

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
May 16, 2007
Meeting 7:00-9:00 p.m.
City Hall, Carnation

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Paulsen	City of Carnation Councilmember
Charles Peterson	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember
Heather Page	City of Duvall Councilmember
Ross Loudenback	City of North Bend Councilmember
Gary Roberts	Citizen Representative
Bill Knutsen	Citizen Representative

MEETING PROCEEDINGS:

Open Meeting

- Bill Paulsen opened the meeting.
- Meeting summary approved for the March 21, 2007 meeting.

Announcements and General Housekeeping

- Yvette reported on the salmon recovery funding amount that is associated with the recently passed legislation that establishes the new Puget Sound Partnership. \$40.7 million of “new” money will be available for salmon recovery projects around the sound. Approximately \$2.8 million will be allocated to the Snohomish Basin. In addition, \$13 million has been allocated Sound-wide for nearshore projects. The funding process will run concurrently with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) process that is already under way. The SRFB allocation for the watershed is estimated to be roughly \$900,000. In the combined funding round, 26 projects were proposed in the Snohomish Basin -- 9 of those located in the Snoqualmie. To be consistent with the original funding request to the Governor, the funding will emphasize projects that can be completed within the next 3 years.
- Nature Vision has completed 30 in-school education sessions with the funding provided by the Forum. Of the 12 evaluations received so far from teachers, 100% rated the program as excellent. See handout for list of participating schools.
- Regarding the King County Flood Control Zone District, the second round of Basin Technical Committee meetings concluded last week. North Bend, Snoqualmie and Carnation are permanent members of the Advisory Committee. The committee – with support from the technical committees - will develop project recommendations, broader programmatic guidance and funding recommendations for the District.
- King County Rivers and Floodplain Management Unit held a public meeting in Preston regarding potential acquisition of properties with substantial flood risk. 25 landowners attended the meeting,

with 7 expressing possible interest in selling. The City of Snoqualmie is also going after the same federal funding source to fund flood-related buy outs.

2007 KCD “General Round” Grant Recommendations

- Bill Knutsen introduced Jessica Saavedra as the new Member Jurisdiction and WRIA Forum Grant Program Lead for the King Conservation District.
- Perry provided a summary of the amount of available funds, unused funds from previous rounds, and the placeholder for the Opportunity Fund. The estimated amount available for the 2007 General Round is just over \$552,000. The total amount requested is approximately \$655,000, resulting in a \$100,000 shortfall.
- Perry provided a quick update on the process and schedule being used for the Opportunity Fund. He noted that many landowner-initiated applications were substantially incomplete and that Forum staff and the KCD would be working with these applicants to refine the proposals. Heather Page asked whether KCD was agreeable to the proposed schedule delay. Perry confirmed that the delay arose out of discussions with KCD staff. It is also a first-time process for WRIA and KCD staff in part because the funding model is a 50/50 split between KCD assessment funds allocated by the Forum and from KCD’s own operating dollars. Bill Knutsen later indicated that KCD would like to “red flag” the project list, then send it back for review by staff. These details are still being developed.
- Perry provided a brief description of each proposal. Forum members previously received copies of each application. The following notes will focus only on questions and comments posed by Forum members or others regarding specific projects, and associated staff or applicant responses.
- Regarding King County’s project at **Chinook Bend**, Heather Page asked about potential impacts to private landowners and whether those had been addressed. No adverse impacts are expected, and all current landowners have been contacted. Such contacts will continue in the future as the final designs and construction schedules are determined. Bill Knutsen noted that the 1100-acre Nestle property (downstream, left bank) has a sale pending and that new landowners would have to be contacted in the future. Heather Page asked about the effects of the project on flows. Kollin Higgins (King County) explained that the project designs incorporate channel roughness elements in the floodplain that will trap sediment and wood and likely reduce flow velocity to some degree.
- The staff ranking committee recommends that the **Weiss Creek** maintenance project (Wild Fish Conservancy) be moved into the Opportunity Fund round. It is a good project that nevertheless did not make the cut for available funds. Heather Page asked whether staff propose to move the application into that round to compete with others, or whether the Forum is being asked to fund the project through the Opportunity Fund immediately. Perry replied that this project would fair very well and is generally qualified for the Opportunity Fund, but that each project would be judged on its merits.
- Several Forum members posed questions about the **Fish Passage and Water Quality Monitoring at the Cherry Creek Hidrostral Pump Facility** project (Wild Fish Conservancy), which had fallen below the funding line in the review committee ranking.
 - It was asked whether there were other similar pumps in the Snoqualmie Valley that could benefit from the results of this project. Project proponents (Ryan Bartelheimer

and Eliot Drucker) replied that there are not any other pumps in the Valley, but there are pumps on the Snohomish County side of the Snohomish Basin.

- A question was raised about whether the impact recording device (IRD) is a proven technology. Ryan Bartelheimer responded that it has been used extensively for produce applications, but not for fish projects.
 - Heather Page noted that the Forum has already invested in the project during an earlier grant round. During the original study funded in large part by KCD, the results hinted at the possibility of high delayed mortality rates for fish passing through the pumps, but unanticipated water quality problems compromised the study by killing all of the fish being held in a holding pen.
 - Bill Knutsen asked why the pumps were not screened as, by his recollection, that was one of the original actions that the Forum provided funding for? Ryan Bartelheimer confirmed that the original plan for the retrofit called for screening, but subsequent discussions with fish agencies led to the recommendation that the pumps get replaced with ‘fish friendly’ pumps instead.
 - Several questions were raised about pump operation, the lack of funding from the pump manufacturer for the project, and whether the “fish friendly” term is official in any way. Mr. Bartelheimer confirmed that he is not aware of any formal certification associated with the term.
 - Bill Paulsen asked what the results of the study would be for the management of pumps at this site. The drainage district – working with the Wild Fish Conservancy, WDFW and NOAA Fisheries – would decide what to do with the data, but there is no formal commitment by the district to implement pumping rate recommendations on the basis of the study.
 - Ross Loudenback asked why the station wouldn’t switch to a larger “proven” pump technology. According to Mr. Bartelheimer, the cost increases exponentially with pump size.
- Forum members asked for clarification on why the **King County planting project** was denied funding, since it appears to meet criteria. Staff responded that – compared to other proposals that were recommended for funding – the King County proposal was not clearly articulated in terms of specific objectives, tasks, work locations, etc. Moreover, the open status of prior grants to the same County program raised questions about the urgency of this project and the readiness to take it on. Staff agreed that the project is the type of project that KCD should fund, and would give it strong consideration in a future round, but it simply did not score as well when compared to other, similar projects due to the urgency question.
 - The collective recommendation of the staff ranking committee is to fund the eight top ranking projects, move two projects to the Opportunity Fund round, and decline funding for two projects.
 - Heather Page asked whether the **Cherry Creek Pump Station** project would benefit from partial funding, and what could be achieved with a portion of the funds, using \$17,000 as an example (roughly one third of the request). Eliot Drucker responded that the sample size for the study would need to be substantially reduced, thus affecting the ability to collect statistically valid results.

- Regarding the **Tolt River-San Souci Acquisitions** project (King County), Bill Knutsen asked how many of the proposed parcels had willing landowners. Kollin Higgins explained that none of these owners had indicated willingness, nor had he had time to contact each owner since the departure of the Snoqualmie Basin Steward from King County. He also noted that for acquisitions to be successful, money must be available when opportunity arises. Bill Paulsen asked whether these acquisitions are also on the project list for the new Flood District, and would therefore have access to those funds. Kollin confirmed that they are on the list, but that the amount of the assessment has not been determined and delays in funding could cause the County to miss opportunities for acquisition.
- Regarding **Chinook Bend**, forum members had some concern about the size of the grant (\$250,000) and the cost of the project (estimated \$1,000,000). Kollin Higgins indicated that these funds would put the project in sure footing where it can move forward, with a goal of constructing in summer 2008. Ross Loudenback asked where the fill from the project would go, noting that fill disposal is often a major cost. Kollin agreed, and noted that the final disposition of fill had not been determined, but that some may be used as part of constructing an overlook view-point along the west margin of the site, outside of the project area and floodplain. Janne Kaje expressed support for the project from the standpoint of salmon recovery. He pointed out that these are exactly the types of large projects that the recovery plans need to achieve success. He also noted that if you consider the size of the action (62 acres of floodplain), the cost is in fact fairly low compared to others that have a much smaller scale of effect.
- Charles Peterson expressed concern about the Snoqualmie Tribe's proposal – the **Traditional Ecological Knowledge Education Project**. He is concerned about the viability of restoration actions on this site given the likely impacts of the casino site which is located on the same property. Specifically, he expressed concern about how stormwater at the casino would be handled. Tribal staff were not able to address this question as they are not directly involved in the casino project.
- Charles Peterson expressed his desire that the Forum “needs to get something done” at **Cherry Creek**. Bill Knutsen also agreed that he would hate to see the project left incomplete. Heather Page would like to reallocate funds from other projects to fund the project, specifically, the Tolt River - San Souci Project. Bill Paulsen noted that Tolt – San Souci is likely to have access to other funds.
- Heather Page motioned to deny funding to Tolt – San Souci and to direct the funds to Cherry Creek instead. Charles Peterson seconded the motion. Bill Knutsen also supported the proposal. Ross Loudenback suggested that the County investigate using its Transfer of Development Rights program to fund projects like Tolt-San Souci.

Decision: The Forum approved funding to the projects as noted in **Attachment A**.

Snoqualmie Summit Update

- Yvette Lizée-Smith gave an update on the Snoqualmie Summit that was held on April 18th at Camp River Ranch.
- The event was a large success. Close to 90 people attended. They included local landowners and residents, and representatives from non-profits, city, county governments and state agencies. Staff received very good feedback in the evaluations.

- Staff are currently drafting a follow up report. It includes a number of action recommendations to be led by different entities, including the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum. Items earmarked for Forum leadership fit within our current work program and are aimed at enhancing communication, coordination and collaboration across groups in the valley in the areas of project development/implementation, education and outreach, and general information sharing.
- Yvette provided a draft table summarizing the full list of action items. It must still be vetted with members of the Summit Planning Team before being finalized.

Emerging Issues Update

- Janne Kaje provided a handout that summarizes activities to date related to three of the high-priority Emerging Issues identified at the March meeting. Due to time constraint, the discussion was limited to the Steelhead listing issue.
- Janne informed the Forum that steelhead were listed under the Endangered Species Act on May 7, 2007. It is unlikely that the federal or regional entities (NOAA Fisheries, Shared Strategy) would have any formal guidance before 2008. The WRIA 7 Technical Committee will be discussing the issue, but probably not before fall.
- Forum staff prepared a letter to the editor on behalf of the Forum that was published on the day of the meeting in the Snoqualmie Valley Record, signed by Bill Paulsen. Unfortunately, the editor provided a headline that did not match the intent of the letter. The headline brought attention to the likelihood of new regulations, a topic that was not discussed in any way in the letter. Staff were asked to contact the Editor to bring the matter to his attention.

Public Comment

- No public comment.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held on July 18, 2007 at the Duvall Fire Station in Duvall. **The meeting begins at 5:00 PM for a project tour**, followed by the meeting at the firehouse. Forum staff will send details in the coming weeks.

**2007 Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
General Grant Round Recommendations to KCD Board**

Project Name	Applicant	Key Partner	Total KCD Request	Forum Grant Recommendation
Snoqualmie Salmon-Safe Marketing and Promotion	Stewardship Partners		\$15,000	\$15,000
Raging River Floodplain Enhancement	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	King County	\$25,500	\$25,500
Wetland Creation and Enhancement Project	City of North Bend		\$30,000	\$30,000
Snoqualmie River Riparian Restoration and Awareness Project at Stillwater Wildlife Area	Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force	WDFW	\$49,550	\$49,550
Snoqualmie Restoration and Maintenance Crew 2008	Stewardship Partners		\$50,000	\$50,000
Fish Passage and Water Quality Monitoring at the Cherry Creek Hidrostal Pump Facility (2007-2008)	Wild Fish Conservancy	Tulalip Tribes/WDFW	\$50,000	\$50,000
Chinook Bend Levee Removal Construction	King County DNRP		\$250,000	\$250,000
Traditional Ecological Knowledge Education Project	Snoqualmie Tribe	UW Restoration Ecology Network	\$17,679	Consider under Opportunity Fund
Weiss Creek Restoration Project Maintenance	Wild Fish Conservancy	Stewardship Partners	\$12,200	Consider under Opportunity Fund
Tolt River San Souci Reach Acquisitions	King County DNRP		\$50,000	Declined
Riparian Ag Grant IV: Bank-face Willow Plantings	King County DNRP	Landowners/Stewardship Partners	\$25,600	Declined