

## SLS PARTNERS MEETING NOTES

### SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY MEETING

Wednesday, July 13, 2022 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Snohomish Conservation District new Lake Stevens property



**Attendance:** Daryl Williams, Lindsey Desmul, Summer Daugherty, Heather Cole, Kari Quaas, Carston Curd, Linda Lyshall, Allen Warren, Linda Neunzig, Kristin Marshall, and Tara Luckie

David Roberts (facilitation) and Sarah Parker (notetaker)

#### Action Items

- Linda L. and Allen Warren to coordinate on FbD legislative actions.
- David to update SLS priorities list with input at next Steering Committee meeting.
- David to call a coordination meeting to understand where Partners are with funding and capacity to be involved in SLS.
- Sarah and David to coordinate special topic session on buffers.

#### Welcome

Linda Lyshall introduced the new Snohomish Conservation District property and welcomed SLS Partners to use the space for events.

#### Announcements

- Floodplains by Design (FbD) projects have been ranked. Snohomish County's proposal ranked number three and the Stillaguamish Tribe's proposal ranked number four.
- The in-person Leque Island Special Topic Session is scheduled for 7/21. [Registration](#) is required.
- A Critical Areas Ordinance Special Topic Session is scheduled for 8/31.
- The Communications Group is looking for voices that can speak to the value of farm, fish, and flood collaboration for our new SLS website to create audio stories paired with photographs. Audio recordings will take place in September. If you would like to suggest someone, please contact Lindsey Desmul at [lindsey.desmul@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:lindsey.desmul@dfw.wa.gov).
- David and the Steering Committee established a list of SLS priorities for the next year or two. The ITs will provide input on that list, highlighting IT needs at the next Steering Committee meeting.
- The Communications Group has funding and capacity to provide materials for legislative outreach, but the funding expires in December.
- SLS needs to have a conversation on how to address buffers.
- Snohomish County chose the consultant team for the Land Conservation Strategy. The team will be led by Forterra and will include Peak Sustainability Group (including David and Sarah), Maul Foster & Alongi, ESA, and Eco Northwest.

#### Presentations

Heather Cole and Allen Warren provided an overview of the FbD backbone transition. Watch the full recording [here](#).

Highlights include:

- Background: FbD started as a public-private partnership between Puget Sound Partnership, Department of Ecology, and the Nature Conservancy (TNC) committed to bringing together diverse interests to find integrated solutions to floodplain management. FbD includes both a grant program that uses state funds for integrated solutions and a community of practice to share lessons learned and to build collective capacity.
- TNC has provided the backbone and scaffolding for FbD in the past. Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) will now step into that role.
- Moving forward, FbD will continue to focus on incentivizing integrated floodplain management.
- There is an effort underway to get Ecology to drop the existing match requirement for grants.
- Allen and his colleagues at BEF are prepared to support SLS, Snohomish County, and the Stillaguamish Tribe in FbD work. Allen has compiled legislative materials and can support with legislative outreach.
- He is hoping to update the FbD process so it is less time- and energy-intensive.
- TNC is still committed to FbD as a partner. Moving forward, the organization will continue to be committed to projects in this landscape and to supporting SLS. TNC is currently undergoing a strategic planning process and will likely focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation, supporting DEI work, and supporting tribal rights in the future.

Kristin Marshall and Summer Daugherty provided an overview of the [Agriculture Resilience Plan](#) (the Plan). Watch the full recording [here](#).

Highlights include:

- The Plan was completed at the end of 2019. Plan development was led by a farmer steering committee with staff support from Snohomish Conservation District. It included direct engagement with agricultural communities and individuals.
- The Plan considers what is going to threaten agricultural viability and resilience into the future and included a priority needs and impact assessment.
- The District heard from multiple individuals that this is “not a plan to sit on the shelf” and received clear instruction to implement it.
- In 2020, the District looked at the projects in the Plan to determine what is fundable, where there is strong landowner interest to move projects forward, and where there are multi-interest benefits.
- It has been challenging to find the funding necessary to bring the projects forward. Most traditional funding streams are not large enough.
- Allen suggested exploring carbon credits as another avenue to explore for funding projects. The group discussed other opportunities for revenue including mitigation and Ducks Unlimited.
- The group also discussed the need to look for land that can go back into agricultural production as more agricultural land is being set aside for buffers.

### Future Partner Meetings

September 7<sup>th</sup> – Potentially an in-person retreat to review the impacts of SLS over the last three years and look forward.

November 2<sup>nd</sup> (NEW DATE) – David will shift this meeting since Focus on Farming is on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Focus will be on presentations and a discussion of collaboration, cooperation, and coordination.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.