

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
November 14, 2007
Meeting 6:45-9:00 p.m.
Preston Community Center - Preston, WA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Harper	Citizen Representative
Elizabeth Walker	City of Duvall Councilmember
Bill Paulsen	City of Carnation Councilmember
Charles Peterson	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember
Gary Roberts	Citizen Representative

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Introductions and Minutes

- The City of Duvall has appointed Councilmember Elizabeth Walker as its representative to the Forum. Ms. Walker formerly served on the City's Planning Commission. She is an urban forester and arborist by profession.
- The Snoqualmie Indian Tribe has appointed Councilmember Pat Barker as its representative to the Forum. He was unable to attend this first meeting.
- The Forum approved the meeting summary for the September 19, 2007 meeting.

Announcements

- King County will provide a briefing to Snoqualmie Valley jurisdiction staff on the Shoreline Master Plan update process [briefing took place on November 29].
- The 'Cross WRIA Watershed Assembly' will be held on December 12 from 9:30-3:30 at the Cedar River Watershed Education Center. The topics and themes for the event are being developed by a collaborative planning team. The emphasis of the event will be on sharing successes, commonalities and challenges across watersheds, and to celebrate accomplishments to date. David Dicks, the executive director of the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), will attend the assembly, as will other members of the PSP Ecosystem Coordination Board.
- The Watershed Festival organized by Nature Vision and Camp River Ranch with support from the Forum was reportedly a great success. Available slots for participants filled up within one or two days. In all, the school-focused festival day drew over 480 participants, while the Girl Scouts event drew over 350 participants.

- The Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force delivered an extended educational program to 7th grade students at Tolt Middle School. The session culminated in the planting of 700 trees by 100 students at McCormick Park.
- On November 13 the Countywide Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors voted to fund the District through a levy of 10 cents per \$1000 in assessed property value. The District will begin its 10-year capital program in 2008. The Board also established a sub-regional fund of 10% of revenue to address flooding in local tributaries, rather than in mainstem rivers or large tributaries. More details about this topic can be found in the handout provided at the meeting.

Raging River Levee Removal – presentation by John Bethel

- John Bethel, a geologist with King County's Capital Projects group, provided a presentation about the Raging River levee removal project which is located a short distance away from the Preston Community Center. The presentation included a discussion of the river's historical condition as observed in aerial photographs, the impacts of the original levee construction on the river channel, the phasing of the project itself, and the short-term results one year after project completion.
- Historically, the river was very dynamic through this reach, with several different channel alignments shown in a series of aerial photos taken between the 1930s and 1960s, prior to levee construction. The levee was constructed in the 1960s to protect the property of a single land-owner. The levee pinched the river channel into a fixed alignment and much narrower channel. It was not constructed to protect the Preston-Fall City Road.
- The main elements of the project were levee removal, protection for the toe of the slope (to protect the road), invasive plant removal (Japanese knotweed, ivy and blackberry) and replanting. Some of the planting is being performed by Washington Conservation Crews. Invasive plants are not likely to be eradicated from the site due to upstream sources, but active management of invasives should provide native plants a better opportunity to take hold.
- The November 2006 flood occurred soon after project completion. The event has been calculated to have been of approximately a 17-year recurrence magnitude, i.e., each year there is roughly a 1 in 6 chance that this type of event could occur. The flood produced dramatic changes at the site, creating new side-channels, accumulating large wood jams and re-sorting sediment at the site. Landowners on the opposite bank noted that the project appeared to have taken pressure away from their bank which is a very actively eroding one.
- The flood also created major landslides upstream. These slides were likely a source of much of the sediment that accumulated at the project site. Based on aerial photos, slope failures are historically common in the Raging River.
- John described the 10-year monitoring plan for the project which is already underway. The first post-project monitoring aerial photos were taken in January 2007, when suitable weather first became available for these low-altitude fly-overs. The Forum supported this effort financially. The photos are very high-resolution, providing 2-ft. contours of the project site.

- A very large wood jam has formed at the site. Also, in Fall 2007, at least 10 Chinook and 2 Chinook redds were observed in the newly formed side channel. Coho are known to use the site extensively, both during spawning and as juveniles.
- The project probably does not provide a great deal of flood benefit to areas downstream as the amount of flood storage provided is small relative to flood flows.
- The total project cost was approximately \$700,000.

King Conservation District (KCD) Opportunity Fund

Perry Falcone provided a recap of the 2007 Opportunity Fund and an update on his discussions with KCD regarding the continuation and potential modification of this program in 2008.

- Perry described the number and types of projects that were carried out in 2007. Since we did not receive a large number of eligible applications, all projects that met criteria and prepared a sufficient application were funded in 2007.
- Administration of the Fund process was fairly labor-intensive for staff, primarily due to the differences in working with landowners rather than non-profits, tribes, cities or other experienced grant-seeking organizations. But, staff's perspective is that the program was a success and should be continued.
- KCD is very interested in seeing the program continued, with increased emphasis on working with landowners.
- An important product of the process was the development of a technical assistance referral list that will make future grant rounds more streamlined.
- Primary changes to be considered for 2008:
 - Is the current \$20,000 cap on individual projects too low? It does not appear to be enough for most fish passage projects or major riparian projects. For these types of work, the limit creates a de facto match requirement, which was not the original intent of the fund.
 - Should criteria be revised to provide better guidance to applicants and to the grant evaluation committee?
- Perry described the possibility of holding a workshop early in the grant cycle for potential applicants to provide guidance on the process and to connect them with technical assistance at an early phase.
- Decisions:
 - Forum supports continuation of the program at the \$100,000 level to be matched dollar for dollar by KCD (for a total program size of \$200,000 as in 2007)
 - Forum supports raising the per-project cap to \$30,000.
- The Forum also generally supports the program goals, but will review a future staff proposal for improving program criteria. These changes should be finalized before the January 2008 Forum meeting, and may require a conference call before that date for discussion.

- Actions:
 - Perry agreed to provide information on the costs of mailing grant announcements in 2007, and how that cost would change if we choose to distribute more widely in 2008. KCD covered the costs of mailing in 2007.
 - Elizabeth Walker (new member) requested a list of the projects funded in 2007. Perry agreed to send her the final grant applications for each project that was funded.

Snoqualmie Forum 2007 Accomplishments

Yvette Lizée-Smith provided a review of the Forum's accomplishments for 2007 [see hand out] and summarized some upcoming initiatives. Accomplishments were summarized in four different activity areas: Habitat Restoration and Protection, Coordination & Capacity Building, Technical & Policy, and Promotion & Outreach.

- As a year-end initiative, each Forum jurisdiction will receive approximately 2 days of support from a King County ecologist or other expert to help identify and scope potential habitat projects for submission to KCD or other grant funds in 2008.
- An integrated analysis of several major habitat projects is under way for the reach of the Snoqualmie extending from Stillwater Wildlife Area to the lower Tolt River. The intent of this project is to evaluate the sequencing of several capital projects and to gain a better understanding of their likely cumulative effects. The projects include the Lower Tolt levee setback project, Camp Gilead habitat reconnection project (located on King County property at the north end of Tolt-MacDonald park), Chinook Bend levee removal, and a suite of potential projects in the Stillwater Wildlife Area.
- Gary Roberts requested a more detailed evaluation of the Monroe Corrections pilot project. Specifically, he is interested in how the arrangement was perceived by inmates and/or corrections personnel. Tentatively, we plan to invite the project sponsors to present their results at the March 2008 Forum meeting.

2008 Forum Membership and Meeting Schedule

- Duvall and Snoqualmie Tribe have filled their vacancies (see above).
- Bill Paulsen reported that Carnation will not assign their representative until January. One potential candidate is Mike Flowers, who also represents the City on the Flood Control Zone District's Snoqualmie Basin Technical Committee.
- Bill Paulsen (outgoing Chair) asked Charles Peterson to serve as interim Chair during the transition. Elections for the new Chair and Vice Chair will be scheduled for the March 2008 meeting to allow new members to be confirmed and oriented.
- Decisions:
 - Motion to elect Charles Peterson as interim Chair until March 2008 – approved.
 - Motion to elect Elizabeth Walker as interim vice-chair until March 2008 – approved.

- The Forum tentatively approved the 2008 meeting schedule which would maintain the current timetable (6 meetings held on the 3rd Wednesday of odd-numbered months). The forum will re-review and finalize its decision on the schedule when new members are present at the January 16 meeting.

Public comment

- No public comment.
- Prior to closing, Charles Petersen expressed thanks to outgoing Chair, Bill Paulsen, for his leadership over the past 2 years. Bill was given a framed Snoqualmie Watershed poster signed by Forum members. Staff will arrange to have the poster signed by members not present at this meeting.

Next Meeting

January 16, 2008 (7-9 PM) at the Snoqualmie Tribe office in Snoqualmie.