

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
January 18, 2006
Meeting 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Duvall Fire Station

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dianne Brudnicki	City of Duvall Councilmember
Bill Knutsen	Citizen Representative
Kathy Lambert	King County Councilmember
Ross Laudenback	City of North Bend Councilmember
Ray Mullen	Snoqualmie Tribe Councilmember
Bill Paulsen	City of Carnation Councilmember
Charles Peterson	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember
Gary Roberts	Citizen Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stuart Lisk	City of Carnation Councilmember
William Harper	Citizen Representative
Matt Stone	City of Snoqualmie Alternate

MEETING PROCEEDINGS:

Introductions and Announcements

Bill Paulsen, Forum Chair, opened the meeting by introducing the newest Forum member, Ray Mullen from the Snoqualmie Tribe Council. This is the first year that the Snoqualmie Tribe has been represented on the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum. Sandy Kilroy announced that the Forum needed to discuss a budget surplus at a future meeting. Perry Falcone, Forum staff, announced that 438 acres near Carnation will be protected from development through the Transfer of Development Rights program between the Girl Scouts and the Vulcan Corporation. Also, federal officials will be holding a public meeting for the Draft Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan in Seattle on Feb. 8th at 6pm (Port of Seattle, 2711 Alaskan Way). The Forum will be sending a comment letter on the Draft Plan.

Forum's 2005 Photography Contest Winner

Bill Paulsen, Forum Chair presented a framed copy of the 2006 Snoqualmie Watershed poster to photo contest winner, Durward Frame of North Bend. Mr. Frame submitted the winning entry in the 2005 Zoom In On The Snoqualmie photography contest. Copies of the posters were distributed to those in attendance and are available for free distribution by contacting Saffa Bardaro at 206-296-1959 or saffa.bardaro@metrokc.gov.

2006 King Conservation District Grant Process

The Forum reviewed and approved the Snoqualmie Watershed KCD Funding Areas of Focus for 2006 including new criteria for maintenance applications. The Forum will solicit up to \$30,000 worth of applications for long-term maintenance on a Forum directed list of existing restoration projects. The Forum also approved the 2006 KCD grant schedule for watershed projects. The Forum will be accepting KCD grant applications from January 23rd to February 27th. KCD has informed Forum staff that the KCD grant criteria could change and affect our process in 2006. Staff will inform the Forum and applicants of any changes.

Forum members also requested a comprehensive list of maintenance projects for the next Forum meeting. There was interest in sharing “lessons learned” from current projects to inform future projects (through the internet or with an instructional video). Forum members were interested in hearing about successes in Whatcom County in a future workshop. The Forum will send a letter requesting that maintenance projects be eligible for Conservation Futures Tax funding.

King County’s Draft Flood Hazard Management Plan

Jenifer Knauer, John Koon, and Pricilla Kaufmann, King County River and Floodplain Management Staff, described the Draft Plan to the Forum members. The Plan will direct flood hazard management activities throughout the county. The staff provided a map of potential flood hazard reduction projects in the Snoqualmie Watershed. The Plan’s public comment period will be from Feb. 6 – Mar. 6. Cities were provided an early review and comment opportunity on Draft Chapters 1 and 2. The Forum members provided the following comments on the Plan:

- The Plan needs to identify a clear timeline for the consistency process to occur and provide more details on the consistency process (Section G-9 & G-10). The Forum was interested in a collaborative process between the county and cities.
- There was concern that the consistency process would be a financial burden for the smaller cities. Cities should be considered consistent with the Plan if they comply with State and Federal codes.
- The Plan should identify exemptions for development in the floodway currently utilized by cities. Currently the City of Snoqualmie could be construed as inconsistent with FP-4 and FP-5 and the City of North Bend with FP-2, FP-3, FP-4, and FP-5. There was differing opinion whether the language should be changed in the Plan or if it could be dealt with during the consistency process.
- The Forum expressed concern regarding King County flood policies that exceed state and federal codes as well as policies that would be too onerous on cities.
- There was a request to know if levee setback projects rebuild levees at the same standard, higher standards or certified levees. New levees are usually built to higher standards but are not generally built larger or with any more flood protection.
- There was a request to revise the language in FRR-9 to add “traditional cultural properties.”
- There was interest in projects that could match a proposed North Bend 205 flood reduction project.

- The Forum is interested in hearing the results of the gravel studies in the Snoqualmie Watershed and the study's recommendations. The Forum is concerned about the mouth of the Raging River, the mouth of the Tolt River, and the Three Forks Area.
- The Forum expressed interest in seeing the results of the County's proposed risk assessment
- The Forum would like to see the overlay of salmon habitat and flooding projects to ensure coordination.

The Forum and government staff will continue to work on this issue. The Forum would like to send a comment letter on the County's Plan in February.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The MOU between the Forum and King County directs Forum work. North Bend provided some alternative language for the MOU, which rewrote Section VII to add that the Service Provider shall assist cities in securing grant sources to cover their cost shares. The staff will revisit, rework and will circulate the revised language via email and approve it if no concerns are raised.

Public Comment

Forum staff presented Sandy Kilroy a framed Snoqualmie Watershed poster as a sign of gratitude. Sandy was promoted to be King County's Regional Services manager.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on March 15, 2006 at the Mt. Si Senior Center.