

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
March 21, 2012
Meeting 6:00-9:00 pm
Mt. Si Senior Center, North Bend, WA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth Walker	City of Duvall Councilmember, Forum Chair
Charles Peterson	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember, Forum Vice-Chair
Erin Chamberlain	City of Carnation Councilmember
Jim Berger	City of Carnation Mayor
Ryan Kolodejchuk	City of North Bend Councilmember
Kathy Lambert	King County Councilmember
Cindy Spiry	Snoqualmie Tribe
David Burger	Stewardship Partners, Non-profit Representative
Bill Knutsen	King Conservation District
Kent Renno	Citizen Representative
Isaac Cunningham	Citizen Representative

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Introductions and Minutes

- Yvette Lizée-Smith (Watershed Coordinator), introduced newly appointed Forum members North Bend Councilmember Ryan Kolodejchuk, Carnation Councilmember Erin Chamberlain and Snoqualmie Tribe Councilmember Jake Repin (not present).
- The Forum approved the November 16, 2011 meeting summary in current form.

Updates and Announcements

Yvette Lizée-Smith and Perry Falcone (Project Coordinator) gave the following updates:

- *Update on King County Policy R-648:* King County Policy R-648 lays out the conditions for implementing habitat restoration and floodplain projects in King County's Agricultural Production Districts (APDs). King County has made a number of recent revisions to R-648 based on stakeholder feedback. Significant changes include:
 - A revised preamble and R-648 returns to existing 2008 language
 - A new policy (R-648a) was added to include development of collaborative farm-fish-flood strategies to better facilitate multi-objective project benefits

Forum Comment: Elizabeth Walker suggested using the May Forum meeting, if necessary, to discuss the issue further.

- *Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO)*: The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Leadership Council approved the Snohomish LIO on March 1st, 2012. Though the LIO omitted direct representation from the Forum and Snoqualmie Tribe, the final version included language that allowed for future amendments to change membership in the LIO Executive Committee. The next step will be to form the LIO Implementation Committee. Recent developments include:
 - The Snoqualmie Valley Governments Association (SVGA) supported the Forum's offer to coordinate LIO activities and representation through the Forum.
 - Elizabeth Walker (Duvall and Forum Chair) will serve as Snoqualmie Watershed city representative to the LIO and Ross Loudenback (North Bend) will be the alternate.

- *King County Flood Hazard Management Plan*: King County Flood Control District (FCD) will be completing the regular six-year update of the 2006 Flood Hazard Management Plan in 2012. The Flood Plan provides guidance to the Flood District and King County on flood management policies, regulations, projects and outreach in unincorporated King County. Stakeholders, including the Forum, will be engaged through various meetings through September 2012, at which time a public review draft of the plan will be released. There are several opportunities to provide input into the Flood Plan:
 - Snoqualmie Watershed Forum meeting: May 16
 - FCD Snoqualmie/SF Skykomish Basin Technical Committee (BTC): June meeting, typically attended by jurisdictional public works staff
 - FCD Advisory Committee: June/July meeting typically attended by mayors
 - Flood Plan Public Review Draft Comment Period and Meetings: Fall 2012

- *Cherry Valley Floodplain/Waterwheel Creek Restoration Project Update*: Wild Fish Conservancy (WFC) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) are still moving forward with permitting the Cherry Valley Floodplain Restoration Project along Waterwheel Creek just north of Duvall. Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2012. Forum staff continue to assist with specific aspects of this project. Recent progress on the project includes:
 - Project partners, including Drainage District #7, have developed an Adaptive Management Plan to ensure post project maintenance activities occur efficiently.
 - The project has nearly completed the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process and an environmental impact statement (EIS) was not required.
 - A draft Land Use Agreement between project partners is nearly complete.

What Snoqualmie Valley Governments Are Doing For Salmon Recovery

Snoqualmie Valley Planning Staff Committee members presented to the Forum regarding their jurisdiction's salmon recovery and broader environmental protection actions since 2005 and future actions. Presenters included Ben Swanson (Duvall), Linda Scott, (Carnation), Jamie Burrell (North Bend), Matt Baerwalde (Snoqualmie Tribe) and Lauren Hollenbeck (Snoqualmie). Topics included Tree Protection Ordinances, Critical Areas updates, Shoreline Master Program (SMP) updates, Low Impact Development (LID) programs, stormwater/wastewater improvements, restoration/acquisition projects, partnerships, and floodplain management. (Agenda Item 3 in the meeting packet provides details). Highlights included:

- LID Projects – The Snoqualmie Tribe implemented an EPA grant funded bio-swale enhancement project in the fall of 2011 at the casino site. There is a need for increased public awareness of LID projects and information on appropriate sites in the valley.
- SMP Updates – The four Snoqualmie Valley cities are required to update their SMPs by June 2012, North Bend and Carnation expect Department of Ecology approval for their plans as early as spring 2012.
- Stormwater – Duvall is the only Phase II city in the Snoqualmie Valley required to implement a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.
- Floodplains – The City of Snoqualmie has intervened, along with 16 other Washington cities, on a second National Wildlife Federation lawsuit regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Biological Opinion (BiOp) related to floodplain development.

Forum Questions and Discussion: Forum members appreciated the Valley Planning Staff's extra effort on the presentation and provided questions and comments.

- Kathy Lambert asked Jamie Burrell to review the South Fork Snoqualmie gravel study and provide her with feedback on the study.
- Kathy Lambert asked Jamie Burrell about the effectiveness of bio-swales and infiltration versus stormwater ponds and vaults. Jamie responded that if the site is appropriate, bio-swales and natural infiltration are environmentally and economically preferable.
- Ryan Kolodejchuk asked if plants can absorb contaminants such as petroleum products. David Berger responded that plants do absorb many pollutants but research by Washington State University Extension is ongoing to research that question. In some cases plants and soils can bind with pollutants which keep them from entering waterways, but the soil in a bio-swale may need to be replaced periodically.
- David Berger asked the jurisdictions how they conduct outreach regarding these topics to citizens. Staff responded that social media (e.g., Facebook), park kiosks, comp plan

sustainability policies, project signage, newsletters, websites, utility bills, NPDES education requirements and working with community groups (e.g., boy scouts) were utilized.

- Forum members asked staff what jurisdictions needed from the Forum in the future.
 - Snoqualmie responded that grant funding is a key need.
 - North Bend responded that technical assistance on SMP and LID is important.
 - Carnation responded that KCD or other funding is needed to implement their SMP restoration plan.
 - The Snoqualmie Tribe responded that the bi-monthly Valley Planning Staff meetings are very valuable.
 - Duvall responded that continued cross-jurisdictional coordination is needed.
- Kathy Lambert provided brief updates on a 3/22/2012 King County Comprehensive Plan meeting, increased demands on King County Flood District funding, and the status of the KCD Assessment. She also asked if anyone was aware of the Corps' new policy related to large woody debris in floodplains. No one was aware of the policy in question.

Cancellation of the 2012 King Conservation District (KCD) Assessment

Bill Knutsen provided an overview of the cancellation of the 2012 KCD Assessment. Due to a recent State Supreme Court decision in March involving a Mason Conservation District lawsuit, King County and KCD discontinued 2012 collections under the KCD Assessment. Subsequently, the KCD and Forum determined that the 2012 KCD Regular Round Grant round would be cancelled and the 2012 Opportunity Fund was also likely to be cancelled. The KCD was left with \$1.2M in reserve which equates to approximately six to seven months of operation funds. The KCD is currently in the process of reviewing the need for 2012-2013 funding to stay in operation until a new funding source can be developed.

In March, the state legislature and the governor approved a proposed system of “rates and charges” to take the place of the assessment in 2013. The rates and charges model will generate slightly less funding than the previous assessment mechanism so adjustments to future KCD budgets will need to be considered. There are approximately 15 KCD staff and an annual budget operating budget of \$1.2M. KCD is currently a non-profit so it may accept donations as a way to offset the loss of the assessment. Bill explained that the new 2013 KCD funding proposal will be forwarded to the King County Council for review in August 2012 and require approval in November 2012, in order to be effective by 2013.

Forum Questions and Discussion:

- Cindy Spiry asked if existing contracted KCD grants will be affected by the loss of the 2012 assessment. Bill responded that existing contracted grants will not be affected. He added that KCD is considering borrowing funding from unallocated WRIA or jurisdictional grant program accounts in order to keep the district operating in 2012.
- Sarah Ogier, King County, asked how much unallocated funding is available. Bill responded that there was approximately \$9M in unallocated KCD funding including the

final 10 percent payment held on each grant by KCD until projects are completed, funding held until acquisition projects are under contract, unallocated funding not attached to current grants, and the \$1.2M reserve.

- Ryan Kolodejchuk suggested providing a tax payer waiver as a mechanism for citizens to donate 2012 assessment fees to the KCD.

Actions:

Yvette and Forum staff will explore funding options for 2013 staffing in response to the loss of KCD funding. The Forum will utilize the May meeting to explore these funding options.

General Business

Yvette explained to the Forum that it was time to elect a Forum Chair and Vice-Chair. She explained that Elizabeth and Charles had expressed an interest in continuing their roles but called for nominations. Elizabeth nominated Charles as Vice-Chair and Charles nominated Elizabeth as Chair. No other members were nominated.

Decision: Forum members voted on the Chair and Vice-Chair nominations. Elizabeth and Charles were unanimously re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

Public Comment

- Charles Peterson provided an update on the two National Wildlife Federation lawsuits related to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The City of Snoqualmie and 16 other cities intervened on the most recent lawsuit since it would have substantial ramifications for growth and redevelopment in the city. He added that it was unfortunate that counties did not intervene in the lawsuits.
- The Snoqualmie Tribe and the City of Snoqualmie will hold an Earth Day event at Sandy Cove Park on April 20th from 11:00AM-2:00PM.

Next Meeting

The May 16 Forum meeting will be held at Carnation City Hall, 7:00-9:00 PM.