

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
March 21, 2007
Meeting 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Mt. Si Senior Center, North Bend

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Paulsen	City of Carnation Councilmember
Charles Peterson	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember
Heather Page	City of Duvall Councilmember
Ross Loudenback	City of North Bend Councilmember
Gary Roberts	Citizen Representative
Bill Knutsen	Citizen Representative
William Harper	Citizen Representative

MEETING PROCEEDINGS:

Welcome and Announcements

- The January 17, 2007 meeting summary was approved by the Forum with one change. On page 2, the reference to “The City of North Bend is adding new tax parcels daily through development,” should reference “The City of Snoqualmie.”

Announcements and General Housekeeping

- Yvette Lizée-Smith unveiled the new Snoqualmie Watershed Forum brochure and copies were distributed to the Forum’s member jurisdictions.
- Yvette Lizée-Smith announced that the Snoqualmie Summit will be held on April 18, 2007 at Camp River Ranch. The event is intended to bring together groups and member jurisdictions involved in the Snoqualmie Valley to share information, identify coordination opportunities and begin developing action strategies.
- Forum staff organized two project tours. In February, a tour visited Victor Woodward’s Snohomish Basin Wetland Mitigation Bank near Duvall. On March 12th, a tour visited two Flood Fencing projects on the Skykomish River to see how they benefited fish and farmers.
- The Forum-approved Nature Vision School Education Program has received 20 requests from area schools. The first sessions will begin the week of March 19th. **Forum members requested a list of schools that enrolled in the program.**
- King County Council is considering an ordinance to form a new countywide flood control zone district. Based on input from jurisdictions, the county is proposing to form an Advisory Committee comprising 15 elected officials and Basin Technical Committees comprising key staff from each affected jurisdiction. **Forum members requested a list of advisory committee membership.**

- King County will be holding a public meeting for the Tolt River Levee Setback project on April 5th from 6:30 – 9:00 pm at the Carnation Elementary School.
- The Forum currently has a meeting on November 21, 2007 (the day before Thanksgiving). **The Forum agreed to move the meeting date to November 14, 2007 to ensure adequate attendance.**

King County Shoreline Master Program Update

Sally Abella, King County, presented King County's inventory of existing shoreline conditions. This information will be used to create the shoreline designations and King County's Shoreline Master Program regulations update.

- King County has coordinated with Snoqualmie Valley jurisdictions since 2006 and provided access to the Sharepoint website to share technical information. As defined by the Shoreline Management Act, the Plan must address streams and rivers with mean annual flows greater than 20 cubic feet per second (cfs) and lakes greater than 20 acres. The County's effort covers roughly 2000 miles of unincorporated County aquatic shoreline.
- The County's shoreline characterization model was run for the entire Snoqualmie Valley, including the small cities, upon the request of city staff. The shoreline characterization was performed by a computer model that used GIS information related to ten natural processes (e.g. land cover, agriculture land use, historic wetland loss, impervious surface, river bank armoring, dock structures). Zoning, land use, public access and cultural resources will also be considered in the designation process. A cumulative impacts analysis to show no-net loss of functions will be performed as a next step.
- Ross Loudonback asked what would happen if there were a net loss of shoreline resources shown by the cumulative impacts model. Sally Abella commented that the County would need to modify proposed regulations to address net loss, if that occurred. King County is watching the success of the Whatcom and Snohomish Counties update proposals, since they are further along in the process.
- Heather Page asked if the cities are required to use this computer model. Sally Abella responded that the tool is available to the cities but is not a requirement. Each jurisdiction is responsible for its own analysis and plan, but use of the County's model could reduce costs of plan development for local jurisdictions.
- Gary Roberts asked if the cities will be required to have a no net-loss policy and if seasonal wetlands or intermittent streams are included in the analysis. Sally Abella responded that the cities are required to have a no net-loss policy. She added that while some wetlands are included if they are adjacent to a shoreline of the state, intermittent streams are not covered under the update, since they are generally less than 20 cfs in mean annual flow. There is a requirement to include 100 year floodplains. The regulated area along shorelines is generally 200 foot in width.
- William Harper asked if the County considered lowering the stream cfs or lake acreage required for inclusion under the SMP. Sally Abella commented that the County did not do this. Under the State guidelines, a jurisdiction could make the regulations more strict, but not less strict.

- Bill Knutsen asked if there would be a glossary of terms added to the document. In a follow up note Sally advised that there is a glossary appended to the technical Appendix of the Shoreline Master Program. It is also available on-line on the County's shorelines website.

King Conservation District (KCD)

- Perry Falcone provided an update on current Snoqualmie Watershed KCD grants. The City of Duvall has requested that the 2004 Coe Clemmons Creek Restoration grant be revised to include a sediment assessment of the creek just upstream of the original project site. King County requested that the 2005 Snoqualmie Juvenile Fish Surveys grant receive a two-year time extension. The project has been delayed by contracting and permitting issues, but will commence in 2008. **The Forum approved these KCD grant amendments.**
- Perry Falcone provided a list of 2007 KCD grant proposals. After the Project Review Committee reviews these grants, the Forum will evaluate the grants at the May 16, 2007 meeting.
- The 2007 KCD Opportunity Fund is in progress. The application deadline was April 10, 2007. The KCD Board of Supervisors released criteria for the Opportunity Fund. The fund will be limited to \$20,000 grant awards, landowners will be eligible along with government units and nonprofit organizations, and the focus will be small-scale restoration and education in tributary and headwaters areas of the Snoqualmie Watershed. Perry Falcone commented that generally the approach was supported by staff and project partners with the exception of the \$20,000 limit – which some felt might be too low for certain types of projects (e.g. culvert removals). We will be able to assess this better once we have completed this initial “pilot” round.

Results of the 10-year Floodplain Mapping Project

- Janne Kaje presented the results of the Lower Snoqualmie River floodplain mapping project that the Forum had allocated funding to in 2006. The computer model produced predictions of flood inundation depths during a 10-year event for fifteen-foot by fifteen-foot areas throughout the study area. The analysis extends from Snoqualmie Falls downstream to the County line. High-resolution aerial photos were used to generate the topographic layer and a hydraulic model developed the flood depth.
- Janne Kaje commented that the flood mapping may help identify future habitat restoration projects (particularly for off-channel habitat reconnection projects) as well as problem flooding areas for landowners and sites that are between the 100-year and 10-year flood events, i.e., areas that are ‘dry’ during a 10-year event.
- William Harper commented that this might be useful to alert landowners in certain sub-basins.

Selection of Vice Chair

- Bill Paulsen announced that the three Forum members had been nominated for the Vice-chair position (Charles Peterson, Ross Loudonback and Heather Page). Charles Peterson and Ross Loudonback declined the nomination and gave their endorsement to Heather Page. **The Forum members unanimously voted for Heather Page to be the Forum's Vice-chair.**

Emerging Issues – Proposed 2007 Topics

Janne Kaje presented his role in identifying and researching emerging issues in the Snoqualmie Watershed. Janne prepared a draft list of emerging policy and technical watershed issues. He also provided sample “brief descriptions” for three issues areas. The Forum was asked to prioritize the emerging issues to help identify the initial 3-4 topics to focus on and potentially develop substantive “white papers” level reports around. Work has already begun on a watershed-wide water quality synthesis report.

- The Forum members highest priorities included alluvial fans, steelhead and coho potential listings, flooding and environmental protections, environmental impact mitigation and water quality. **The Forum asked Janne to move forward on these topics.**
- Individual Forum members were also interested in the WRIA 7 Plan update, critter pads and flood response (this would be added to the flooding issue above), wildlife habitat, and Shoreline Master Program updates. Forum members suggested new topics such as gravel removal from rivers and collaboration with State agencies.
- The Forum members suggested that the lowest priorities on the preliminary list were ground water, stormwater regulations and low impact development issues.
- William Harper suggested that a 1 to 2 page approach per topic would be valuable.

Public Comment

- Ward Norden shared his perspective on the likely listing of steelhead under the Endangered Species Act. He commented that the Snoqualmie Basin is populated primarily by steelhead stocks originating in Wallace and Chambers Creek hatcheries. He also stated that he disagrees with WDFW’s assertion that summer-stock steelhead are still in the Snoqualmie system.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held on May 16, 2007 at the Carnation City Hall in Carnation.