

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
FINAL MEETING SUMMARY
July 19, 2006
Project Tour 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Meeting 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Jubilee Farm near Carnation, WA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ross Laudenback	City of North Bend Councilmember
Bill Paulsen	City of Carnation Councilmember
Dianne Brudnicki	City of Duvall Councilmember
Kathy Lambert	King County Councilmember
Charles Peterson	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember
Gary Roberts	Citizen Representative
William Harper	Citizen Representative
Bill Knutsen	Citizen Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stuart Lisk	City of Carnation Councilmember
Ray Mullen	Snoqualmie Tribe Councilmember
Matt Stone	City of Snoqualmie Alternate

PROJECT TOUR (5:00 – 7:00PM):

The 2006 Forum Project Tour theme was farmers taking action for salmon. The tour, lead by Larry Nussbaum of Stewardship Partners, visited three restoration sites on agriculture lands. Forum members on the tour viewed restoration sites, heard why farmers were engaging in restoration activities on their farms and recognized the important salmon recovery efforts by private citizens. The sites included:

- **Jubilee Farm** – Stewardship Partners and the landowner will plant the riparian area along one mile of the Snoqualmie River 50-70 feet wide. Jubilee Farm provides locally grown produce through a community supported agriculture network.
- **Full Circle Farm** – Stewardship Partners and the landowner will plant two acres of riparian area along the Snoqualmie River. Full Circle Farm also provides locally grown organic produce through a community supported agriculture network.
- **Byers Property** – King County and the landowner will restore 600 feet of edge habitat and plant 600 feet of the riparian area along the Snoqualmie River. In order to protect a horse pasture from erosion and improve salmon habitat, an innovative technique will be used to install wood posts to capture large woody debris from the river.

MEETING PROCEEDINGS:

Introductions and Dinner Presentation

Larry Nussbaum provided background on Stewardship Partners collaborative restoration efforts with local landowners. Stewardship Partners also works with the Salmon Safe organization to certify farms as a market incentive for improved salmon habitat on private agriculture lands.

Announcements

Forum staff provided the following updates:

- Forum staff held a maintenance workshop with watershed organizations including Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Stewardship Partners, Stilly-Sno Fisheries Enhancement Task Force, Washington Trout, and King County. The groups discussed the challenges and potential solutions in completing successful restoration project maintenance. The groups will meet again in early 2007 to prioritize maintenance needs in the watershed. 2006 Forum maintenance funds will be spent on Lower Griffin Creek and Lower Harris Creek projects.
- Forum staff submitted five grants for review by the King Conservation District Board. The Board approved the majority of these grants but had questions regarding one maintenance application and one riparian planting application.
- The Forum reviewed and approved a letter of support for the Chinook Bend Natural Area Wetland project lead by King County and Ducks Unlimited.

Flood Hazard Management Plan

Steve Bleifuhs, King County, provide an update on the 2006 Flood Hazard Management Plan. Steve discussed how flooding is a regional hazard including seven declared disasters in King County since 1990. There are more than 500 aging levees and revetments in King County and they are all at risk of inundation and channel migration. There is an estimated need for \$33.5 million per year to correct critical problems and there is currently only \$3.5 million per year available. In 2007, King County will explore the formation of a county-wide flood control district to fund needed improvements. Questions and comments included:

- Councilmember Lambert explained that the King County Council was very interested in the district and would explore the district further in 2007.
- Councilmember Paulsen asked if maintenance was included in the cost estimates. Steve responded that the costs were up to date including inflation and maintenance costs.
- William Harper explained that the Patterson Creek Flood Control Zone District was supportive of the county-wide district but wanted to continue the grassroots/subbasin communication with King County.

2007 King Conservation District (KCD) Assessment

Yvette Lizee-Smith explained that the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum provided comments to the KCD Board on the 2007 KCD Assessment in a July 14 comment letter. The Forum supports the assessment but expressed the following concerns regarding Page 4 of the proposed KCD Assessment:

- WRIA dollars are restricted to salmon recovery and monitoring/evaluation.

- (1) We need to ensure that KCD maintains the broad definition of activities for salmon recovery dollars noted below the table (i.e. not strictly projects under the WRIA plans).
- Jurisdiction dollars are restricted to Salmon Recovery Initiatives, Sustainable Agriculture Initiatives and Monitoring and Evaluation.
- (2) We need to ensure that individual jurisdictions are not obligated to split their dollars across these programs based on the breakdowns noted. It would add too much complexity for small jurisdictions that receive limited dollars.
 - (3) We need to ensure the approval process for jurisdictions (especially in the Snoqualmie) is streamlined and not more cumbersome.

Forum Staff will bring these additional comments to July 24th KCD meeting. Bill Knutsen, KCD Board and Forum member, explained that the KCD Board appreciated the comment letter from the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum. Bill added that the distribution related to categories is not finalized. Seattle has expressed interest in more jurisdictional funding while other cities were interested in pulling funding for watershed wide projects. KCD's final comment meeting will take place on July 24th. Councilmember Lambert expressed concern that the KCD project funding focused too much on salmon recovery (at 71%) as farm needs should be addressed as well.

2007 Snoqualmie Forum ILA Budget/Grant

Yvette Lizee-Smith presented the Forum's ILA budget explaining that the overhead costs were calculated differently in 2006. King County will be covering additional overhead costs in comparison to previous years. The 2007 budget includes the same staffing levels at 2006 totaling \$372,928. The cost share percentage for each jurisdiction has not changed since 2006. Yvette presented the draft 2007 KCD grant to cover portions of Forum work program (\$72,000).

Decision: The Forum approved the 2007 Forum ILA budget, the 2007 cost share and the 2007 KCD grant.

Public Comment

- Councilmember Lambert expressed concern about some current rural zoning and land use proposals.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Preston Community Center and include a tour of the Raging River Levee Removal project. It will be held on September 20, 2006 from 6-9 p.m.