basin Coordinator, from King County's River and Floodplain Management group. Chase updated the Forum on current and upcoming capital projects, capital investment strategies (CISs), and 2018 levee and revetment repairs.

Chase outlined the process that goes into corridor planning and capital investment strategies, starting with identifying existing conditions and tools, collecting input from stakeholders, and refining the strategy using the input. The Tolt and South Fork Snoqualmie plans are complete and projects are starting to be implemented. The Middle Fork Snoqualmie plan is underway, and there will be an opportunity for community input this summer. Chase overviewed the Tolt River Corridor, which has a lot of overlapping habitat and flood control areas. Chase listed out the near, medium, and long term actions planned for the system, and said there is an opportunity to accelerate projects if salmon money becomes available. Jim Ribail asked if Chase's team builds new levees or only repairs existing ones. Chase replied they don't normally install new levee systems and focus instead on repairing current ones that don't meet current standards or flood containment needs. Charles Kellogg asked if raising levees exacerbates flooding. Chase said it depends, and sometimes levee setbacks open up more room and increase flood protection without having to raise the levees. Chase then walked through the near and long term actions for the South Fork Snoqualmie.

Chase announced the levee and revetment repairs taking place in 2018 due to damaged facilities. One is on the lower mainstem at SE 19<sup>th</sup> Way, one is on the Raging River, three are on the Tolt River, and two are on the South Fork Snoqualmie River. Chase highlighted the Tolt Pipeline Protection Project: 1,200 feet of revetment that will be repaired to protect Seattle's water supply pipes on the mainstem Tolt River. Chase's team is currently designing a setback structure for the Shake Mill left bank levee, which will be constructed in 2019. Kathy Lambert asked about the impact on houses in the area and suggested connecting with the King County Roads team to identify bridges that have planned repairs.

Brian Bodenbach suggested looking upstream to identify the root of the problems we are addressing downstream. Brian thinks we are ripe for a major wildfire here, which could lead to increased flooding in the aftermath. Brian suggests looking at forest health as a component of flood control. Coniferous dominated forests in our region can evapotranspire a large portion of rainfall. Healthy forests help with both winter flooding and summer drought. Chase agrees that while his team only works in the floodplain, the whole watershed is connected and successful management requires communication with all relevant agencies. Trevor Kostanich asked how to encourage that type of high level land management collaboration and if there is anything the Forum can do to help. Noting the Forum's influence, Chase suggested reaching out to land managers and state agencies, communicating our interest in collaboration and staying up to date on the science. Peggy Shepard asked if there is a comparable forum that addresses forestry practices. Perry Falcone mentioned the King County Rural Forest Commission, which Kathy Lambert added is on the cutting edge of forest management. Chase noted that the state Department of Natural Resources is the leading agency for this work. Peggy mentioned the issue of deciduous tree leaves clogging stormwater drains, and how we lack a way to translate the value of trees into dollars on a page. Stewart Reinbold commented Campbell Global Tree Farm reached out to the County in discussions on the Griffin Creek project and is now part of the planning process. Stewart emphasized the importance of respect and understanding of goals when reaching out to an agency or authority.

Jim Ribail asked what type of property acquisitions Chase's team is looking for on the Tolt. Chase replied they are looking for flood risk properties in the footprint of a capital project. Henry Sladek asked

if Chase's team plans to create capital investment strategies for the North Fork Snoqualmie and South Fork Skykomish in the future. Chase replied that at this time they are not, and the three they have done were chosen because they have the highest concentration of facilities and development. Becky Chaney commented that for land to be considered designated forest land, it must be managed for timber harvest, not solely for environmental benefit. Cindy replied that there is a County public benefit rating system program with tax advantages, but it isn't comparable to a forest designation. Becky expressed concern that this creates incentives to manage timber with regular cuttings. Brian added that increased cutting results in increased runoff.

## **V. Approve 2018 Snoqualmie Project Assistance Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Grant**

Perry Falcone walked through the 2018 CWM Snoqualmie Project Assistance grant, which funds a portion of the Forum staff's time and serves to support the cost share that all of the jurisdictions pay into. The staff team is requesting \$120,000 this year with three main components: project assistance to implementers (helping identify new projects, assisting existing projects); project coordination activities (project work group, e-newsletters, annual project tour); and support to regional watershed management (Local Integration Organization, Snohomish Forum and subcommittees, technical papers). Perry explained this is one of the CWM grants the Forum will be asked to approve tonight, then it will go to the King County Flood Control District for final approval at the end of May. Henry Sladek commented that this grant narrative provides a helpful description of the Forum purpose.

*ACTION*: The Forum unanimously approved the 2018 CWM Snoqualmie Project Assistance grant.

## **VI. 2018 Cooperative Watershed Management Grants**

Beth leDoux outlined the Snoqualmie Project Review Committee's funding recommendations for the 2018 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant round. Beth noted that a number of project proposals were located on tributaries this year. CWM funding comes from the King County Flood Control District (KCFCD), which provides \$4.52 million combined to the King County portion of WRIAs 7, 8, 9, and 10. In 2018, WRIA 7 was allocated \$897,324 and we have some returned funds from 2017, bringing our total to \$898,790. Of that, \$120,000 will go towards the CWM Snoqualmie Project Assistance grant that Perry shared, and \$60,000 will go to the Tulalip screw trap project, which the Forum voted on two years ago. In total, 12 project sponsors submitted 18 proposals, totaling \$1,128,909 and resulting in a shortfall of \$230,119. The Project Review Committee read the pre-applications, applications, and attended presentations on the project proposals. The Committee then met to determine funding recommendations. Beth thanked the Committee for their time. If the Forum approves the recommendation, it will then go to KCFCD for final approval this summer, with funds available in the fall. Beth overviewed the ranking criteria for projects, which emphasizes the benefit to salmon and watershed health as well as certainty of success. Beth presented the individual grant proposals, which are listed in Attachment A.

Forum members had the following comments during Beth's presentation: for Preston Mill Buffer Restoration, Kathy Lambert asked about recreation use on the buffers. Beth replied that she thinks Mountains to Sound will work with King County Parks to keep passive recreation on the site. For Tolt MacDonald Park Floodplain Restoration, Kathy Lambert asked what types of trees would be planted and expressed concern over allergies caused by cottonwoods. Cindy Spiry replied Cedars and Douglas firs would be planted, not cottonwoods. For McCormick Park- Snoqualmie River Habitat Restoration, Kathy

Lambert asked about recreation use in this area and expressed concern over injuries. Beth replied Duvall would make sure that is part of their planning process.

Beth explained there are two projects we are unable to recommend funding this year: Phase 5 of Meadowbrook Slough and Stillwater Natural Area. The Committee discussed ways to fund variations of these projects in the future with the project sponsors. Beth noted that the 2018 funding recommendation split between the Capital/Watershed Coordination/Monitoring/Education categories is a little skewed from the Forum's guidelines, but emphasized that from 2012-2018, the split averages very closely to the goals.

Brian Bodenbach commented that he has a lot of experience with knotweed and suggested it is helpful in erosion control. Brian questioned whether \$197,500 of the 2018 available funding (26%) should go to Knotweed, or if some of that funding could be directed to different types of restoration in other areas of the watershed, to diversify restoration efforts. Cindy Spiry stated that she started her career in restoration work and in her experience, knotweed is a huge problem that needs controlling. Cindy doesn't recommend cutting it due to its ability to re-root and disagrees that it provides bank erosion control. Matt Baerwalde added that Knotweed roots are pretty shallow. Brian replied to Cindy's statement and said if knotweed is cut in July, it will dry up before it can re-root. Elissa Ostergaard commented that she recently attended a noxious weed training and learned that knotweed seems like it would provide good erosion control but the roots are brittle and can easily break off and re-sprout. Beth added that we try to partner invasive control with replanting.

**ACTION:** The Forum unanimously approved the 2018 Snoqualmie CWM grant recommendations as put forth by the Project Review Committee.

## **VII. Forum Business – 2019 Budget**

Elissa Ostergaard outlined the 2019 draft budget and cost shares for informational purposes. The Forum will be asked to approve the budget at the July 2018 meeting. The budget covers 2.7 FTEs. The King County IT services fee and overhead numbers aren't finalized and Elissa noted that she used a 3.5% increase as a placeholder for overhead costs. Elissa explained that the cost share allocations are based on land area, population, and assessed value, the numbers for which are updated every 3 years. Charles Kellogg asked how the cities and tribes decide how much they can pay. Elissa explained that the cities only pay 10% of the actual cost, because the jurisdictions in WRIA 7 have a much higher land area and a much lower population than the jurisdictions in WRIs 8 and 9, and paying the full cost wouldn't be possible. The Forum used to be entirely grant funded, but in 2012 the cities agreed to pay 10% of the cost, after comparing contributions from jurisdictions county-wide. Both Tribes pay an equal amount that goes up by the same percentage as the cities on an annual basis. Kathy Lambert inquired about the funding from the Brightwater Education Mitigation Account, which was supposed to fund educational projects, and was arranged about 8 years ago. The staff team was unaware of this arrangement and will look into it.

## **VIII. Closing**

Cindy Spiry thanked everyone for coming.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, July 18, 2018, Meadowbrook Farm Interpretive Center, 6:30-8:30p.m.  
Preceded by a watershed tour from 4:00-6:00p.m.

Attachment A:

	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Subbasin</b>	<b>Match Funds</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>PRC Recommendation</b>
1	High	2018 Snoqualmie Project Assistance	Forum/Cities	Basin Wide		\$120,000	\$120,000
2	High	Tulalip Tribes Snoqualmie Juvenile Screw Trap	Tulalip Tribes	Mainstem - Snoqualmie	\$33,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
3	High	Tolt San Souci - Construction	King County WLRD	Mainstem - Tolt	\$290,732	\$200,000	\$200,000
4	High	Preston Mill Buffer Restoration	Mountains To Sound Greenway Trust	Mainstem - Raging	\$28,500	\$53,384	\$53,384
5	High	Tolt Watson	Sound Salmon Solutions	Mainstem - Tolt	\$3,500	\$28,890	\$28,890
6	High	Bernard Memorial Park Restoration	Mountains To Sound Greenway Trust	Mainstem - Snoqualmie		\$22,876	\$22,876
7	High	Tolt River Survey	Sound Salmon Solutions	Mainstem - Tolt	\$8,800	\$58,650	\$58,650
8	Med-High	Oxbow Knotweed Restoration	Oxbow Farm	Mainstem - Snoqualmie	\$34,513	\$33,704	\$33,704
9	Med-High	Snoqualmie River Fish Screening	Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District	Mainstem - Snoqualmie	\$30,365	\$48,106	\$48,106
10	Med-High	Snoqualmie Valley Salmon Awareness	Sound Salmon Solutions	Basin Wide	\$10,092	\$15,881	\$15,881
11	Med-High	Youth Watershed Education, Stewardship, and Citizen Science	NatureVision	Basin Wide	\$5,945	\$33,545	\$33,545
12	Med-High	Tolt MacDonald Park Floodplain Restoration	Snoqualmie Tribe	Mainstem Snoqualmie	\$51,876	\$59,947	\$59,947
13	Medium	Ames Creek Watershed Restoration, Maintenance and Connectivity Project	Stewardship Partners	Rural Stream Primary	\$10,000	\$53,911	\$53,911
14	Medium	Snoqualmie River Juvenile Yearling Chinook Habitat Use and Distribution	King County WLRD	Mainstem - Snoqualmie		\$64,697	\$64,697
15	Medium	Upper Snoqualmie River Floodplain Restoration and Stewardship	King County Noxious Weed Program	Above the Falls	\$55,000	\$110,000	\$15,200
16	Medium	McCormick Park - Snoqualmie River Habitat Restoration -	City of Duvall	Mainstem - Snoqualmie	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
17	Low	Meadowbrook Slough Phase 5	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	Above the Falls	\$21,000	\$66,625	
18	Low	Stillwater Natural Area	Sound Salmon Solutions	Mainstem - Snoqualmie	\$12,450	\$68,694	
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$600,773</b>	<b>\$1,128,910</b>	<b>\$898,791</b>