

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
July 19, 2017, 7:00-9:00 pm
Duvall Visitor's Center

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lee Grumman	City of Carnation Councilmember, Chair
Jason Walker	City of Duvall Councilmember
Cindy Spiry	Snoqualmie Tribe (Alternate)
Jessica Lange	Sound Salmon Solutions, Non-governmental Organization (Alternate)
Ryan Miller	Tulalip Tribes (Alternate)
Trevor Kostanich	City of North Bend Councilmember
Jim Haack	King Conservation District Supervisor
Eileen Carrel	Citizen Representative
Brian Bodenbach	SVGA Citizen Representative
Becky Chaney	Citizen Representative

Other Attendees: Matt Baerwalde & Angela Dillon, Snoqualmie Tribe; Jamie Burrell, North Bend; Lara Thomas, City of Duvall, John Velimesis, citizen; James Szubski, citizen; Jessica Olmstead, Washington Department of Natural Resources; Eric Beach, Janne Kaje, Sevin Bilir, & Josh Kubo, King County; Perry Falcone, Beth leDoux, & Elissa Ostergaard, Forum staff

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

I. Introductions, Updates and Announcements

Lee Grumman, Forum Chair, welcomed everyone to the July Forum meeting and led off introductions for the meeting.

ACTION: The Forum approved the minutes from the May 17th meeting without any changes.

State and Federal Capital Budget Update

Perry Falcone, Forum staff, explained that the state legislature passed an operating budget on June 30, which allows existing state grants and contracts to continue work. However, most of the grant funds that support salmon recovery projects are under the capital budget, which has not yet been passed. The President's proposed 2018 federal budget was released, and includes significant cuts to the EPA and salmon recovery grant programs. However, the House and Senate will develop their own 2018 budgets, and attempt to find a compromise. The federal fiscal year ends on September 30 and begins on October 1.

Federal Register Notice on Streamlining Regulatory Processes and Reducing Regulatory Burden

Perry Falcone described that the federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is seeking input on the efficiency and effectiveness of their current regulations. This includes the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, as well as aquaculture permitting. Comments are due on August 21, 2017. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/07/07/2017-14167/streamlining-regulatory-processes-and-reducing-regulatory-burden>

ACTION: Forum members directed staff to draft a Forum comment letter and circulate via email for approval before the deadline. Jason Walker suggest have individual signatures on the letter, if possible.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Grant Pre-proposals

Beth leDoux announced that the WRIA 7 Project Ranking Committee has released preliminary recommendations for the Snohomish Basin 2017 SRFB grant awards. SRFB funding for the Snohomish basin is expected to be \$355,297, but we are waiting for the state legislature to pass the capital budget. The first tier of projects include: a design project to remove the Pilchuck Dam in Snohomish County that would open up 22 miles of salmon habitat; and filling the funding gap for two projects that received partial funding in 2016 – Woods Creek culvert replacement (in Snohomish County) and Cherry Creek Phase II and III overrun (in King County). The list of second tier projects would only receive funding if there is money remaining after the tier one projects are fully funded. The Snohomish Forum is set to approve the draft 2017 ranked project list at the August 3rd Forum meeting.

Atlantic Salmon Net Pen Aquaculture

Beth leDoux reported that there are currently 8 aquaculture net pens in Puget Sound raising Atlantic salmon. Cooke Aquaculture recently purchased them, and has plans for expansion; in fact, on July 7 they issued a notice of application and SEPA determination to expand and relocate net pens at a site in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Ecology is updating guidance for local jurisdictions concerning shoreline management, NPDES regulations, and permitting for Atlantic salmon net-pens and has created a list-serve for interested parties. Wild Fish Conservancy also has an education campaign underway. The Snohomish Technical Committee is preparing a briefing, and we hope to have more to share with the Forum later this year.

Ecology site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/aquaculture/recommendations.html>

WFC Campaign: <http://wildfishconservancy.org/atlantic-salmon-net-pen-recommendations-comments>

Forum members asked several questions regarding the impacts of disease outbreaks and fish escaping from net pens in Washington State and other locations on the west coast. Beth leDoux responded that there are significant concerns related to net pen operations. Perry Falcone added that west coast states and provinces all have very different policy approaches to net pens with California, Oregon and Alaska implementing significant restrictions and even outright bans while Washington and British Columbia have been more accommodating to the net pen industry.

II. Snoqualmie River Water Temperatures - Summer 2016

Josh Kubo, King County Ecologist, provided an overview of 2016 summer temperature monitoring in the Snoqualmie Watershed. King County continued temperature monitoring started during the drought of 2015. Josh highlighted the importance of tributary inputs into the Snoqualmie River as well as ground water inputs helping cool the mainstem of the river and provide areas of different temperatures along the river's path where fish can find refuge. For example, Josh described an area downstream of Patterson Creek where the water downstream is cooler than water upstream at low flows. The source of the cool water is likely from the hyporheic zone (zone along the streambed where shallow groundwater mixes with surface water) because the difference between the day and night temperature is not as extreme as it would be if the source was purely groundwater. In the future they plan to look at the reach downstream of Carnation too see if similar temperature patterns exist and they would also like to determine how levees and revetments influence temperatures.

John Velimesis, citizen, suggested looking at examples from the Yakima River system where they restored the connection of the river to the hyporheic zone underneath the river, improving the quality of relic channels.

III. Landslide Hazard Mapping

Sevin Bilir, King County Geologist, presented King County's Landslide Hazard Mapping process. Sevin described the various types of landslide hazards including the devastating deep seated slide which occurred during the Oso landslide in 2014 along the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River. Oso and other recent slides in King County led to the mapping effort. The County mapped most major river systems and marine shorelines using Flood Control District funding. The maps are available to citizens through King County's website (<http://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/flooding/maps/river-landslide-hazards.aspx>). The maps will help inform future management actions to reduce hazards.

Trevor Kostanich, North Bend Councilmember, asked if there was any connection to avalanche science in the Northwest. Sevin responded that the study did not look at avalanches and though the science is similar, there was not direct connection with the mapping exercise. Brian Bodenbach, Citizen Representative, asked what the major surprises were from the mapping effort. Sevin responded that many river systems and the marine bluff areas had significant hazard but the Cedar River had some surprising large deep seated landslide hazard areas.

IV. Snoqualmie Forum Agenda Topics

Elissa Ostergaard, Snoqualmie Salmon Recovery Manager, asked the Forum if they would like to add a new standing Forum topic to the agenda involving success stories, good news and updates from members. Forum members were very interested in the idea and suggested the following topics: updates from project sponsors of on-the-ground projects, update from juvenile fish trap crew, and success stories from smaller scale projects rather than just the large projects. Brian Bodenbach felt it was important to hear from the next generation who are implementing projects. Several members including Cindy Spiry and Jessica Lange offered to provide success story topics at future meetings.

ACTION: The Forum staff will add this item to future agendas.

V. Success Stories: Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood Agreement

Janne Kaje, Regional Partnership Unit Manager, provided an update on the June 12 Fish Farm Flood Agreement Signing Event. All of the Fish Farm Flood Advisory Committee members and staff gathered to celebrate the signing of approval of the final report. King County Executive, Dow Constantine, and DNRP Director, Christie True, both attended the event. Other speakers included Jason Walker, City of Duvall/Forum Member; Lara Thomas, City of Duvall; and Bobbi Lindenmulder, local farmer. Janne shared a video of Bobbi's speech which was particularly inspiring. The Advisory Committee will be embarking on a new committee structure in 2017 to implement and track the recommendations of the committee.

VI. Forum Business

Elissa presented the 2018 Forum budget, which had not changed from the draft presented in May. She asked if the Forum members had any questions regarding the budget. There were no questions. Jason Walker moved to adopt the budget and Cindy Spiry seconded the motion.

ACTION: The Forum adopted the 2018 budget.

VII. Public Comments

Lee Grumman, Forum Chair, asked if there were any public comments and asked that citizens limited their comments to 3 minutes per person.

James Szubski, City of Snoqualmie resident and member of National Treasure Snoqualmie, presented his concern with a recent Mill Site development proposal in the City of Snoqualmie. James is particularly concerned with potential legacy contamination due to past practices at the former lumber mill and railroad yard. He was concerned that the development actions could release toxic chemicals into the Snoqualmie River adjacent to the development site, putting people, fish and farms at risk downstream. He and his organization are calling for a full environmental assessment of the site before development occurs. The project is in the environmental impact statement phase of the project, so comments can be directed to the City of Snoqualmie. The local National Treasure Snoqualmie website can be found at: <http://www.nationaltreasuresnoqualmie.org/>

Next Meeting and Tour

Note schedule change: The next Forum meeting will include the **annual watershed project tour** starting from the **Maloney Store Building in Skykomish (new location)** on **September 20**, from approximately **4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**, followed by the **Forum meeting** from **6:15 – 8:15 p.m.**, also in Skykomish.