

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
January 16, 2008
Meeting 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Snoqualmie Tribal Offices – Snoqualmie, WA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bill Knutsen | Citizen Representative |
| Elizabeth Walker | City of Duvall Councilmember |
| Mike Flowers | City of Carnation Councilmember |
| Charles Peterson | City of Snoqualmie Councilmember |
| Gary Roberts | Citizen Representative |

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Introductions and Minutes

- Interim Forum Chair, Councilmember Charles Peterson, welcomed Mayor Mike Flowers as the City of Carnation’s new representative on the Forum (replacing Bill Paulsen).
- The Forum approved the meeting summary for the November 14, 2007 meeting.

Announcements

- The Snoqualmie Forum staff will be providing briefings on the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum to the local city and tribal councils in early 2008. The presentations will give an overview of the Forum membership, mandate, activities, and services and seek input on local priorities, including how we can best assist member jurisdictions.
- The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum hosted a Multiple Watershed Assembly with WRIAs 8 and 9 on December 12, 9:30am-3:30pm at the Cedar Watershed Education Center near North Bend. The event was well attended (with almost 90 people in attendance) and stimulated a lot of good discussion on needs and areas for collaboration.
- The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) will be holding the first meeting of the Whidbey Action Area on January 30 in La Conner. Yvette Lizée-Smith, Watershed Coordinator, asked the Forum to identify a Forum member to attend the event. While PSP would like to invite all agencies and jurisdictions to the January 30 meeting, they must limit the number of participants due to space constraints.

Decision:

- Bill Knutsen offered to represent the Forum at the Whidbey Action Area meeting as he will be attending on behalf of the King Conservation District. The Forum approved Bill Knutsen to represent the Forum.

Action:

- Forum members asked to see the list of cities that PSP is contacting. Forum members were also interested in a more in depth presentation on the PSP.
- Yvette introduced Mary Maier as King County's new Watershed Steward for the Snoqualmie Watershed. Mary is replacing Kirk Anderson, who left the position in April 2007. The Watershed Steward is responsible for coordinating the prioritization, funding and implementation of restoration and acquisition projects in unincorporated King County. She will also work with landowners and community organizations to facilitate and foster good stewardship of natural resources.

Snoqualmie Juvenile Salmon Screw Trap – presentation by Kurt Nelson

Kurt Nelson, a biologist with the Tulalip Tribes, provided a presentation about the Snoqualmie Juvenile Salmon Screw Trap Monitoring Program. The Tulalip Tribes have operated the trap on the Snoqualmie River at river mile 12 (between Carnation and Duvall) since 2001. They also operate a trap on the Skykomish River at river mile 23. The trapping program helps to inform harvest management decisions, and to improve the understanding and management of salmon hatchery and habitat actions. The juvenile monitoring trap provides baseline information that is important for salmon recovery planning because it compliments the adult spawning data, creating a fuller picture of salmon production in the watershed. Some important facts about the trap include:

- The trap is a rotary screw trap approximately 8 feet in diameter and sited on private land. A key element in selecting a trapping site is the water velocity and flow pattern during different levels of discharge. The Snoqualmie site is not optimal during lower flows due to low velocity, but conditions are good enough to provide good data. The trap is operated from February to June each year (50-60/hrs/week and 5 nights/week). The trap collects juvenile fish without harming them. Field staff then collect data on salmonid species, size, origin (hatchery vs. wild), as well as environmental conditions, such as turbidity, debris, weather, and river flow. The trap also performs "mark and recapture" studies using hatchery fish that are marked, released upstream and captured at the trap. The rate of recapture helps to calculate how efficient the trap is at catching fish. Ninety five percent of the trapped fish are caught at night.
- Data from 2001 to 2007 suggest that the annual average juvenile coho production in the Snoqualmie is approximately 500,000 fish while the entire Snohomish Basin's (Snoqualmie and Skykomish watersheds) annual average juvenile coho production is between 1 to 2 million fish. The data suggests that the annual average juvenile Chinook production in Snoqualmie is approximately 165,000 fish. Chinook tend to have an extended migration period from March through May, whereas coho salmon have a distinct peak migration in late

April and early May. The November 2006 floods seem to have had an adverse effect on juvenile Chinook production based on the number of juveniles trapped the following spring. The effects on other species were less definitive, but trapping this spring should shed light on the matter as coho tend to migrate out as yearlings (i.e., this year's migrants were spawned during Fall 2006). The trap is more effective at catching smaller fish like most Chinook that migrate as fry in their first year, but is less effective at catching larger fish like yearling coho, Chinook and Steelhead trout.

- The trap costs approximately \$100,000/year to operate at the Snoqualmie location. The trap has been funded by a variety tribal, federal and local funding sources including funding from King County and the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum. Recently the trap's operations have been scaled back due to a lack of funding. Kurt expressed an interest in additional funding. Staff suggested that the trap could apply for a King Conservation District (KCD) grant through the Forum in 2008.

Forum Outreach and Education Strategy

- Yvette Lizée-Smith provided a brief presentation on the Forum mandate and 2008 work program priorities. This presentation will be similar to that provided in upcoming Council briefings.
- As part of the presentation, Yvette also reviewed the Forum's Draft 2008 Education and Outreach Strategy. The goal of the strategy is to gain watershed-wide support for salmon conservation and for protecting watershed health through public education and outreach. The Strategy included three main objectives related to the Forum's work: (1) outreach and education to build ecological understanding and stewardship (2) communication and promotion of opportunities and successes, and (3) building capacity and support through strengthened partnerships.

Decision:

- The Forum approved the 2008 Education and Outreach Strategy.

Update on Emerging Issues

Janne Kaje, Forum staff, provided an update on Snoqualmie Watershed Emerging Issues. Janne reviewed the list of issues generated by the Forum in March 2007. The current status is:

- Snoqualmie watershed water quality synthesis report: near completion
- Alluvial fans impacts to tributary floodplain properties: Multi-stakeholder workgroup established. Consultant-prepared technical report finalized. Janne will send a link to the final report to all Forum members and staff. Further effort on the alluvial fan issue is planned in collaboration with KCD during 2008.
- Steelhead Endangered Species Act listing: Steelhead listed under ESA in May 2007. Through participation in WRIA 7 Technical Committee, steelhead "State of the Knowledge" report completed in January 2008 by R2 Resource Consultants.

- Critter pads (aka “farm pads”) and flood response: Significant policy initiative and pilot program underway by King County Agriculture Commission and King County Agriculture Program. Update to Forum provided in September 2007.
- Flooding and environmental protection: King County Hazardous Waste group currently conducting study that focuses on the Snoqualmie watershed. Mid-project update provided to Forum in September 2007.
- Environmental impact mitigation in Snoqualmie jurisdictions: Initial review of regulations completed. Field visit to Snoqualmie valley mitigation bank site in Spring 2007.
- WRIA 7 Salmon Plan implementation update and action priorities: Periodic updates provided to Forum regarding project implementation and policy developments (e.g., Puget Sound Partnership). Broader update presentation scheduled for Spring 2008.

2008 KCD Grant Rounds

- Perry Falcone, Forum staff, provided an overview of the 2008 Snoqualmie Watershed Forum KCD grant program. There are two rounds of KCD funding in 2008: the Regular KCD Round (focusing on predominantly larger capital projects with an emphasis on the 2005 *Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan*) and the Opportunity Fund (focusing on smaller-scale projects and landowner assistance with an emphasis on broader watershed health issues).
- Draft applications are due February 20th for the Opportunity Fund and March 7th for the Regular KCD Round. The Forum will review all KCD grants at the May 21 Forum meeting.
- Perry also presented the 2008 Areas of Focus for the Regular KCD Grant Round.

Decision:

- The Forum approved the 2008 KCD Grants Timeline and Review Process and the 2008 KCD Grant Areas of Focus.
- Perry presented a proposal for conservation priorities to guide the selection of Opportunity Fund grant projects. The priorities would be used by the Project Review Committee to further prioritize opportunity fund grant proposals that are submitted to the Forum. The priorities included: a focus on important steelhead, coho and resident trout habitat; a focus on streams identified for water quality improvements; and a focus on important aquatic biodiversity conservation (e.g. rare species or habitat types).

Action:

- Forum members requested: (a) the list of projects funded by the Opportunity Fund in 2007, (b) feedback from the Project Review Committee on the conservation priorities, and (c) redistribution of the draft conservation priorities to the Forum via email -- once they had been vetted through the review committee.

2008 Forum Meeting Schedule and Elections

- Yvette provided the Forum with the 2008 meeting schedule. She suggested that the May 21st meeting begin at 6:30pm (as opposed to 7:00) so the forum would have enough time to review

the KCD project submissions and make allocation recommendations. Sandwiches would be served at that meeting to accommodate the early start.

- Yvette mentioned that a draft Forum contact list had been included in the meeting packages. Some errors had since been identified in the contact information, so Forum staff would be following up via email to ensure everyone's information was correct and up to date.
- The Forum also discussed the election of a Chair and Vice-Chair. Since some members were not in attendance and other members were new to the Forum in 2008, the Forum decided to defer the election until March 19. Charles Peterson and Elizabeth Walker will continue to serve as interim Chair and interim Vice-Chair for the next meeting.

Decisions:

- The Forum approved the 2008 Meeting Schedule with the proposed adjustment of a 6:30pm start on May 21.

Public comment

- No public comment.
- Bill Knutsen provided an update on KCD activities. The next KCD Board of Supervisor's election will be held on March 18th at 10 locations across the district. The KCD has also posted the Executive Director position and will hopefully have it filled by May 2008. The KCD is working on several other efforts including: Alluvial Fan solutions (\$75,000 allocated); a YouTube video on KCD activities; and organization of an Ames Creek Basin landowner meeting. In addition, Bill reminded the Forum that the KCD assessment will expire in 2009 so there will be work needed to secure a new assessment.

Next Meeting

March 19, 2008 (7-9 PM) at the Duvall Church in Duvall.