

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
March 18, 2015
7:00-9:00 pm
Snoqualmie Tribal Offices, Snoqualmie, WA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bryan Holloway	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember
Lee Grumman	City of Carnation Councilmember, Vice Chair
Cindy Spiry	Snoqualmie Tribe, alternate
Eileen Carrel	Citizen Representative
Jenn McKeown	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Non-profit Representative
Ken Hearing	City of North Bend Councilmember, Forum Member
Kathy Lambert	King County Councilmember, Forum Member

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

I. Updates and Announcements

- March 30th we hope to kick off the poster contest. Polly Freeman will e-mail an announcement and Forum members should send the e-mail along to others. If there are groups that people feel this announcement should be sent to, please send a note to Polly.
- There is an Upper Carlson Project Celebration scheduled for May 14th. The announcement will be out soon. Jason Walker, Forum Chair, and Fred Jarrett, Deputy County Executive (among others) will be participating in the celebration. There will be a project site tour following the celebration.
- Perry Falcone reviewed the Governor's budget for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Funds, Floodplains by Design and Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The Forum provided letters of support for PSAR and Floodplains by Design. If there are any questions, Forum Staff can provide more information. There should be detail in the budgets by May or June.
- Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) and Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant programs are both in the pre-application stages. There are 18 grants proposed for CWM and 12 SRFB grants. King County is also considering applying for a National Estuary Program Grant through Ecology to work on a document that is a science based, logic model that will help design variable buffer targets in the Snoqualmie Agriculture Production District.
- The Client Survey for the Forum Staff had nine responses. The ratings have slipped in rank and the Forum Staff want to do better on tracking and advising the Forum of emerging issues of relevance. It was also noted there needs to be clearer information regarding the maintenance of restoration projects. There was one comment regarding the staff's lack of understanding of agriculture issues and Janne Kaje would like to continue this conversation with the Forum. It has

been identified that perhaps the Forum Staff should make presentations annually or every two years to member City Councils. The presentations can be customized to fit the jurisdiction's needs.

- Jenn McKeown and Lee Grumman brought up that the Mountains to Sounds Greenway Trust is seeking endorsement for “branding” the valley economic development. There is a Proclamation circulating and it is hoped that all cities, chambers, etc. will sign on to the Proclamation.

II. 2016 Snoqualmie Forum Inter-local Agreement (ILA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Renewal Process

Janne Kaje, Watershed Coordinator, started the ILA/MOU discussion by informing the Forum, that the staff has met with Forum Members and staff to review the draft ILA/MOU and incorporated their changes. The Forum will need to approve the changes. Once that is done the Forum Staff will meet with the jurisdiction's councils to discuss the ILA renewal process. The goal is to have a clean version of the ILA and MOU approved by the Forum at the May meeting and in June to circulate the ILA/MOU for final review and signatures. Everyone is interested in getting these signed well in advance of the December ILA sunset.

Forum members gave some good feedback on the ILA process stating that Cities are interested in the multi-benefit approach – similar to the idea behind Floodplains by Design. A side note was that they would like to hear more about work in the Snohomish County estuary area, see more integration with agriculture lands and fit our work better with a multi-benefit approach.

Ken Hearing would like to understand how forestry affects hydrology and habitat of the rivers – in particular the effects of logging road maintenance. Janne acknowledged there is an information gap in understanding the impact of logging and associated roads in the basin. Kathy Lambert stated that decommissioning fire roads in the face of an emergency is challenging and needs to be well thought out.

Janne led the Forum members through the strikethrough and additions to the ILA. Forum members had several constructive comments that will be incorporated by the Forum Staff. Cindy Spiry mentioned the tribal review process is extensive so an initial review needs to happen as soon as possible. Janne responded that he hopes to have the ILA in front of the tribal council as soon as possible.

As the Forum stepped through the ILA, the discussion became very engaging with much discussion about who is sitting around the table on the Forum. It is felt that perhaps there are interest groups that are not represented well, such as agriculture and forestry. Jean White brought forward the history of the formation of other Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Forums. The legislation from the State of Washington required that the lead entities establish a large stakeholder group, which, for many WRIAs entailed merging the Salmon Recovery Plan Steering Committee and the Watershed Forums after the plan adoption. The Snoqualmie Forum predates the lead entity process. The Snoqualmie Forum continues to be a broader watershed Forum that has strong elected official representation. The Forum is unique and can chart its own course regarding membership.

Bryan Holloway did mention that there needs be language added to the ILA to be able to add ex-officio members to the Forum. This language needs to be added as an amendment and Forum staff will work with the Service Provider's (King County) attorney to bring simple language into the ILA.

Jean White reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and it was noted that the Notification of grant funds should be changed to reflect the approval of Cooperative Watershed Management grants and no longer should read as funds “received” but more appropriately “awarded”.

There was discussion surrounding the amount that each Forum Member pays into the Inter-Local Agreement (ILA) and questions were raised regarding that flat amount the Snoqualmie Tribes pays. This amount has not increased at the same rate as other participating cities or the county. Cindy Spiry from the tribe commented how the tribe has been paying 100% of their share to the Forum and have never been subsidized through the grants like other participating members. Cindy will work with Forum staff to bring forward a proposal to increase the tribal cost share that will make sense to the Tribal Council. Cindy pointed out that since the cost share formula does not work for the tribe, the Forum will have to explain to the Tribe why an increase is necessary and appropriate.

This discussion led to the request that Forum Staff produce a document that summarizes the budget history and describe how the costs are determined and the origin of the tribal flat rate payment.

Action: Changes on the ILA and MOU will be sent out by Forum Staff soon for review.

III. Public Comment

- Stewardship Partners is having an Adopt-A-Buffer event on April 11th from 10 -2 at Camp Korey.
- The Snoqualmie Tribe is having an Earth Day restoration event on April 10th at Tolt-MacDonald Park from 10-2.
- Sound Salmon Solutions is having a 3-day planting event at the Waterwheel restoration site.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be May 20 at the Preston Community Center. It will start a half-hour earlier at 6:30pm and end at 9pm.