

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
May 20, 2009
Meeting 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Meadowbrook Interpretive Center, North Bend, WA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles Peterson	City of Snoqualmie, Councilmember
Elizabeth Walker	City of Duvall Councilmember
Lee Grumman	City of Carnation Councilmember
Ross Loudenback	City of North Bend Councilmember
Cindy Spiry	Snoqualmie Indian Tribe alternate representative
Gary Roberts	Citizen Representative

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Introductions and Minutes

- The Forum approved the March 18, 2009 meeting summary.

Announcements

Perry provided the following announcements:

- Perry thanked Monica Walker for serving as Acting Snoqualmie Project Coordinator while he backfilled the Watershed Coordinator position. Yvette and Perry are now back in their home positions. Monica will return to her previous job with King County Noxious Weeds.
- The King County Flood Control District (FCD) undertook a project reprioritization process as a result of the January 2009 flood event. Perry presented the draft reprioritized list (see handout). About one third of the projects on the list overlap with the Salmon Plan. Perry stressed that the list is still draft and may change before it is approved by the FCD Board.
Action: Staff will email the final 2010 FCD capital project list once approved.
- Among the funding updates Perry advised that: **a)** Snohomish Basin will receive about \$2,260,000 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Recovery (PSAR) funds under 2009-2011 state biennial budget. **b)** The basin expects about \$565,770 in Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) funding in this 2009 round. **c)** Snohomish County will likely receive additional funding for the Smith Island Estuary project from the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) – though the amount is not yet known. Perry noted that a large portion of these funds would likely go to estuary projects this round as they are nearing construction and the Snoqualmie received the lion's share of basin funding in the last three years.

- The Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) is requiring that the cities of Carnation, Duvall and North Bend complete Shoreline Master Program (SMP) updates by December 2011. The City of Snoqualmie has nearly completed their SMP update. DOE will be providing grant funding to each city to complete the update. The cities of Duvall and Carnation have been offered \$75,000 each and the City of North Bend has been offered \$50,000. There is still a possibility that there may be some collaboration across jurisdictions. The cities have requested a meeting/workshop with DOE on how to implement the update.
[NOTE – Following the May 20th Forum meeting DOE informed North Bend that they would receive a \$75,000 grant as well.]

Yvette provided an update on King County’s new code related to restoration in the APD.

- In Fall 2008, King County Council approved changes to King County Code 21A.24 (see handout). The new code was intended to mirror Policy R-648 of the King County Comprehensive Plan. It delineates the process and conditions by which DDES will approve permits for restoration projects in the Agricultural Production Districts (APD).
- All aquatic habitat projects on APD lands that require clearing and grading permits are now subject to the requirements in the code for evaluation of effects on agriculture. This includes both county and non-county restoration projects. The new code only affects projects that require clearing and grading permits so it should not affect planting projects unless they involve “ground moving”.
- King County’s Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) and Department of Development and Environment Services (DDES) are developing a Public Rule for evaluating projects and implementing the code. The Public Rule should be released for public comment in the next 1-2 months.
- Staff will notify Forum members and partners when the Public Rule is released for comment.

Update on King Conservation District (KCD) Assessment Reauthorization

Jeffrey Possinger (KCD Executive Director) gave an update on the 2010 KCD Assessment Reauthorization process and timeline.

- KCD must submit its assessment reauthorization proposal to King County Council by August 1, 2009. They are holding 6 public meetings over the next few weeks to seek input on the proposal. So far KCD has held two public meetings. The remaining 4 meetings are scheduled on May 21 (Kent), May 27 (Seattle), May 28 (Carnation) and June 2 (Issaquah).
- KCD does not anticipate a big change in its assessment proposal in 2010. They would like some flexibility to adjust the content in out-years to ensure their operating budget is covered. Jeffrey explained that currently 25 per cent of KCD’s resources come from the State Conservation Commission. These funds are expected to decrease (due to State budget cuts). The exact reduction is not yet known.
- Looking ahead, KCD is interested in increasing its landowner incentive activities. The Snoqualmie Forum Opportunity Fund is a good example of the type of collaborations they

would like to increase with the WRIAs. WRIA 9 may be launching a similar landowner-based program (entitled the “joint endeavor”) using a portion of the assessment allocation.

- Under current State legislation, the KCD assessment cannot exceed \$10 per parcel, so the assessment amount will not change from the current 2007-2009 level. The only things that can change under the new assessment are the scope of work and parcels served.
- Jeffrey also spoke about some of the changes in the KCD Board, noting that one of the new Board members (Preston Drew) is a Snoqualmie Valley resident.
- In closing Jeffrey encouraged Forum members and staff to attend one of the upcoming public meetings. He added that KCD will develop its reauthorization proposal following the public meetings. A draft proposal should be released for review and comment in late June, with the comment period extending into late July.

Forum Input on KCD Assessment Reauthorization

- Following Jeffrey Possinger’s presentation, Yvette Lizée-Smith discussed Forum participation in the upcoming KCD public meetings. She encouraged the Forum to have representation at both the May 28 meeting in Carnation and the June 2 meeting in Issaquah.
- In past assessment processes, the Forum waited until a draft proposal was released before submitting formal comments. Rather than prepare a forum letter at this point, Yvette suggested that those attending public meetings benefit from the opportunity to highlight how they have benefited from the KCD assessment, and particularly how individual governments and partners have benefited from the grants offered through the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum-KCD grant program.
- In the follow up discussion there was question whether other watersheds were pushing to reduce the assessment to \$5 per parcel, as a Forum member had heard reference to this possibility at a recent Suburban Cities Association meeting.
- Actions:
 - ⇒ Yvette agreed to check if WRIAs 8 and 9 were seeking to reduce the assessment amount. *[NOTE – In discussions with WRIA 8 and 9 staff following the Forum meeting, both advised that their Forums supported status quo. They were not aware of jurisdictions in their watersheds wishing to drop the assessment to \$5 per parcel.]*
 - ⇒ Gary Roberts and Perry Falcone offered to attend KCD’s May 28 public meeting in Carnation. Yvette, Elizabeth Walker and Cindy Spiry agreed to attend the June 2 meeting in Issaquah.
 - ⇒ Staff agreed to provide bullets points highlighting assessment benefits and uses to those attending the public meetings.

2009 KCD “Regular Round” Grant Recommendations

- Monica Walker summarized the available funding for the KCD ‘Regular Round’, totaling approximately \$545,000 (see handout). An additional \$100,000 has been set aside for the Opportunity Fund grant round which will be discussed at the July 15th Forum meeting.
- Monica summarized each of the projects in the Regular Round in sequence of their ranking (see handout). Perry then walked through the Review Committee’s funding recommendations.

The following comments highlight key points of discussion raised by Forum members:

- It was questioned whether geographic distribution was a consideration in the allocation as – under the project review committee’s recommendations – a significant portion of the funds would go to projects in the upper watershed in this round. Perry explained that traditionally regional balance has not been a formal consideration, though we try to ensure some mix of upper and lower watershed projects. In past rounds, the lower watershed has frequently received more funds due to the prevalence of large restoration projects below the Falls and the presence of salmon.
- This is the second time the “Coe Clemmens Creek Bank Restoration” project was submitted and declined – in part because it is a coho project (vs Chinook) and thus scores lower ecologically. There was discussion about whether Coe Clemmens should be given extra consideration over first-time projects, particularly given the risk of damage to Highway 203 if the upstream alluvial fan problem is not addressed. Jessica Saavedera (KCD Grant Program Lead) mentioned that the city’s “jurisdiction allocation” from KCD might be another source of funding. Lara Thomas (Senior Planner - City of Duvall) explained that Duvall was planning to use its jurisdiction allocation for Phase 1 - Design. They were seeking funds under the Snoqualmie Forum grant round for Phase 2 - Construction.
- Elizabeth Walker asked why Wild Fish Conservancy’s (WFC) “Investigation of Low Dissolved Oxygen in the Cherry Creek Floodplain” project did not rank higher, noting it was unfortunate it did not qualify for funding given Janne’s recently completed Water Quality Synthesis Report and the Forum’s interest in doing more on water quality. Perry explained that staff was interested in funding the Cherry Creek project but there was not adequate funding available. In addition, there were questions regarding a forthcoming water quality report that was funded through a previous KCD grant to WFC.
- Re “Kimball Creek Water Quality Improvement Project” – Ross asked about a past Kimball Creek water quality study that the Snoqualmie Tribe had done and its connection to this new study. Snoqualmie Tribe staff explained that the previous study was done by WSU with the help of high school students. Since students were involved, no work was done in the summer – when water quality conditions are most impaired. The results were not reliable as a result.
- Ross asked if the “Monitoring of Effectiveness of Snoqualmie River Restoration” project was urgent and whether they would be spending all the funds in 2010 – given some of the projects would only be completed in summer 2010. If not urgent, he suggested reducing the project’s 2009 award by \$50,000 (from \$80,495 to \$30,495) with a commitment to award the balance in 2010. The \$50,000 taken from this project could be then allocated to the Coe Clemmens project.

Decisions

- ⇒ The Forum approved the review committee recommendations on all projects except King County's "Monitoring of Effectiveness of Snoqualmie River Restoration" project.
- ⇒ In the case of the "Monitoring of Effectiveness" project - Perry was asked to check if King County could implement the project if they were awarded \$30,495 (of the \$80,495 requested) in 2009, and the remaining \$50,000 in 2010.
 - If yes, the Forum recommended (a) that the Effectiveness Monitoring project be awarded \$30,495 in 2009, with a commitment to award the balance in 2010 and (b) that the "Coe Clemmens Creek Bank Restoration" project be awarded \$50,000 in 2009.
 - If no, the Forum recommended revisiting the decision at their July 15 meeting.
- ⇒ See the table in **Attachment A** for a recap of the final regular round grant recommendations.

Election of Forum Chair and Vice Chair

- Perry explained that the Forum had postponed its selection of Chair and Vice Chair in the last two meetings due to absences. In the interim, Charles and Elizabeth had accepted to continue to serve in these seats. Perry recommended that the Forum appoint a Chair and Vice Chair for the rest of 2009. Elections would then be held in January for the 2010 seats.
- Charles and Elizabeth advised that they would be willing to serve for the rest of 2009.
- Decision: Ross made a motion that Charles and Elizabeth continue as Chair and Vice Chair for the remainder of 2009. The motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

- Mary Maier (King County) announced that Washington Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with Mountains to Sound Greenway and King County recently acquired 7,000 acres of forest land in the Upper Raging Valley. The acquisition fills a major gap in the Greenway and will protect the upper reaches of the Raging River – an important spawning river. The property will continue to be managed as working forest.
- Elizabeth Walker invited everyone to join Duvall Days on June 6-7.

Next Meeting

The annual project tour will take place on Wednesday, July 15 from 5:00-7:00 p.m., with dinner provided. This year we will feature capital projects in the Carnation area. The meeting will follow the tour from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Tolt MacDonald Park Barn.

ATTACHMENT A - 2009 KCD Regular Round Grant Ranking

PRC Rank	Project Name	Applicant	Total KCD Request	Project Review Comm. Recomm.	Forum Decision - 2009 KCD Funds
1	South Fork Snoqualmie Invasive Knotweed Control – Phase II	King County Noxious Weeds	\$26,250	\$26,250	\$26,250
2	Riparian Restoration for Patterson Creek and Raging River	King County WLRD	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
3	Tolt River Riparian Area Native Restoration and Invasive Species Removal Project	Seattle City Light	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$36,000
4	Raging River Knotweed Control	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
5	Monitoring the Effectiveness of Snoqualmie River Restoration (Phase 2)	King County WLRD	\$80,495	\$80,495	\$30,495 <i>If project can take partial funding in 2009, with commitment to award remaining \$50K in 2010.</i>
6	Snoqualmie Restoration Maintenance Crew 2010	Stewardship Partners	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
7	Phase II North Bend Riverfront Park Ivy Removal and Planting	City of North Bend	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
8	McElhoe-Person Levee Setback Design	King County WLRD	\$105,000	\$81,255	\$81,255
9	Snoqualmie Riverfront Property Acquisition Ph. II	City of Snoqualmie	\$100,000	\$0	
10	Kimball Creek Water Quality Improvement Project: A Watershed Approach	Snoqualmie Tribe	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$36,000
11	Harris Creek Off-Channel Habitat Restoration Project	Tulalip Tribes	\$40,620	\$0	
12	Coe Clemmons Creek Bank Restoration Phase 2	City of Duvall	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000 <i>If project #5 can take partial funding in 2009.</i>
13	Investigation of Low Dissolved Oxygen in the Cherry Creek	Wild Fish Conservancy	\$50,000	\$0	
N/A	2010 Snoqualmie Outreach and Capacity Building program	King County on behalf of the Cities	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Cumulative Total			\$809,365	\$545,000	\$545,000