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**Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
November 14, 2012
Meeting 6:45-9:00 pm
Snoqualmie City Hall, Snoqualmie, WA**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth Walker	City of Duvall Councilmember, Forum Chair
Jason Walker	City of Duvall Councilmember (Alternate)
Bryan Holloway	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember (Alternate)
Bill Knutsen	King Conservation District
Erin Chamberlain	City of Carnation Councilmember
Ryan Kolodejchuk	City of North Bend Councilmember
Cindy Spiry	Snoqualmie Tribe (Alternate)
David Burger	Stewardship Partners, Non-profit Representative
Kent Renno	Citizen Representative
Isaac Cunningham	Citizen Representative
Kathy Lambert	King County Councilmember (via phone)

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Introductions and Minutes

- The Forum approved the September 19th, 2012 meeting summary without changes.

Forum Highlights of 2012

Janne Kaje, acting Watershed Coordinator, highlighted the Forum’s 2012 habitat and restoration work, technical and policy work as well as information sharing and outreach. Some of the highlights include:

Habitat Restoration and Protection

- Due to the loss of King Conservation District (KCD) grant funding in 2012, the Forum established a new Cooperative Watershed Management grant program funded by the King County Flood Control District (FCD). This program allocated \$600,000 to 9 conservation projects.
- King County’s Tolt River Conservation project was awarded \$264,760 from Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants.
- Led a collaborative effort between the Forest Service, King County and other partners to launch the South Fork Skykomish River Restoration Feasibility Study. The study has identified nearly 100 restoration and enhancement projects across the South Fork Skykomish Watershed.
- Co-organized two meetings of the Snohomish Basin Project Working Group to prioritize and sequence 2013 projects. One meeting included a Habitat Work Schedule database workshop. Provided a variety of project support services to local partners.

Technical and Policy

- With King County Rivers staff, continued to implement the Tolt River Corridor Study to identify floodplain management, public safety and habitat project opportunities in the lower 6 miles of the Tolt River.
- Currently completing KCD-funded effectiveness evaluation of past planting projects to assess success, identify best practices and identify sites requiring corrective actions. Completed more than 20 project site visits and presented main findings to Forum in summer 2012. Final report pending.
- Reviewed proposals for three new federally licensed hydroelectric projects in the NF Snoqualmie watershed and facilitated information-sharing between basin partners.
- Co-chaired monthly meetings of the Snohomish Basin Salmonid Recovery Technical Committee and represented Snoqualmie Watershed Forum interests on the committee.
- Began work with Snohomish County and Tulalip Tribes on EPA-funded Snohomish Basin Protection Strategy project.
- Represented Snoqualmie Forum interests in multi-stakeholder processes at the local and regional scale.
- Supported Snoqualmie Tribe and valley cities to develop a presentation on “What Snoqualmie Valley Governments are doing for Salmon Recovery” (March 2012 Forum meeting)

Information Sharing and Outreach

- Hosted project tours.
- Produced 4 Snoqualmie Watershed Forum e-newsletters to share information across partners

There was a correction on the second bullet under Information Sharing and Outreach, instead of “Tour of Snoqualmie Project for Snoqualmie Tribe representative” It should read, “Met with Jake Repin of the Snoqualmie Tribe and toured Snoqualmie project”

Forum Updates and Announcements

- Yvette Lizee-Smith is leaving for Laos, best wishes and good luck!
- Vice-chair Charles Peterson is in poor health and we wish him the best in getting healthy.
- ***King County Flood Hazard Management Plan Update:*** A public meeting will be held in Carnation 6-8:30 pm, Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2012 at the SnoValley Senior Center, 4610 Stephens Avenue, Carnation. The draft plan will not be available prior to the meeting. Rather, the Flood District will describe the overall strategic framework to local communities and to solicit comments that can be incorporated into the draft update. A second round of public meetings will follow completion of the draft plan. The Flood District Board will adopt the plan in the first half of 2013.
- ***Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO):*** On September 20th, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) convened a joint Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Executive & Implementation Committee meeting. This meeting introduced the LIO process, initiated a discussion of priorities for the LIO, and discussed committee roles, membership and staffing. A second meeting took place on November 7 for the LIO Implementation Committee. A primary focus for 2013 will be updating and prioritizing the “Local Profile” for this area in the Action Agenda. In addition, PSP staff described the nomination process for the Puget Sound Champions award process which is currently under way for the

Snohomish/Stillaguamish area. Due to Elizabeth Walker's departure, the Snoqualmie Valley Cities will need to identify a new representative and/or alternate to the LIO Executive Committee. Ross Loudenback (North Bend) is the current alternate.

- **2009 Opportunity Fund grant on the Pickering property:** Last week, Larry Pickering's property sustained significant property damage when a beaver dam blew out upstream on Deer Creek. In addition to damaging roads and structures on a neighboring property, the dam failure deposited several feet of sediment and debris across Mr. Pickering's pasture and impacted his barn. King County, King Conservation District, WDFW and others have been out on site to assess property damage and to assist Mr. Pickering and his upstream neighbor with the short-term response. At this point there are various potential actions that need to take place on the property.

In 2009, The Forum approved the Pickering Farm Stream Channel Restoration Opportunity Fund grant to restore the Deer Creek channel and riparian area. The project would also design a sediment deposition area adjacent to the stream to allow the landowner to manage sediment in the future if necessary. To date, the landowner has not billed anything to grant so the full \$21,100 is still available. Needless to say, the project concept was overwhelmed by sediment in the recent event. KCD has requested that the grant be re-scoped and amended once the landowner's needs are determined. Forum staff recommend that any revised grant still meet the overall intent of the Opportunity Fund grant program. Since any grant revision would likely occur before the Forum's next meeting, staff may email the Forum for approval.

Bill Knutsen stated that King Conservation District identified planting and restoration opportunities after the clean-up effort of the site. He also noted how unfortunate it was that so much restoration work on Deer Creek got wiped out.

Councilmember Lambert commented that on her visit to the site she was in awe of the unbelievable amount of silt that entered the pasture. She inquired if the sediment was going to stay or get hauled out? It seems as though the sediment is being moved.

Isaac Cunningham commented that the dam was on private property but there was no evidence of anyone breaching the dam. It looked to be a natural breach but that had not yet been confirmed. WDFW issued a verbal permit to protect the houses and the clean-up work was commencing to do that.

DECISION: The Forum agreed to have Forum staff work with KCD to revise the grant, if necessary, to support conservation work on the Pickering property taking into consideration the new site conditions. Forum staff will email the Forum if the grant revision involves significant scope changes.

Presentation of the Shovel to Elizabeth Walker

The Forum presented Elizabeth Walker with a commemorative shovel to honor her work she has done with the forum and as council chair. Everyone wishes her the best on her next adventure on her new farm in Skagit.

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Non-profit Representative Alternate Appointment

Micah Wait is the non-profit representative on the Forum and at the September Forum meeting it was decided that an alternate should be found for this seat. Jennifer McKeown from Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust submitted her application to fulfill this role. She was present at the meeting and excited about marrying the work the group does between the upper and lower parts of the Snoqualmie Valley.

DECISION: The Forum approved Jennifer McKeown with the Greenway as the Forum's alternate non-profit representative for 2013-2014.

Presentation: Fish Use of the Oxbows of the Lower Snoqualmie Valley

Kollin Higgins, Ecologist from King County Water and Land Resources Division presented on his King Conservation District grant funded work that researched the use of Snoqualmie River oxbows by fish. The study sampled four oxbows during the spring and summer of 2008 and 2009. The oxbows which were historically old river meanders were initially thought to be important fish habitat but many disconnected oxbows were found to contain larger numbers of non-native fish rather than native fish.

Major conclusions from this study include:

- On average nonnative species represented ~93% of all fish caught in the oxbows
- Only small numbers of salmonids used the oxbows from early spring through summer
- Juvenile coho salmon were found early in the year, but generally not in the later summer
- No Chinook used the oxbows in 2008, though they previously were found at Camp Gilead
- Chinook are now using Camp Gilead site
- There was a dramatic shift in species composition toward native species in Camp Gilead after restoration

A question was asked how to control the non-native fish species and Kollin said it could only be done by killing the fish either through dewatering the oxbows and poison. He also mentioned that perhaps a fishing derby could be put in place.

King Conservation District and Flood District Updates

The King County Flood District will be providing the watershed grants from this point forward as part of the Cooperative Watershed Management grant program. \$3 million has been allocated to the WRIA's and the split will remain the same as the previous King Conservation District program (40% to WRIA 9, 40% to WRIA 8 and 20% to WRIA 7). An additional \$150,000 will also be given to WRIA 10 as they pay into the flood district but it's a very small land area in King County. The total grant dollars will be linked to inflation. The funding and grant work will be very similar administered through the Flood Control District. King Conservation District was originally assessed at a maximum of \$10 for any parcel. Now the assessment has changed \$5.38 for agriculture land and \$5.18 for single family residences. The suburban cities really pushed to keep the watershed grants KCD funded but it was moved to the Flood District.

Councilmember Lambert brought up the question of reallocating the percentage split between WRIAs with the King County Council. The argument being that the Snoqualmie needed more money to support some of the last native Chinook fish runs and the land area is larger in the

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Snoqualmie compared to the other WRIAs. While only 3% of the total revenue for the Flood Control District comes from the Snoqualmie, the idea of restoration to protect the salmon benefits the whole county. Forum staff asked that Snoqualmie get an extra \$150 thousand to help support more work in WRIA 7 but King County Council said no.

Many of the other council members believe that their watersheds are more “damaged” due to development and higher populations. There is a feeling within the Forum and Forum staff that WRIA 7 needs to do more PR and marketing to bring the watershed to the forefront in 2013. More events like the Twilight Watershed Tour will help with those efforts.

Forum Business

- Elizabeth Walker is stepping down as Forum Chair and will need to be replaced. Ideally a new chair and vice-chair will be selected in January 2013. As it stands now, Jason Walker is Elizabeth’s alternate from Duvall.
- The Forum’s calendar of meetings for 2013 was approved with a correction to the May 20th meeting, which actually should be the 15th if the rule of every 3rd Wednesday is followed.

DECISION: 2013 Calendar Approved

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Next Meeting

The January 16th Forum meeting will be held at Carnation City Hall from 7:00pm to 9:00 pm.