

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
July 16, 2008
Project Tour 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Meadowbrook Farm – North Bend, WA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles Peterson	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember
Elizabeth Walker	City of Duvall Councilmember
Kathy Lambert	King County Councilmember
Cindy Spiry	Snoqualmie Indian Tribe Alternate
Gary Roberts	Citizen Representative
Bill Knutsen	Citizen Representative

PROJECT TOUR (5:00 – 7:00 PM)

The 2008 Forum Project Tour visited a variety of past, present and future habitat restoration projects in the upper Snoqualmie Watershed, including:

- Three Forks Natural Area Meadowbrook Slough Restoration: A partnership between the City of Snoqualmie and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, the project proposes to restore habitat conditions for fish and wildlife along a section of the Meadowbrook Slough located within the city's Three Forks Natural Area. Substantial invasive plants including Japanese knotweed and blackberry will also be controlled.
- Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Knotweed Control Site: King County has been controlling knotweed since 2005, in an effort to eradicate Japanese Knotweed in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie subbasin. Tour participants observed a successful control site while discussing continued control efforts and potential restoration with native plants.
- Landowner enrolled in the King County's Public Benefit Rating System (PBRS): The Kaplans, landowners living along the Middle Fork Snoqualmie, have been enrolled in the PBRS program since the 1990s. They and PBRS staff informed tour participants about the benefits of the program as a tool for watershed conservation.

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Introductions and Minutes

- The Forum approved the meeting summary for the May 21, 2008 meeting.

Announcements

Yvette Lizée-Smith, Watershed Coordinator, provided the following announcements:

- The Lower Tolt Floodplain Reconnection Project at Tolt MacDonald Park has entered construction. Work this year includes constructing a wood revetment to protect the park's campground from river erosion and replanting the construction area with native vegetation. Additional work will occur in 2009 with project completion planned for December 2009.
- The new Snoqualmie Valley Trail Map is now available. The map notes Salmon-Safe farms, places to park for trail access, spots for viewing public art and salmon, and features of the cities and towns along the trail. The map was created by the City of Duvall in collaboration with Carnation, North Bend, Snoqualmie, Fall City, Stewardship Partners, and the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum. The Forum provided \$2,000 for printing. It is available at local recreation stores and city offices, or online at www.duvallwa.gov.
- The King County Flood Control Zone District has appointed Sally King as their new Program Manager for the Snoqualmie/South Fork Skykomish region. Among her many duties, Sally will coordinate the Snoqualmie/SF Skykomish Basin Technical Committee (BTC). She will also coordinate flood buyouts and flood proofing projects and other programmatic efforts in our watershed. The Flood District will employ about 32 people once fully staffed.
- At the May 21st Forum meeting, we mentioned that U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was requiring King County to remove trees from damaged levees as a condition for receiving PL84-99 levee repair funding. In response, King County decided to withdraw 5 levees from the PL84-99 program and undertake the repairs itself. The vegetation removal issue was featured in a July 10th *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* article. Copies of the article were provided.
- A recent Appeals Court ruling against the County's Critical Areas Ordinance struck down the CAO's clearing and grading requirements (not the entire CAO). King County will be asking the state Supreme Court to review the ruling. The ordinance remains in effect during the appeal. The repercussions of this decision are, as yet, unknown.

Commenting on the last item, Kathy Lambert mentioned that she saw the CAO ruling as an opportunity to find a better way to work with landowners and lawfully protect the environment in King County.

City of Duvall Parks, Trails, and Open Space Planning Effort

- Lara Thomas, City of Duvall Planner, gave a brief overview of the city's parks, trails, and open space planning process and the survey used as one of the public input tools. The \$75,000 planning effort was funded by Washington Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) and is being conducted from January through August 2008. The survey cost \$30,000 and had a 60% response rate. The survey tool has been shared with staff of other valley cities interested in undertaking similar planning processes.
- Three top citizen priorities identified in the survey were a swimming pool, more open space and an expanded trail system. Duvall will be looking into trail development in McCormick

Park and will explore open space opportunities in the future as well. There will be one more workshop in August to look at the final survey results.

2008 King Conservation District (KCD) Opportunity Fund - Final Recommendations

- Perry Falcone, Forum staff, reviewed the status of the previously approved KCD Opportunity Fund grants (see Attachment A). To date, nine grants totaling \$173,586 have been approved by the Forum and the KCD Board of Supervisors, leaving a balance of \$26,414 to allocate. The KCD Grant Subcommittee asked the Forum to consider four projects for the remaining allocation. The Forum reviewed the four projects and discussed their merits.
- Perry explained the one project previously approved (the Treehouse Point Ecology Plan) was on hold due to a King County building code violation on the site. KCD will likely reallocate the funds and ask Treehouse Point to reapply in 2009. Kathy Lambert expressed hope that the code violation would be resolved soon and that the Treehouse Point project could still be funded in the future.

Decision: See Attachment A. The Forum recommended that the remaining \$26,414 in opportunity funds be allocated to the following projects:

- South Fork Riparian Restoration at 424th Ave SE (\$9,700)
- 2008 Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Festival (\$7,108)
- Changing Seasons Farm Snoqualmie River Buffer Enhancement (\$9,606 partial funding)

Decision: In addition, the Forum agreed with the Project Review Committee's recommendation that any unused funds from the Treehouse Point project be allocated to the Changing Seasons Farm project, to help top off its request (which was only partially funded above).

- Perry explained that he would continue to work with any unfunded project that the Forum ranked "medium" to explore other funding options.
- Kathy Lambert expressed interest in funding water reuse projects in the future in order to keep water resources in the Snoqualmie Valley. She also expressed interest in providing funding to future culvert cleaning and fish passage projects. She asked staff to explore if the Lower Tolt Floodplain Reconnection Project could help fund the proposed Tolt Riparian Enhancement project.

2009 Forum Interlocal Agreement (ILA) Budget and KCD Grant

- Yvette provided an overview of the Forum's 2009 proposed budget which closely paralleled the 2008 budget. The estimated 2009 budget will be \$416,903.
- Yvette also reviewed the proposed member government cost share obligations for 2009. The percentage for each government is unchanged. Based on the ILA agreement, the Snoqualmie Tribe will pay a flat rate (currently set at \$5,000). King County's portion will be \$325,693. The cities' combined cost share is \$86,210.

- Kathy Lambert asked the Forum to reassess the Tribe's \$5,000 rate in 2009 since the Tribe's casino will be open by then. Snoqualmie Tribe staff commented that the Tribal population is approximately 600 members so an appropriate funding level will need to be discussed.
- Yvette explained that (per the interlocal agreement) Forum staff will attempt to secure grant funding to cover the cities' portion of the 2009 cost share. To this end, staff will be submitting an application to KCD for \$86,500. The grant would cover certain "outreach and project capacity building" activities in the 2009 forum work program. Yvette described the activities to be funded under the grant request. If approved by the Forum, the grant would be submitted to the KCD Board for approval at their August 11 meeting.

Decision: The Forum approved the 2009 budget, ILA cost share, and associated KCD grant.

Puget Sound Partnership

- Yvette provided an update on the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) process and timeline. There will be a Whidbey Basin Action Area workshop on July 22nd in Mount Vernon. The action area includes Island County and the Snohomish, Stillaguamish and Skagit river basins. This meeting be an opportunity to give input on the Action Area Profile and the overall PSP priorities. Forum staff, King County staff, and Bill Knutsen will be attending.
- Yvette reviewed a list of Snoqualmie-based priorities compiled by staff to help inform our input into the PSP Action Agenda and workshops. The table entitled "Snoqualmie Watershed – Priority Threats and Actions" included input from jurisdiction staff and Forum members as well. The document is organized by the PSP Topic Areas (e.g. Habitat and Land Use, Water Quality, etc.) and will hopefully serve as an easy reference list for those participating in PSP events on behalf of our watershed.
- Forum members commented that some bullets should be added to the list including: protection of aquifer recharge areas, low impact development geared toward small cities, water re-use programs, and protection of additional species such as Beller's ground beetle, elk and coho salmon.

Action: The Forum asked staff to incorporate the above comments in the PSP document. The Forum also asked staff to inform them if/when a comment letter to the PSP would be needed. A future letter could be emailed to the Forum or discussed at a future meeting if we see a need.

Public Comment

- Kathy Lambert noted the growing importance of water reclamation and reuse and suggested that we have a tour of the Snoqualmie Tribe casino site's storm water system in the future.

Next Meeting

The next Forum meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 17 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Carnation City Hall.

Attachment A:
2008 Snoqualmie Watershed KCD Opportunity Fund Grants
Forum Decision 7-16-08

ID #	Project Name	Applicant	Recommended Funding Amount	Project Status
1	Knotweed Removal/Restoration at Joe Mullen's	Snoqualmie Tribe	\$10,000	Approved by KCD Board on June 9
2	Albro Alluvial Fan Remediation	King County DNRP	\$21,000	
3	Lake Marcel Community Education and Native Revegetation	King County DNRP	\$22,421	
4	Anthracite Creek Enhancement and Awareness	Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force	\$29,500	
5	Sierra Property Wetland Buffer Enhancement Project	Restoration Logistics	\$5,505	
6	Indian Creek / Dolder Farm Fish Passage Project	Wild Fish Conservancy	\$29,085	
7	2008-2009 Snoqualmie Valley Water Education and Stewardship Project	Nature Vision	\$15,000	Approved by KCD Board on July 14
8	Upper Snoqualmie River Willow Staking & Knotweed Control	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	\$28,500	
9	Treehouse Point Ecology Plan	PRKC / Pete and Judy Nelson	\$12,575	Approved in June but on hold until KC code violations resolved
Final Allocations Approved by Snoqualmie Watershed Forum (July 16, 2008)				
10	South Fork Snoqualmie Riparian Restoration at 424 th Ave. SE, Phase 1	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	\$9,700	Approved by the Forum and forwarded to the KCD Board for the August meeting
11	2008 Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Festival	Nature Vision	\$7,108	
12	Changing Seasons Farm Snoqualmie River Buffer Enhancement	King County DNRP	\$9,606	

Total Opp Fund Requests	\$200,000
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