

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
September 19, 2007
Meeting 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Snoqualmie Police Station, WA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Harper	Citizen Representative
Bill Knutsen	Citizen Representative
Ross Loudenback	City of North Bend Councilmember
Bill Paulsen	City of Carnation Councilmember
Charles Peterson	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember
Gary Roberts	Citizen Representative

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Introductions and Minutes

- The Forum approved the meeting summary for the July 18, 2007 meeting.

Announcements

- In August, the King Conservation District recognized the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum with the 2007 *Best Partnering Organization* award for our efforts in assisting the District to achieve successful conservation on the ground.
- The Salmon Homecoming was held September 7-9 on the Seattle Waterfront. Forum staff hosted an educational display for elementary students as part of a school event on opening day.
- The Harvest Celebration is this coming Saturday, September 22 (10am-4:30pm). A total of 24 farms are participating, including 10 farms in the Snoqualmie Valley. The Forum will be hosting a Snoqualmie Forum display at Jubilee Farm. King Conservation District and Stewardship Partners will also be there – with Stewardship Partners providing tours of their riparian plantings.
- As mentioned at our last Forum meeting, there's a proposal to host an assembly of WRIA 7, 8, 9 this fall. At our July meeting, Forum members suggested holding it in September or after the King County budget process (so after November). A September meeting did not prove feasible, and a year-end event seemed to work better for all WRIAs. The proposed date is December 12 at the Cedar Watershed Education Center near North Bend. We must still determine if it will be a full-day or a half-day event. We will be forming a cross-WRIA steering committee to develop the agenda.
- Representative Dave Reichert announced planned legislation to expand Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area and designate the Pratt River as “wild and scenic.” This proposal seems to be widely supported by local groups and is listed as an action in the Snohomish Salmon Plan.

Puget Sound Partnership

- The Puget Sound Partnership has decided on action area delineations. WRIA 7 (including Snoqualmie Watershed) is part of the Whidbey Island action area – which also includes the Stillaguamish and Skagit watersheds and Island County.
- PSP is requesting nominees to serve as Action Area representatives on PSP's Ecosystem Coordinating Board (ECB). The post would require about 20 hours/month commitment. Councilmember Dave Sommers (Snohomish County) has expressed interest in serving as Whidbey Island Action Area representative on the ECB. Yvette Lizee-Smith asked the Forum if they would support Dave Sommers nomination, or if they would like to nominate someone else.
- Decision: The Forum declined to support a particular nominee at this time. The Forum may submit a future letter, if there is opportunity to consider all nominees and input the selection prior to PSP's decision.

Illegal Dumping

King County Solid Waste Division (Dinah Day and Morgan John) and King County Hazardous Waste Unit (Donna Galstad) provided an overview of illegal dumping issues in the Snoqualmie Watershed. Staff described how landowners are ultimately responsible for waste that ends up on their property including flood debris. Illegal dumping costs King County \$2 million per year, not including costs incurred by private landowners. There are nine government agencies that respond to illegal dumping. In March 2003 King County convened the Illegal Dumping Task Force. The Task Force recommended four actions:

- Create a centralized telephone hotline and link it to an internet database
- Increase enforcement effectiveness
- Develop an illegal dumping prevention and education community outreach program
- Increase emphasis on field investigator's safety

The hotline has since been established (206-296-SITE) and an extensive education campaign was undertaken in 2007. A similar effort to reduce illegal dumping on businesses is also underway. The Business Waste Line is 206-296-3976 and qualified businesses are eligible for \$500 matching funds.

Forum members provided comments and recommendations.

- Expand the currently successful Wastemobile program.
- Increase primary school education programs.
- Provide outreach on illegal dumping through chamber of commerce and local city cable stations.
- Hazardous waste should be accommodated at all traditional dump sites.

Update on Emerging Issues

Water Quality

Janne Kaje, Forum staff, provided an update on the Snoqualmie Watershed Water Quality Synthesis Report – a report assembling key findings from past water quality studies and data sources. The State Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Effectiveness Study will be finalized in 2007 but the temperature TMDL will not be completed until Fall 2008. The study has identified bacteria, pH and

dissolved oxygen as impaired (temperature will likely be impaired as well). The Snoqualmie Watershed Agriculture Assistance Team Report describes the water quality impacts of the Agriculture Production District. King County Roads has provided a great deal of water quality data for road culverts.

Generally, water quality has improved in the past ten years. Bacteria levels are substantially lower and dissolved oxygen has improved. Important challenges include bacteria spikes in summer, high temperature (mainstem Snoqualmie River), elevated bacteria and nutrient levels (South Fork Snoqualmie River), and high tributary summer bacteria counts. Though there has been improvement there are still important health concerns for humans and fish. Janne will provide a more comprehensive report at the January Forum meeting.

Farm Pads

King County Council approved a pilot study for farm pads. Farm pads include flood safe pads for livestock, nurseries and agriculture equipment. Twelve farmers have been approved to get farm pads in 2007. It is hoped that King County Community Rating System will not be compromised and result in increased flood insurance rates.

Alluvial Fans

A King County Comprehensive Plan revision has been recommended related to alluvial fan issues. A pilot study will be recommended to create a framework aimed at developing solutions for landowners with alluvial fans on their property. The study will likely address permitting issues and recommend solutions that are beneficial to landowners and fish.

Progress Report on Project Funding

Perry Falcone, Forum staff, provided a list of projects recommended for funding in the 2007 Salmon Recovery Fund Board/Puget Sound Partnership process. Snoqualmie Watershed projects are recommended to receive \$2.5 million of a total \$3.4 million in funding for the basin. Final funding decisions are expected in December 2007.

All of the King Conservation District (KCD) grants have been approved by the KCD Board except for the Chinook Bend project, which has some outstanding questions. The Forum has \$28,000 remaining in 2007 KCD funds.

Nature Vision and Camp River Ranch Girl Scout Camp has requested \$8,168 of KCD funds for a Snoqualmie Watershed Festival in November 2007. Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Staff Committee has recommended approval of the Watershed Festival grant under the Opportunity Fund. Therefore the grant would be split 50/50 with \$4,084 coming from the WRIA 7 assessment allocation, and \$4,084 being matched from KCD's own operating funds.

The Staff Committee also recommended that the balance of the Forum's 2007 KCD assessment allocation not allocated this year (\$24,000) be rolled into the upcoming 2008 KCD round.

Decisions:

- The Forum approved an opportunity fund grant of \$8,168 for the Snoqualmie Watershed Festival.
- The Forum also agreed to carry \$24,000 in unallocated KCD funds into the 2008 grant round.

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Work Program

Yvette Lizee-Smith, Snoqualmie Watershed Coordinator, provided an update on 2007 year-end initiatives. The Forum has approximately \$30,000 in un-committed funds for the remainder of the year. A portion of this balance will be used to support the following activities.

- Ecologist Assistance to Local Governments: Ten days of one-on-one technical assistance to assist in identifying, scoping, developing priority projects. (\$6,000-\$7,000)
- Stream Crossing Signage (\$2,500)
- Support for Screw Trap (5,000-\$10,000)

The Forum reviewed the 2008 work program. The 2008 work program included many elements of the 2007 work program (which form the core of the Forum's mandate). It also includes regional work on WRIA 7 adaptive management and monitoring, participation in the Puget Sound Partnership, implementation of a revised Opportunity Fund, analysis of Steelhead needs in WRIA 7, organization of a Project Working Group and identification of new funding sources for projects.

Decision: The Forum approved the 2008 work program.

Public Comment

- No public comment

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be at the Preston Community Center on November 14.