

**Snoqualmie Watershed Forum**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**January 20, 2016**  
**7:00-9:00 pm**  
**Carnation City Hall, Carnation, WA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jason Walker	City of Duvall, Chair
Lee Grumman	City of Carnation, Vice-Chair
Cindy Spiry	Snoqualmie Tribe (Alternate)
Bryan Holloway	City of Snoqualmie
Henry Sladek	Town of Skykomish
Josh Meidav	Tulalip Tribes, Alternate
Eileen Carrel	Citizen Representative
Becky Chaney	Citizen Representative
Matt Gray	Citizen Representative, Snoqualmie Valley Governments Association
Jim Haack	King Conservation District
Chris LaPointe	Stewardship Partners, Non-profit Representative Alternate

**MEETING PROCEEDINGS**

**I. New Member Introductions**

Jason Walker, Forum Chair, introduced new members to the Forum including the addition of new member jurisdictions, Tulalip Tribes and the Town of Skykomish. Supervisor Jim Haack will be the new member from the King Conservation District, Josh Meidav will be the new alternate member from the Tulalip Tribes and Councilmember Henry Sladek will be the representative for the Town of Skykomish. The Forum then approved the minutes from the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**II. Updates and Announcements**

• ***Fish, Farm, Flood Update***

The Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood Advisory Committee held its first meeting of 2016 on January 13 at Camp Korey. The committee set a goal of reaching agreement by April on a set of recommendations designed to achieve progress across all interest areas over the next three years. As part of the recommendations package, the committee is also developing scopes of work for several larger follow-up task force efforts to delve more deeply into specific issue areas. The committee's next meeting will be held on February 10, 2016, from 9:00-3:00 at the Cedar River Watershed Education Center.

• ***Watershed Improvement District Update***

The Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District was officially formed on December 7, 2015 after receiving a 94% approval by voters in the district. The Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance assisted with the administrative steps to form the district, and is on contract through 2016 to staff the district in its first year. The election also included the selection of Commissioners: Siri Erickson-Brown

(President), Local Roots Farm; Jason Roetcisoender (Secretary), Green Acres Dairy; Gary Remlinger, Remlinger Farms; Patrick McGlothlin, Goose and Gander Farm; David Andrews, farm/land owner. The terms of the initial slate of commissioners are staggered into two 3-year, two 2-year and one 1-year term (in the order listed above). The District meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM at Carnation City Hall.

- ***2015 November-December Flooding Update***

The Snoqualmie and South Fork Skykomish Rivers experienced four flood events between October 31, 2015 and December 8, 2015. The November 17-18 and December 8-9 events were the largest, each reaching a Flood Phase 4 on the Snoqualmie. Both events on the Snoqualmie were estimated as a 5-10 year recurrence flow events. November was slightly larger at the Sum of the Forks, but Carnation had a provisionally higher stage in December, so that recurrence intervals can also differ between gage locations. Limited infrastructure damage occurred during the events. Many roads were closed for extended periods due to high flood waters. The Tolt experienced a Flood Phase 2 event with only minor impacts recorded. The South Fork Skykomish experienced a major Phase 4 event during the November flood. It was approximated to be a 30-year event, with the highest recorded stage since 2006. The December flood in the South Fork Skykomish was on the order of a 10 year event.

### ***Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Chair and Vice-Chair appointments***

Jason Walker explained to the Forum that each year the Forum selects a Chair and Vice-Chair to help guide the meeting agendas and represent the Forum in other venues. Jason added that he and Lee Grumman were willing to stay on as Chair and Vice-Chair unless other members were interested. The Forum voted to appoint Jason and Lee as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, for 2016.

### **III. City of Duvall Watershed Plan**

Lara Thomas, Duvall Planning Director, provided an overview of the 2015 Duvall Watershed Plan (Duvall Plan) funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Duvall began planning during the summer of 2014 with the formation of the Watershed Advisory Group. The Group included members from the Forum, Snoqualmie Tribe, Mountains to Sound Greenway, Stewardship Partners, Wild Fish Conservancy, Department of Ecology and City of Duvall. The Duvall Plan utilized Ecology's Watershed Characterization model to evaluate key watershed processes and inform conservation strategies. The Duvall Plan will inform the city's environmental planning in the following ways:

- Inform the city's comprehensive plan update through the Duvall Plan's environmental analysis and recommendations for future in-fill and redevelopment.
- Provide direction on the city's tree protection ordinance, protection of habitat corridors and acquisition of open space.
- Improve stream and wetland protections.
- Guide green stormwater infrastructure planning.
- Provide information for various environmental grant applications.

The Duvall Plan was approved by the Duvall City Council in September 2015 after an 18-month process. The plan received a King County Green Globe Award in 2015. The city also received a second EPA grant to do stormwater planning. Jamie Burrell, North Bend, asked if the Duvall Plan will affect development

density in the city. Lara responded that the plan may affect density in certain parts of the city, but that the plan recommended density that still allowed the city to meet its regional growth targets. Henry Sladek asked if Duvall used consultants or city staff to conduct most of the work. Lara explained that Duvall hired a consultant to complete the scientific modeling work but city staff completed the majority of the policy and public outreach work.

#### **IV. Snohomish Basin Protection Plan**

Beth leDoux, Forum Technical Coordinator, presented an overview of the Snohomish Basin Protection Plan (SBPP). The SBPP, similar to the Duvall Plan, was an EPA funded effort that utilized Ecology's Watershed Characterization model to evaluate areas in the Snohomish Basin that are most important for the protection of hydrology, with the long term goal of supporting salmon recovery. The SBPP was a multi-year project led by the Tulalip Tribes, Snohomish and King Counties. The final recommendations were organized by land use areas including basin-wide, urban, rural residential, forestry and agriculture strategies. In November 2015, the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum adopted the SBPP as part of the Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan.

Throughout the process, Jamie Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy, acted as the Forum's representative to the SBPP Steering Committee. Jamie gave the Forum his perspective on the SBPP process. The SBPP is unique in Puget Sound and will be the first attempt by a watershed to more explicitly incorporate protection measures into a salmon conservation plan. Jamie appreciated the science-based nature of the SBPP and applauded the effort that went into it. He added that the most important work begins now when we begin to implement the SBPP.

Forum members asked the following questions about the SBPP:

- Josh Meidav asked if the SBPP relied on the importance versus the degradation model. Beth answered that the plan used the importance model to support protection measures.
- Jason Walker asked if cities could use the SBPP in stormwater planning. Jamie responded that the tools in the SBPP will be useful to future planning. Jason followed up by suggesting we highlight certain recommendations relevant to specific Forum members.
- Henry Sladek wanted to know if the SBPP included the whole basin including the South Fork Skykomish. Jamie said that the SBPP did cover the entire Snohomish Basin, including the SF Skykomish.

#### **V. Forum Business**

##### ***2016 Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Program***

Beth leDoux reviewed the 2016 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant program schedule and funding priorities. The grant schedule will be similar to the 2015 schedule. The only change to the funding priorities was the addition of the SBPP to the list of planning documents that should guide potential projects. Beth added that the Forum continues to closely meet the grant program's funding allocation guidance, including allocating more than 70% of the funding to capital projects. The priorities will inform the grant ranking criteria used by the Forum's Project Review Committee to evaluate projects. Once the Forum approves the 2016 schedule and priorities, the grant program will launch on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Action: The Forum approved the 2016 CWM schedule and priorities.

### ***Black Canyon Draft License Application Comments***

Janne informed the Forum that Black Canyon LLC submitted a Draft License Application (DLA) to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on December 2, 2015 for the North Fork Snoqualmie River hydro project. The DLA was substantively deficient and did not follow FERC regulations in the manner in which it was filed. Commenting on the DLA is not required but raising issues with the application may be of interest to the Forum. Specifically, the Forum may want to recommend the project proponent complete an Environmental Impact Statement as it would be a new hydroelectric project and there will likely be significant impacts to river flows on the North Fork Snoqualmie River. Janne recommended that the Forum draft a short letter now and reserve more detailed comments for later in the process when Black Canyon has a more complete application. If the Forum decides to write a letter, comments would be due to Janne by Friday, January 29. A draft letter will be available for Forum review on Wednesday, February 3 via email. Staff needs to submit the letter to FERC no later than February 29.

Matt Gray asked if FERC could reject the DLA due to incomplete information. Janne suggested that FERC will not likely reject the DLA, but could instead ask for Black Canyon to make specific changes to the application. Jim Haack asked if Black Canyon has completed a hydro project in the watershed. Janne responded that they have not constructed a hydro project, but they currently operate the much smaller Black Creek project on a tributary to the North Fork Snoqualmie River near the proposed project site.

Action: The Forum directed staff to draft a comment letter and endorsed Janne's comment letter schedule.

### **IV. Public Comment**

A member of the public (Brian Bodenbach) stated that we need more stream gages in the Snoqualmie Watershed in order to detect declines in stream health (e.g., BiBi studies) due to development and other landscape changes. He also noted, reflecting on the SBPP presentation, that detecting hydrologic changes over time is not possible without a good stream gage network.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be March 16 at the Snoqualmie Tribal Administration Building in Snoqualmie from 7:00pm to 9:00pm.