

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
MEETING SUMMARY
September 20, 2006
Project Tour 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Meeting 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Preston Community Center in Preston, WA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ross Laudenback	City of North Bend Councilmember
Bill Paulsen	City of Carnation Councilmember
Kathy Lambert	King County Councilmember
Charles Peterson	City of Snoqualmie Councilmember
Gary Roberts	Citizen Representative
Bill Knutsen	Citizen Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dianne Brudnicki	City of Duvall Councilmember
William Harper	Citizen Representative
Stuart Lisk	City of Carnation Councilmember
Ray Mullen	Snoqualmie Tribe Councilmember
Matt Stone	City of Snoqualmie Alternate

PROJECT TOUR (6:00 – 7:00PM):

Kirk Anderson, King County, led the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum on a tour of the Raging River Preston Reach Levee Removal project site. King County constructed this project in August 2006 including restoring 7 acres of floodplain salmon habitat along the Raging River downstream of Preston. The project also involves restoring 1200 feet of river bank and 3 acres of riparian area. The Raging River will do the majority of the new habitat formation work now that the levee has been removed. Monitoring on the site will occur for the next 10 years to track the projects successes.

MEETING PROCEEDINGS:

Introductions and Announcements

Forum staff provided the following updates:

- Forum staff organized project tours for staff to two elected officials. On July 28, Forum staff took Congressman Reichert's staff (Kevin Kelly and Anne Lauglin) on a tour of the Raging River Preston Reach Levee Removal site. On August 30th, Forum staff took Senator Murray's staff (Casey Sixkiller) on a boat tour of the Central Puget Sound watersheds, providing information on the Snoqualmie Watershed issues and projects.
- Forum staff announced the Salmon Homecoming event at Seattle's Magnuson Park September 8-10 and the 8th annual Harvest Celebration Farm Tour on October 7th.
- The Snoqualmie Forum ILA team is currently recruiting a Project/Program Manager III position. In the interim, Charlotte Spang has assisting the team on a part-time temporary basis until October 31st.

- The SEPA comment period has closed and King County is currently reviewing comments. King County is funding an independent flood protection analysis of the proposed project at the request of the City of Carnation. Contact John Hansen for more information (206-296-1966).

Update on Oil Spill General Response Plan

Yvette Lizee-Smith, Snoqualmie Watershed Coordinator, provided an update on the State Department of Ecology's (DOE) work to develop an Oil Spill General Response Plan for the Snoqualmie Watershed. A map was provided listing staging areas, exclusion boom sites, collection boom sites and deflection boom sites. Fifteen sites were identified and DOE will conduct site visits. If a site is selected in a particular jurisdiction, DOE will contact jurisdiction staff for assistance.

Funding Update

Perry Falcone, Forum Project Coordinator, provided an update on project funding in the Snoqualmie Watershed. Most of the 2006 Snoqualmie Watershed Forum/ King Conservation District (KCD) grants have been approved by the KCD Board of Supervisors including the Forum's Outreach and Capacity Building grant. King County has been recommended for two Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants totaling \$450,000 including Chinook Bend Levee Removal and Camp Gilead Off-Channel Habitat Reconnection Design projects. Forum staff is exploring new funding sources such as the Pacific Salmon Commission and DOE Terry Hussmann Account.

King Conservation District Assessment

Bill Knutsen, Forum member and KCD Supervisor, provided an update on the status of the 2007 KCD Assessment. KCD has submitted an assessment proposal to King County Council and is waiting for council action to either approve the proposed assessment for 2007 or reject the proposal set to sunset at the end of 2006. The Suburban Cities Association drafted a letter on September 13th opposing the KCD proposals distribution of KCD assessment funds. Bill Paulsen, Forum chair, expressed an interest in continuing to support the KCD assessment proposal and encourage a negotiated agreement as a solution to the variety of distribution scenarios. Bill Paulsen will provide these comments to King County Council at the town hall meeting in Carnation on September 25th.

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The Forum reviewed a final version of the MOU between King County and the Forum. This MOU governs King County service provision for the Forum staff and Forum activities. The Forum reviewed this document in January 2006 and made minor revisions.

Action: Charles Peterson motioned to approve the MOU and Forum voted unanimously to approve it.

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum 2007 Work Program

Based on the Forum's Interlocal Agreement (ILA), the Forum should approve the following year's work program by October 1st. The 2006 work program was used as a base since it was very general and additional specific tasks were added for 2007. These additions included input from the Snoqualmie Watershed planning staff.

Action: Ross Laudenback motioned to approve the 2007 Forum work program and the Forum voted unanimously to approve it.

2006 Budget Update

Yvette Lizee-Smith presented the Forum's ILA current 2006 budget. Based on fourth quarter projections, the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum has \$70,000 to \$80,000 in remaining 2006 funds for contracting, special projects and outreach. Yvette provided a list of potential projects to utilize the remaining funds and took comments from Forum members. The Forum staff will work with Snoqualmie Watershed planning staff to prioritize end of the year projects. Staff will follow up with the Forum via email on a finalized list of projects.

Public Comment

- Councilmember Lambert discussed the possibility of the creation of Rural Advisory Council suggested by a group called the Rural Majority. It was unclear the purpose and effectiveness of such a group and how it would relate to other commissions and advisory groups focused on rural King County issues.

Next Meeting

The next Forum meeting will be at the Snoqualmie Fire Station on November 15, 2006 from 7-9 p.m.