

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
March 20, 2019, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Snoqualmie Tribal Admin Building, Snoqualmie

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cindy Spiry, Chair	Snoqualmie Tribe
Brian Bodenbach	SVGA Citizen Representative
Becky Chaney	Citizen Representative
Chris Garcia	City of North Bend Councilmember
Kathy Lambert	King County Councilmember
Jessica Lange	Non-profit Representative, Sound Salmon Solutions
Ryan Miller	Tulalip Tribes
Mike Remington	City of Duvall Councilmember
Jim Ribail	City of Carnation Councilmember
Peggy Shepard	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember

Other Attendees: Matt Distler, Oxbow Farm and Conservation Center; Julie Lewis and Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Tribe; John Velimesis; Jamie Burrell, City of North Bend; Kevin Lee, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife; Dave Beedle, Seattle City Light; Laura Casey; Tim Woolett, City of Carnation; Andy Obst, Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District; Janne Kaje, Teresa Lewis, and Chase Barton, King County; Perry Falcone, Elissa Ostergaard, Beth leDoux, Wadii Boughdir, and Laura West, Forum staff

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

I. Introductions, Updates and Announcements

Cindy Spiry, Forum Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led introductions.

ACTION: The Forum unanimously approved the meeting minutes from the January 16, 2019 Forum meeting.

Snoqualmie Forum staff highlighted the following updates:

- **Client Satisfaction Survey** - King County annually surveys Forum member jurisdictions and partners as outlined in the Interlocal Agreement (ILA). This is an opportunity to provide staff with constructive feedback as to how staff are doing as the service provider to the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum. The results will be presented at the May Forum meeting.
- **Steelhead Recovery Plan** - The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published the Proposed Endangered Species Act (ESA) Recovery Plan for Puget Sound Steelhead on December 13, 2018. Comments are due on March 28, 2019. Forum staff are working closely with King County, WRIA 7, and other Forum members and partners to draft a comment letter.
- **State Budget Advocacy** - Forum staff were joined by Forum members Peggy Shepard (Councilmember, City of Snoqualmie) and Becky Chaney (citizen representative) and Mark Rigos from City of North Bend for two days of meeting with legislators, February 6 and February 27. The funding climate for salmon recovery is still uncertain given many priorities and a lack of revenue, despite the fact that orca and Chinook recovery are big priorities for Governor Inslee. The House and Senate are currently working on their proposed budgets and it is a good time to call legislators and ask them to support the PSAR and Floodplains by Design programs.

- **Water Quality White Paper** - The WRIA 7 Technical Committee is planning to write a white paper summarizing what is known about water quality issues and their effects on salmonids in the basin. This will serve as an update to the Salmon Plan, since much has been learned about water quality since the Plan was published in 2005. There will be an opportunity for King County jurisdictions to present work they are doing to protect water quality at the joint May Local Integrating Organization (LIO)/Snohomish Forum meeting.
- **New Forum Member** – Councilmember Chris Garcia has returned to the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum as North Bend’s primary representative. Trevor Kostanich will continue representing North Bend as the alternate. As of the January 2019 Forum meeting, Mike Remington is now the primary representative for City of Duvall, and Jason Walker is the alternate.
- **Farewell to Tim Woollett** - Tim Woollett, Planner at City of Carnation, is leaving at the end of March. Beth leDoux, Forum Technical Coordinator, thanked Tim for being an integral part of the Snoqualmie Valley Planning Committee, the CWM Project Ranking Committee, and an excellent partner.
- **Cooperative Watershed Management Grants & 1 Million Trees Grants** – The Forum received 22 grant proposals totaling \$2,677,528 for salmon recovery capital, monitoring, education, and planning projects. There is \$1,049,807 available to allocate (there was \$120,000 in return funds). Grant proposals will be reviewed and ranked in April, and the recommendations for funding will be presented to the Forum for approval at the May meeting. The Forum also received seven grant applications for a one-time One Million Tree Grant program. Six of those applications will leverage CWM grants to make dollars go further. There is \$175,000 for this grant program that can be used for the purchase of and labor associated with planting trees. The requests totaled \$267,204 leaving a need of \$92,204 to fund all proposals. Beth leDoux reminded the Forum that they had previously agreed to fund two grants totaling \$120,000 off the top. Kathy Lambert expressed concern for one of the trees on the approved Million Tree list. Chris Garcia asked if the review committee will consider the best available science for planting trees and fires. Beth replied that the majority of plantings in the grant applications are in riparian areas on the river mainstem or tributaries. Beth added that Brian Bodenbach and Jason Walker have raised the issue of tree density in relation to fire with the Forum. Forum Staff are communicating with the project sponsors about this. Kathy Lambert commented that the King County Local Services Department is hosting Paul Jewell to speak about why differently managed stands burn differently. Kathy will share the link for that presentation with the Forum.
- **Salmon Recovery Funding Board/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Grants** - Snohomish Basin is not holding a SRFB/PSAR grant round in 2019, because the allocation will be used to pay back WRIA 8 for money borrowed to fund projects in 2018.
- **NEP Funding Recommendations** - In February, the Environmental Protection Agency and the state NEP partner agencies released the Puget Sound National Estuary Program (NEP) FY2018 funding recommendations to fund near term actions submitted by the Snohomish LIO.

II. Public Comment

Laura Casey, a resident with a farm on the Snoqualmie River between Carnation and Fall City, asked the Forum to consider the damage to salmon and habitat from use of Jet Skis on the lower Snoqualmie River and consider banning their use. Laura talked about the plight of the Southern Resident orcas and stressed the importance of protecting Chinook habitat. Laura sees several personal watercrafts on the river on summer weekends, creating wakes that erode banks and add sediment to the water near juvenile salmon habitat. The Forum, Tribes, cities, and partners do a lot of work to improve the watershed and Laura sees Jet Skis as an impediment to that work. Brian Bodenbach commented that he almost had a head on collision with a Jet Skier while paddling and expressed concern about safety. Chris Garcia commented that he hasn’t noticed a lot of Jet Ski activity in North Bend and asked if it was a widespread issue or if there was data on how big of a problem it is. Laura commented that Jet Skis often come in from the Tolt River and ride upstream to Patterson Creek.

Ryan Miller suggested it was a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issue that might require an RCW change as DNR has control over the waterways. Elissa Ostergaard, Forum Salmon Recovery Manager, commented that King County Code specifies speed limits of 5 mph on all rivers in King County except the Snoqualmie and South Fork Skykomish Rivers. Elissa also relayed that it has been a recent problem in Snohomish as well. Brian and Laura both agreed the prevalence of Jet Skis has increased dramatically in the last few years. Chris suggested sending a letter to DNR. Peggy Shepard suggested asking King County Council to include the Snoqualmie and South Fork Skykomish Rivers in the existing speed limit code. Matt Baerwalde agreed with that approach. Matt has also encountered Jet Skis in the reach between Patterson Creek and the Tolt and supports a speed limit. Chris Garcia supports the safety aspect. Chase Barton commented that the King County Rivers and Floodplain Management Section considers recreational use when they design projects and when they surveyed recreational user types on that reach about 5 years ago, Jet Skis didn't show up, validating the recent increase. Chase added that for their Tolt Pipeline Protection Project construction during summer 2018, there was heavy Jet Ski use in and around the work area. His team had to call the King County sheriff to delineate a safe work zone area. Kathy Lambert commented that she had an appointment with the King County Council attorney at 3pm the following day and would mention this. Tim Woolett commented that there are river speed limits in other counties as well and he is supportive of moving on this issue sooner rather than later before the number of Jet Skis increases. Jamie Burrell commented that she hasn't seen many in the upper valley because there isn't a boat launch, but if North Bend gets more formal kayak launch spots, that might change. Dave Beedle commented that he has recently seen Jet Ski users park at the boat launch in Fall City, which he hadn't seen until the last few years. Dave expressed safety concerns with high numbers of children and floaters in the area. Jim Ribail asked the Forum to clarify whether it was a vessel or speed regulation issue, as boats can go just as fast. Jim believes it is more of a speed issue, not limited to Jet Skis. Chase noted a fatality in Duvall last year from a high speed Jet boat. Elissa expressed concern that engines could suck in water and spit it back out, possibly sucking up juveniles or gravel. Other potential concerns are wakes, water quality, and interference with large woody debris. Brian agreed that water quality could be an issue depending on the motor type. As a next step, Kathy Lambert will talk to the King County Council lawyer about changing the speed limit for the Snoqualmie and South Fork Skykomish Rivers and will provide an update at the May Forum meeting. Kathy will also ask why those rivers were exempted from the County-wide speed limit originally.

III. Snoqualmie River and Floodplain Management Team's 2019 Work Program

Elissa introduced Chase Barton, Supervising Engineer with the King County Rivers and Floodplain Management Section (RFMS) on the Snoqualmie and South Fork Skykomish Basin team. Chase reminded the Forum of the high flood risk in the basin, which his team works to address. Chase walked through the group's 2019 Snoqualmie work program.

- **Middle Fork Snoqualmie Capital Investment Strategy-** This strategy takes a comprehensive, system-wide approach for the lower 4.5 miles of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River. Kathy Lambert asked Chase about the Army Corps certification process. Chase explained that certification requires a certain level of flood containment, which due to design constraints, is not always possible on the Snoqualmie. John Velimesis clarified the difference between FEMA and Army Corps certification. The end result of this planning process will be a Capital Investment Strategy that Chase and his team will present for public input this summer.
- **Shake Mill Left Bank-** Located on the North Fork Snoqualmie River, the Shake Mill Left Bank levee facility has been largely destroyed and continues to see progressive damage with rapid erosion and channel migration, threatening the roadway and bridge pier. This repair is a high priority for RFMS. Chase and his team will construct a buried setback facility made of wood and rock. They

have had productive conversations with WRIA staff and the Snoqualmie Tribe regarding the make-up and hydraulic design of the setback and they appreciate the input.

- **Circle River Ranch-** Located on the South Fork Snoqualmie River, Circle River Ranch is at risk for flooding. Chase's team currently has a request for proposals out for consultants to help update technical work and look at different solutions including adding structures to the river, rebuilding or enhancing the existing revetment, doing sediment management, doing home elevations or buyouts, etc. They will look at a range of solutions and do a cost/benefit analysis for different combinations and share the results with the public to collect input in 2020. Chase's team is looking at PL 84-99 eligibility for 11 facilities along the South Fork, as there has been a change in the eligibility criteria regarding vegetation growth. Chris Garcia raised the issue of widening the 202 bridge.
- **Reinig Road Revetment Repair-** Located on the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River, the Reinig Road Revetment has been damaged since 2016. There is a planned repair of 775 feet and it is currently at 30% design, with construction targeted for summer 2020.
- **Record Office Revetment Repair-** Located in the City of Snoqualmie, there is damage to the Record Office revetment that threatens the road and utilities. Chase's team is working with the City to repair it.
- **Tolt River Level of Service Feasibility Study-** This study is looking at reach scale issues.
- **Tolt River Sediment Management Feasibility Study-** This study looks at permitting requirements, costs, and flood risk reduction benefits associated with implementing previously identified actions. John Velimesis asked if the study incorporates future projections of sediment. Chase confirmed it will. Chris Garcia asked how habitat was integrated. Chase replied that his team will be discussing different habitat scenarios with the permitting agencies.
- **Tolt River SR 203 Bridge Improvements Feasibility Study-** This study looks at conveyance improvements through the corridor.
- **Holberg Levee Improvements/Repairs-** Chase's team is evaluating repairs to repair and enhance this levee.
- **Skykomish-** Chase's team will do a small scale repair on the Skykomish this year to avoid channel migration.

Brian Bodenbach asked if Chase's team is incorporating future climate change effects into their work planning. Chase replied that they are for feasibility type projects, but the long term effects aren't always applicable in some of the shorter-term design projects. Matt Baerwalde asked how many homes are behind the corner on the Holberg Levee that would get taken out of the channel migration zone. Chase replied there are four properties there. Kathy Lambert added that those properties are located in County jurisdiction, whereas the rest of the development is in the City of Carnation. Kathy stated that this repair will reduce vulnerability for the rest of the properties. Chris Garcia asked if technology exists to control sediment build up and remove sediment more often in an effort to disturb less habitat. Chase replied that bar scalping and vacator trucks somewhat perform that function, but Chase doesn't know of local applications of dredging with vacators. Matt Baerwalde suggested that frequent sediment removal would create a repeated impact, which also isn't beneficial to habitat.

IV. Haffner-Barfuse Habitat Project

Elissa Ostergaard showed an almost final version of a habitat video created by Wadii Boughdir. Perry Falcone, Forum Project Coordinator, presented on the King County Haffner-Barfuse project. Located just downstream of Fall City, the double levee setback project is in the early feasibility phase, about a year out from 30% design. Perry explained that juvenile rearing is a limiting factor for Chinook in the basin. Juveniles prefer habitat that includes gravel bars/backwater, complex edges, side-channels, log jams, and pools. King County performed a feasibility study along the Fall City reach downstream of where the Raging River comes in and

found promising opportunities to create juvenile rearing habitat at four sites. Those sites are Upper Carlson, Haffner, Barfuse, and Aldair. This combined project at Haffner and Barfuse creates multiple benefits, including creating high priority salmon habitat, constructing setback protection, reducing maintenance of existing flood facilities, increasing safety, and reducing flooding and erosion. This reach is one of the top spawning reaches of the river. The cost estimate of the project is between \$14-18 million and it is on schedule for construction in 2022. Chris Garcia asked how this project will meet habitat goals in the Salmon Plan. Perry replied that this is a significant project and includes close to ½ miles of revetment removal, opening up edge habitat, which is a metric we are behind on. Brian Bodenbach expressed support for the project. John Velimesis asked if this reach is impacted by Jet Ski use, and if so, how the timing of spawning lines up with recreational use. Perry replied that there is Jet Ski use in this reach. There is likely some Jet Ski overlap with late spring juvenile use, summer steelhead, and adult Chinook returning in September. Matt Baerwalde commented on the project's impressive flood benefits, including an increase in flood storage, road relocation away from flood risk and the elimination of revetment maintenance. Matt hopes the Flood Control District (FCD) might consider helping fund the project. Perry commented that King County hasn't sought funding from the FCD yet, but might in the future.

V. Forum Business

Elissa Ostergaard walked through proposed changes to the Forum member policies, which haven't been updated since 2011. Kathy Lambert inquired about the change in Elissa's title from Watershed Coordinator to Salmon Recovery Manager. Kathy prefers the term "Watershed" as this position does more than coordinate salmon recovery in the watershed. Brian Bodenbach agreed with Kathy. Elissa explained that her colleagues in other WRIAs felt that the "coordinator" title didn't garner enough respect amongst elected officials. Kathy suggested the title "Watershed Manager" and is going to look into why that change took place.

Brian Bodenbach asked about Forum membership in the member policies, and suggested inviting someone from the forestry community to join the Forum as forests have a big impact on rivers. Elissa Ostergaard will add that to a future Forum agenda. Perry Falcone added that Charlie Kellogg, a citizen representative on the Forum, has a forestry background. No decision was made regarding approval of the member policies, since further discussion is needed.

Elissa Ostergaard announced that Puget Sound Partnership organizes an annual event in Washington, DC called Puget Sound Day on the Hill, designed to educate Representatives and Senators about salmon recovery priorities in Puget Sound. The cost for one staff member to attend is estimated at \$1,000-\$1,500 and the dates this year conflict with the May Forum meeting. Elissa asked if the Forum would be supportive of her or anyone else attending this year or next year. Brian Bodenbach commented that while air travel is damaging to the environment, it is important to have representation in DC. Jim Ribail agreed it is important to be at the table. Mike Remington and Chris Garcia are supportive of Elissa attending. Jamie Burrell commented that she heard the Forum's lobbying in Olympia was worthwhile. Kathy Lambert asked if Elissa has a list of projects to present to Congress. Kathy will be meeting with the EPA in early April and could bring a list. Elissa will send that to Kathy if possible. Elissa will gauge attendance interest from other Forum members and decide whether to reschedule the May Forum meeting or have other Forum staff fill in for her.

VI. Closing

Cindy Spiry thanked everyone for coming.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 2019, Preston Community Center, 6:30-9:00 p.m.