

Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Technical Committee Meeting Summary

June 7, 2022, 9:00—12:00; Zoom

Attendees

Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County	Josh Chamberlin, NOAA NWFSC
Matt Pouley, Tulalip Tribes	Josh Kubo, King County
Mike Rustay, Snohomish County	Julie Mentzer, WILDLANDS
Carston Curd, Snohomish County	Keith Binkley, Snohomish County PUD
Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes	Kevin Lee, WDFW
Andrea Mojzak, King County	Kirk Lakey, ARHPM WDFW
Anne Savery, Tulalip Tribes	Kyle Koch, Sound Salmon Solutions
Ashley Kees, WDFW	Lisa Tario, Snohomish County
Brett Gaddis, Snohomish County	Marty Jacobson, WA Dept of Ecology
Brett Shattuck, Tulalip Tribes	Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Tribe
Carson Moscoso, Snohomish CD	Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy
Daniel Howe, Snohomish County	Mike Crewson, Tulalip Tribes
Darcey Hughes, Snohomish County	Natasha Coumou, Tulalip Tribes
Erik Gerking, Port of Everett	Paul Byron Crane, City of Everett
Hannah Liss, Puget Sound Partnership	Ryan Bartelheimer, Snohomish CD
Heather Griffin, City of Everett	Sky Miller, ESA
Heather Khan, WA Dept of Ecology	Summer Daugherty, Snohomish CD
Jim Shannon, Port/City of Everett, H&A	

Intros and Agenda Review

- Mike Rustay opened the meeting with Matt Pouley
- Introductions were completed

Regional and Basin updates

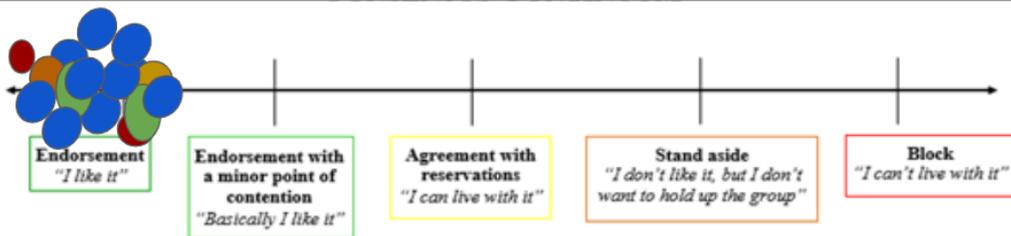
- Morgan Ruff shared that the Puget Sound Partnership is hosting a [Leadership Council Meeting](#) June 8 – 9 at the Port of Everett that can also be viewed on [TVW](#).
 - Our LIO is focusing on solving funding inefficiencies and accelerating our work.
 - There will be opportunities to share our experiences with the Leadership Council and our thoughts on the current funding system
 - Discussion about how Ecology has authorized removal of match from nonpoint grants (Section 319 and Centennial), to be implemented in 2024. Regional discussions are happening at Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) as well.
- Gretchen Glaub shared that the state legislature approved \$75M extra salmon funding last session. \$660K will be allocated exclusively to the Snohomish Basin, additional funds will be allocated by the Partnership, TBD later this week.
 - Discussion about PSAR Large Cap; the request for proposals (RFP) appeared to favor some watersheds – Partnership and Recovery Council are discussing direction of the Large Cap and strategy for the next decade. Stakeholders from the Snohomish Basin will be following up and Gretchen has initiated conversations with the Recovery Council.
- The next Forum meeting is on Thursday, June 9. Expect a synthesis of science in the basin, as well as scoping for the next restoration projects in the watershed & estuary.

2022 Grant Round Recommendation

- 12 projects: \$6,213,857 requested, \$3,856,095 to allocate for 2022 – 2023 from state and federal sources. Projects in all phases; funding will require timing considerations due to the blended source of funds.
- Scoring is based on 'Benefit to Salmon' and 'Certainty of Success' indices by the reviewers.
- The two funding scenarios depend on the ability for Thomas' Eddy project to receive funding from additional/alternative sources.
 - Loan possibilities from other Lead Entities with fewer projects queued up may be possible; Gretchen and Morgan would bring this topic up for discussion by the Committee should it come up.
- Consensus and approval was given on the ranked order; a minor calculation error on the funding list will be fixed.

PLACE A SHAPE ON THE CONTINUUM TO SHOW YOUR LEVEL OF AGREEMENT

- Vote to approve a letter of support for SRFB Projects Package



Blue Heron Slough Mitigation Bank

- Presentation by Erik Gerking, Port of Everett & Julie Mentzer, WILDLANDS
- [353-acre former estuary](#) adjacent to I-5 purchased by the Port in 1993-1994; permitted and approved as a mitigation bank in 2008. Will be completed by end of 2023.
 - Project will result in 9 miles of side channel; 4 breaches (3 on Steamboat, 1 on Union).
 - A sizeable heron rookery within the site lends itself to the name of the project.
 - Construction of dike along I-5 is 98% complete.
 - Old Christmas tree farms will die after breach and become a source of large wood in several raised areas within the site.
 - Dungeness Construction is doing the work and will be completing the tricky, landward breach in August.
- Discussion about Credit Determination
 - [DSAY \(discount service acre years\)](#) are valued by various agencies differently, especially in terms of compensatory ratios, timing, etc. The [Interagency Review Team \(IRT\)](#) negotiations will determine how many credits the project will provide. The project's Habitat Equivalency Analysis (HEA) is modeled from an earlier iteration of the calculation than more modern mitigation banks, but extrapolates a 300-year lifespan of the project.
- Maintenance of the Site
 - The project was designed to self-sustain and restore natural processes. Agricultural dikes are designed to remain, but have experienced a lot of erosion – will new erosion cause significant problems within the site? If so, they will be repaired if issues affect the overall function of the site.

- Guarding against nuisance species will be ongoing.
- Significant trespass (camping, fires, rubbish) will not be allowed.
- Benefit to Salmon
 - Credits reflect a perpetual conservation easement but assumes function at five years. Other organizations value conservation bank at 300 years. NOAA is still figuring out assessments. Over 7,000 DSAY credits were assigned to the project based on the functional assessment (HEA). The IRT calculation of credits is based on acreage and proof of function; 260-320 credits for wetlands and waters is expected from these negotiations, but not confirmed.
- Stay tuned for site visits during breaching!

Summer Plans & Updates

- [Tale of Two Rivers Film Festival](#) is happening Thursday June 9 from 5:00 – 8:00 at Luckie Farms near Lake Stevens.
- Cory Zyla is resigning from the Snoqualmie Forum Project Coordinator position and moving to The Nature Conservancy as of Friday June 10.
- Tulalip Tribes Projects:
 - A small private culvert in Marysville on Little Coho Creek, a tributary to Allen Creek in early August
 - Zis a ba restoration in the Stillaguamish Basin
 - Tualco Valley drainage assessment and instrumentation, outreach and engagement
- Snohomish County SWM: Thomas' Eddy – stakeholder engagement is going well and excitement is building.
- NWFSC is completing a cumulative effects evaluation of the estuaries and nearshore in the Whidbey Basin for Chinook using a [method used in the Columbia Basin](#). Expect a report by end of summer.
- Watch for requests for information as the Lead Entity compiles 4-year lists this summer.
- Snohomish CD will be doing a fish passage project on Coon Creek (a tributary to the Pilchuck) during the fish window this summer. A 26-foot bottomless arch culvert is planned.
- Micah Wait (WFC) was observing geotechnical drilling in Cherry Creek this past week for new bridge footings; permitting work will be happening over the summer.
- Andrea Mojzak announced the Fall City project will be commencing next week through end of September, with additional work to be completed next year. Be on the lookout for tours in September!
- Susan's work on the Knotweed Strategy has been completed and will go before the Forum on Thursday.
- Everett is starting a fish passage barrier assessment and is restoring 1,300 feet of shoreline habitat at Preston Point.

Follow-up Items

- Recommendations for future committee focuses were entertained and will be sought over the summer break.
- Administrative work will be done on website improvements.
- In-person interest will be gauged shortly.

Next Meeting: September 13, 2022, 9am – 12pm (Zoom)