

SLS PARTNERS MEETING NOTES

SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY MEETING

Wednesday, May 4, 2022 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Zoom videoconference



Attendance: Daryl Williams, Lindsey Desmul, C.K. Eidem, Carol MacIlroy, Spencer Easton, Terri Standberg, Heather Khan, Max Showalter, Alyssa (from Rep. Susan DeBene's office), Kirk Lakey, Joycelyn Blue, Summer Daugherty, Heather Cole, Darcey Hughes, Valerie Normand, Dani Driscoll, Kari Quaas, Rosemary Martin

David Roberts (facilitation) and Sarah Parker (notetaker)

Breakout Rooms for Networking

The meeting began at 10:02 a.m. The group did a round of introductions and spent approximately 10 minutes networking in breakout rooms.

Brainstorm: What Does SLS Need to Continue to be Successful?

The group split into five breakout rooms to discuss the questions shown below relating to the following topics: funding, policy changes, research, communications, and advocacy. Attendees moved between the breakout rooms to discuss the topics that they were most interested in.

Questions:

- What does SLS need to continue to be successful in X topic?
- Do you have project ideas relating to X topic?

The *SLS Meeting Brainstorm 5.4.22* document attached which includes the full notes from each breakout room. Highlights are included below.

Funding

- More coordination between funding programs (i.e. between SRFB and Ecology)
- Figure out a way to fund multiple sizes of buffers; more contiguous buffer running along streams/rivers
- Increase utilization of matching funds
- Extended grant timelines to allow more time for project completion, particularly for ag projects
- Partner agencies collaborating on grant funds rather than competing
- Increase coordination with King County and their groups
- Peak can support Darcey with assistance in creating a grant funding tool
- Prepare for big pools of funding that will likely be available in the next month or two (NFWF/Keep America Beautiful and NOAA/Community-Based Restoration Program)
- Expand capacity including project capacity, grant application capacity, grant management capacity, etc.
- Seek funding for SLS Communications efforts

Policy Changes

- Need to understand current structure, how we do business, where are there needs that are not being addressed

- Collaboration with people and active participation, bringing diverse interests to the table, active listening
- Challenge: With so much going on, how does SLS prioritize what to comment on?
- How can the Partners learn about potential comment opportunities with enough time to provide meaningful comments?
- How does SLS prioritize the actions for projects such as salmon recovery?
- Suggestion: Increased coordination between ITs and SLS
- Suggestion: Can our facilitators help bring these comment period opportunities to the SLS group to prioritize which we should make comments on?
- More outreach to talk about what benefit SLS is providing
- How can SLS work with the policy makers ahead of the comment period? Engage early and often rather than later.
- How does SLS get plugged into projects early so comments and participation of that project/program/document happen early rather than after the project/program/document is finalized?

Research, Assessments, Analysis

- Climate research and climate change concerns (e.g., CFS will be looking at flood hazard studies and other recent work and highlighting climate change elements that require additional studies/research.)
- Ducks Unlimited is looking for a better way to measure water quality impacts and other benefits from water management infrastructure that they install. They might need help designing the study.
- Snohomish and Stillaguamish Vulnerability Assessment will look at flood risks, vulnerable communities, and climate projects. The Assessment will begin soon.
- Programmatic or “easier” approaches to FEMA zero rise analyses.
- Are there “vital signs” that SLS should be tracking - seagrass, fish, farm economy?
- How do you measure and track economic viability of agriculture?

Communications

- Needs more funding
- Tell more stories
- Follow us on social media - @farmfishflood (IG - <https://www.instagram.com/farmfishflood/>, FB - <https://www.facebook.com/farmfishflood>, YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPd9bSL7Mvjkm1jjfyMI2YA>), promote stories through County Facebook page
- How do we extend the reach of this work to people who are not current SLS participants?
- Distribute promotional materials.
- Outreach at fairs in 2022 (Monroe, Silvana & Stanwood)? Focus on Farming, Farmer’s Markets, Festival of the River (<https://www.facebook.com/stillyfest/>)
- Help to advance the advocacy messages using new website and storytelling, legislative outreach efforts

Advocacy

- Moving away from legislature and lobbying and better including more voices at the table- co-creating at the ground level and including community priorities to inform how we move forward.
- How are we amplifying voices where those voices want to be amplified? What are processes or recommendations that we can use for our advocacy work?
- Continue to have diverse people at the SLS table. What tools are in place to help the different organizations do this work together?
- How can we incorporate advocacy for organizations that can't do advocacy but include their needs around people of color and marginalized communities? Incorporating or asking the question about how equity is included in this process? How do we engage or do hiring, or how do we share information out in communications?
- Avoid conducting research practices that create harm. Ask, is this the best approach for data collection or information gathering and is it equitable? Use more participatory and interactive methods to include storytelling.
- Assumptions in tribal relations-asking the question about what is important to you?
- Embracing our diversity and our similarities within the farm, fish, flood space.
- Advocacy Project ideas:
 - Northwest Harvest is working with a few organizations on right to food legislation. Voices from SLS could be involved through a food sovereignty aspect.
 - WA Farmland Trust representative on SLS Steering Committee.
 - Food as a right for people in Washington. Maine just passed a right to food legislation.
 - Riparian bill that didn't pass this last session.

Announcements

The group shared the following announcements:

- Lindsey Desmul invited the group to attend the Tales of Two Rivers' Film Showing event on Thursday, June 9 at Luckie Farms (930 Sunnyside Boulevard, Lake Stevens) - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tales-of-two-rivers-presents-snohomish-river-film-festival-tickets-333764587867>
- David Roberts shared that SLS is planning to start a policy workgroup. He also asked for input on topics for future Partners meetings.
- Linda Lyshall. shared that she and Linda Neunzig. met with Representative Larsen to discuss solutions to the Stanwood dike issue. Linda Lyshall. plans to convene a Steering Committee in the next few weeks to further discuss the issue. She encouraged any other Partners who would like to be involved to contact David Roberts.
- Linda Lyshall shared that she and Linda N. met with Representative Schrier, Representative DelBene, and a group of farmers to discuss agricultural issues. The meeting was framed as a listening session for agriculture. Both Representative Schrier and Representative DelBene are committed to resilient agriculture.
- Lindsey Desmul. and Kari Quaas. presented at the Salish Sea Conference last month along with farm, fish, flood groups from British Columbia and King County. David R. facilitated the session. Lindsey and Kari proposed planning a Salish Sea-wide farm, fish, flood event with other groups to promote cross-pollination and involvement throughout the Salish Sea.

- Dani Driscoll shared that Community Floodplain Solutions had its first in-person outreach event since the pandemic started at Sultan High School. The format of the event welcome input and discussion. Several engaged landowners wanted to further the discussion with Snohomish Conservation District. Dani thanked all the Partners who attended the event.
- Sarah Parker and Daryl Williams. are planning an in-person special topic session at the Qualco Energy anaerobic digester on June 17th at 10 AM. Registration is required, and the tour will be capped at 30 people. The information will be posted on farmfishflood.org.

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Next Partner Meeting:

We are still deciding a date and location for the next Partner meeting. Some folks expressed concern for meeting in person, so we will look at ways to meet in a hybrid fashion. Watch for an announcement from David Roberts