SUMMARY NOTES

SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, PHASE 3.5 2016
Tuesday July 12, 2016 10:00 – Noon (brown bag lunch til Ag Bd at 12:30)
Snohomish County Conference Room 6A02 (6rd Floor, Admin East)

PARTICIPANTS

Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes, SLS Co-Chair (Fish)	Tristan Klesick, Stilly farmer, SLS Co-Chair (Ag)
Jessica Hamill, Ecology FbD contracts manager	Brian Bookey, National Food, SLS EC Agriculture rep
Sean Curran, SnoCo Planning and Development Services	Monte Marti, Snohomish CD, SLS EC Agriculture rep
Terry Strandberg, SnoCo Planning and Development Services	Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes, SLS Co-Chair (Fish)
Cynthia Carlstad, SLS co-facilitator	Dave Remlinger, SLS Ag rep, Ag Board
Dan Evans, SLS co-facilitator	Kristin Kelly, Pilchuck Audubon, SLS EC Fish / Environmental rep
Gregg Farris, SnoCo SWM	Erik Stockdale, SWM Special Projects Coordinator
Kirt Hanson, SnoCo SWM	Leif Fixen, American Farmland Trust
Will Hall, SnoCo SWM Director	Erik Stockdale, Ecology
Kirk Lakey, WA Depart Fish & Wildlife	Cynthia Krass, Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement Dist Ex Dir
Janet Curran, NOAA Fisheries	Heather Cole, TNC FbD regional coord.
Dan Calvert, Puget Sound Partnership Liaison	Bobbi Lindemulder, Sno Conservation Dist, Snoqualmie Valley farmer, F3 mbr
Lindsay Desmul, WDFW	Linda Neunzig, SnoCo Ag Coordinator
Lauren Tracy, SWM grants coordinator	Fiona Rairigh, SnoCo intern (farm)
Zach Brown, SWM project engineer	Mike Rustay, SWM Snohomish Basin Coordinator
Paul Cereghino, NOAA Restoration Center, Coordinated Investment Iniative	Joan Lee, King County DNRP / DLWRD dir., Snoqualmie Fish Farm Flood Init
Mason Giem, WSU Extension	

PURPOSE: The primary purpose of this ag-focused countywide session of the SLS Executive Committee is to discuss SLS Ag Caucus issues and receive updates and briefings on priority ag initiatives, such as the PPC Farmland Trust prioritization tool, and examples of neighboring farm-fish-flood net gain initiatives, such as the Snoqualmie initiative and the new Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District. We will also review a proposed NOAA Resiliency grant proposal, and receive updates from the Fish / Tribal Caucus, flood / water management districts, the Coordinated Investment initiative, Floodplains by Design, and other partners. Finally, participants are invited to an informal brown bag lunch to continue discussions just prior to the Ag Board meeting, where the SLS is on the agenda.

1) WELCOME, INTRODUCTION (10:00-10:10)

a) **Review purpose, agenda:** As part of a three-month rotating focus on the Snohomish basin (Forum), Stillaguamish basin (SWC), and Ag Board / Countywide, the emphasis this month is on ag and countywide issues. The Snoqualmie Fish-Farm-Flood Initiative, with strong similarities to the SLS, was the main agenda item for this SLS Executive Committee session, with the goal comparing lessons learned, identifying common tools and strategies, and coordinating on future initiatives.

b) **Introductions:** Special guests, **Joan Lee**, King County WLRD Director (formerly SnoCo SWM dir), was introduced to provide an overview of the Snoqualmie F3 initiative. **Cynthia Krass**, Exec. Director of the newly formed Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District (WID) was also introduced for a preview of the August meeting presentation on flexible water management tools and strategies.

2) AG CAUCUS UPDATE AND PERSPECTIVE (10:10-10:40)

a) **SLS Ag Caucus general overview and perspective:** Monte Marti, on behalf of the SLS Ag Caucus (Tristan Klesick was out of town for his anniversary) and with additional comments from Brian Bookey and Linda Neunzig, provided updates on the following subjects:

i) "Seven Generations" Ag Strategy, including --
(1) Farmland protection / Resource Land Protection initiative
(2) Support for infrastructure, addressing regulatory requiremts
(3) Resilience strategies: adaptation, water management

ii) PCC Farmland Trust land protection prioritization initiative launch this month with the initial meeting of a work group on the 17th

iii) Grant funding from NOAA

iv) Bilateral exchange and agreement between Snohomish County and Sch Zen province in China, with potential for agricultural exports and technology exchange

b) **SLS Fish Caucus Update:** Fish Caucus co-chair, Terry Williams, briefly discussed fish and tribal priorities, including an upcoming trip to DC to meet with the Council on Environmental Quality re support for modeling and assessment tools (EDT/EMDS) and for the SLS and regional multi-benefit initiatives such as Floodplains by Design.

3) SNOQUALMIE FISH-FARM-FLOOD INITIATIVE (10:40-11:45)

a) **Overview of Snoqualmie F3 initiative (Joan Lee, King County DNRP**)

The Snoqualmie fish farm flood initiative is closely connected to the SLS in terms of geography, overlapping membership, vision / goals, and approach. Increasing SLS and Snoqualmie F3 leads have been in communication re common issues and challenges, tools and strategies, and lessons learned. The purpose of the Joan Lee's presentation and discussion is for the SLS team to learn about the details of the Snoqualmie F3 initiative, to compare note about the parallel efforts, and to discuss common issues and opportunities for collaboration.

Joan used a power point presentation which is not yet available for public distribution. It will be made available to SLS participants when it is ready for

release later this year. In the meantime, details about the Snoqualmie F3 program can be found on the King County DNRP website at:

http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/watersheds/snoqualmie-skykomish/fish-farms-flooding.aspx

The goal of the Snoqualmie F3 initiative is summarized in the following charge to the Citizen Advisory Committee:

"Find a way to concurrently strengthen agriculture, restore salmon habitat, and reduce flood impacts in the Snoqualmie Valley." This is the highly complex task that has been put before the Fish, Farm, Flood citizen advisory committee mandated by King County Council and overseen by King County Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD).

The Snoqualmie Valley was chosen to be the pilot area for this task force, which started meeting in November 2013, and is made up of farmers, fish and flood experts and includes representatives from non-profits, the Tulalip and Snoqualmie Tribes, the city of Duvall, the Department of Ecology and King Conservation District. The group is working to find creative solutions to the very complex issues surrounding agriculture, fish and flooding in the Snoqualmie Valley.

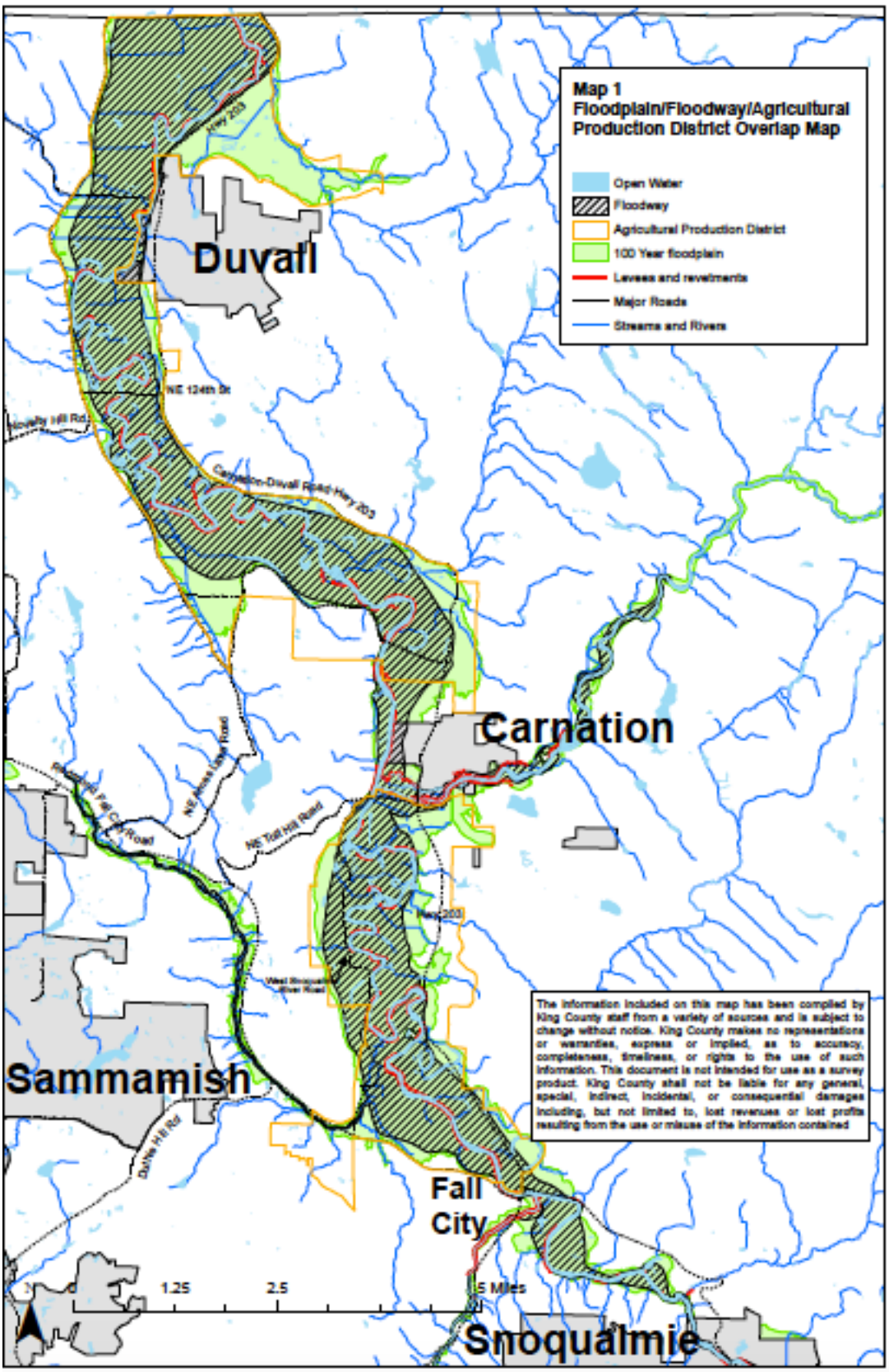
b) **Report and recommendations:**

Like the SLS, the Snoqualmie F3 started with the goal of creating a structure for collaborative conservation within 6 months – "a 3-hour tour." And like the SLS, they found that a framework for future progress could be created, but that it would take years of collaborative effort to achieve meaningful results. However, as a smaller focus area with extensive financial and technical backing from King County, the F3 initiative has hammered out a set of recommendations for implementation by decision-makers, including $3 billion in future land protection easements using Conservation Futures and other financing instruments.

Following their 2013 launch, the Advisory Committee agreed on a set of priority actions in 2015 and is finalizing their report and recommendations to King County now.

Examples of potential solutions include harvestable plantings along streams, to generate revenue for farmers from conservation actions, and converting non-farm land to agricultural use to offset losses of acreage to habitat restoration. At the end of this process the group will provide the King County Executive and Council their recommendations.

See overview map of Snoqualmie Valley and Floodplain.


Map 1
Floodplain/Floodway/Agricultural Production District Overlap Map
Open Water
Floodway
Agricultural Production District
100 Year floodplain
Levees and revetments
Major Roads
Streams and Rivers
Duvall
Carnation
Sammamish
Fall City
Snoqualmie
NE 124th St
Carnation-Duvall Road-Hwy 203
NE Tolt Hill Road
Hwy 203
Dottie Hill Rd
The information included on this map has been compiled by King County staff from a variety of sources and is subject to change without notice. King County makes no representations or warranties, express or implied, as to accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or rights to the use of such information. This document is not intended for use as a survey product. King County shall not be liable for any general, special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages including, but not limited to, lost revenues or lost profits resulting from the use or misuse of the information contained
1.25
2.5
5 Miles

c) **Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District (preview):** As a preview for the August Executive Committee meeting, and as one of the complementary efforts within the Snoqualmie Valley, Cynthia Krass provided a short overview if the Snoquamile Valley Preservation Alliance, which provided an important foundation for the F3 initiative, and the Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District (WID), which was established as an important water management tool within the area and is based on irrigation district statutory authority (RCW 87.03).

d) **Discussion of common tools and strategies, lessons** learned:

Tools & Strategies:

- Collaborative, multi-benefit approach with key stakeholders
- Fish, farm, flood assessments, data overlays, mapping
- County sponsorship, technical assistance, support
- EMDS to model impacts and outcomes
- Make recommendations to decision-makers for implementation of F3 objectives
- A reach- or sub-basin scale approach to resource management is needed--something SLS and Snoqualmie F3 should collaborate on

Lessons Learned:

- Collaborative conservation takes time to build relationships / trust, created a framework for multi-benefit action
- Personal "generosity" of participants is key to success; farmers are not paid to participate, their involvement requires generosity
- Some "grumpy" participants are needed to ask the hard questions
- Longer sessions (i.e., full day meetings) are more effective than multiple shorter gatherings
- Act, and proceed, as if you have agreement
- Money, and other approvals, follow agreement of F3 parties

4) LOWER SNOHOMISH / SKYKOMISH RESILIENCY GRANT (11:45-11:55)

a) Proposal overview (SWM): Lauren Tracy and Zach Brown summarized the application for the NOAA Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Grant. There are four tasks outlined in the proposal over a 3-4 year period of performance:
   i) River Mile 0.5 Habitat Restoration Construction
   ii) Skykomish Confluence Habitat Restoration – feasibility, design & construction initiation
   iii) Tualco Valley Stakeholder Engagement and project pipeline
   iv) Lower Skykomish Geomorphic and Habitat Assessment

See attached executive summary of the application with discussion of elements and recommendations in Appendix 1.

The Executive Committee agreed to consider a proposed Letter of Support for the Resilience grant application. Dan Evans agreed to circulate a draft near the end of July, noting the deadline for the pre-application is August 15th.

5) **WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS (11:55-Noon):** The facilitation team reminded participants that the next Executive Committee would be August 4th beginning with a brown bag lunch immediately following the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum's meeting in Snohomish with a focus on an overview of the Watershed Improvement District in the Snohomish Valley by Cynthia Krass. SLS participants were also invited to participate in a brief brown bag lunch with members of the Ag Board, and to participate in an update to the Ag Board on SLS actions and plans and a discussion with the Ag Board of common issues (including the upcoming ag dinner Aug 16th) at their 12:30 meeting.

6) **BROWN BAG LUNCH (Noon-12:25)**

7) **NOTE: AG BOARD MEETS AT 12:30, SLS ON AGENDA**

APPENDIX 1

Project Title: ***Restoring Resiliency in Puget Sound: Snohomish River Watershed***

Restoring Resiliency in Puget Sound: Snohomish River Watershed proposes an integrated approach to floodplain management that addresses community interests in restoring salmon habitat while maintaining viable floodplain agriculture. Using a TEAMS (Technical, Environmental and Agricultural Management Strategies) approach, multi-disciplinary, inter-organizational resources will be focused to resolve both site-specific issues (e.g. habitat restoration, agricultural Best Management Practices, flood protection) and help build popular and political support for longer-term reformation of current floodplain management practices. This project is merging Snohomish County's Sustainable Lands Strategy reach-scale, multiple-benefit project approach with NOAA's Coordinated Investment; an initiative leveraging NOAA participation and regional leadership in ecosystem-based conservation partnerships to advance NOAA's goal of increasing Resilience of Coastal Ecosystems, Communities, and Economies through Habitat Conservation.

This project advances reach-scale restoration of Chinook spawning and rearing habitat in the Snohomish River watershed. Actions will contribute toward restoration of habitat function along **nearly 11 miles of river** and encompassing more than **4,300 floodplain acres** at the confluence the Skykomish and Snoqualmie Rivers. This location is identified as a highest priority mainstem location for habitat restoration and implementation of agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Proposed actions will contribute toward 2020 ecosystem recovery targets adopted by the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP). PSP is the Washington State agency leading recovery and protection efforts and their target by 2020 is to stop the overall decline of wild Chinook and start seeing improvements in abundance in two to four populations in each biogeographic region.

Our goal is for both Snohomish watershed populations to be among those improving in abundance and this project proposes the following four tasks to advance this goal:

Task 1: Skykomish River Mile 0.5 Habitat Restoration

Task 2: Skykomish-Snoqualmie River Confluence Restoration

Task 3: Coastal Floodplain Agricultural Engagement

Task 4: Skykomish River Geomorphic and Habitat Assessment

Performance Measures and Outcomes

Near-term outcomes include collaborating with landowners and partners to:

- **Task 1: Construct bioengineered bank restoration techniques** to reduce bank failure and undercutting by reshaping and planting 950 feel of vertical,

eroding sections, and inserting 25 in-stream wood structures at the toe of river banks to add channel complexity, reduce flow velocities and erosive forces, and provide salmonid habitat cover and refugia.

- **Task 1: Construct riparian restoration techniques and plant riparian buffer** along 150 feet of river bank to provide adjacent agricultural fields protection from erosion and flood debris, reestablish native vegetation corridors, and reduce smothering sediment inputs to waterbodies.
- **Task 2: Conserve more than 100 acres** of floodplain area from land uses incompatible with changing climactic conditions and promotes habitat restoration opportunities. Restoration of larger contiguous corridors such as this also improve water quality by enhancing surface and storm water filtration, reducing sediment inputs, and moderating water temperatures. Initiate feasibility and design for phased restoration of highly valued, forested historic side channel habitat.
- **Task 3: Engage Tualco Valley agricultural producers** in water quality and habitat restoration opportunities that have multiple benefits. Targeted outreach to 27 landowners is expected to secure up to 10 landowner agreements for Conservation District preparation of Comprehensive Resource Management Plans. The County is focusing on three large dairy operations closest to the Skykomish River to identify habitat and restoration opportunities amenable to landowners. Forterra is also collaborating with the County on Purchase of Development Rights prospects.
- **Task 3: Prepare an Agricultural Resiliency Plan** to complement and inform decision-making tools being developed by County Public Works and partners, the Conservation District, PCC Farmland Trust, and The Nature Conservancy. This collection of GIS and web-based tools will help increase understanding of climactic change impacts on the floodplain; enabling landowners and public agencies to more effectively manage land use and target investment resources.
- **Task 4: Assess geomorphic and habitat conditions** along more than 6.5 miles of the Skykomish River. This technical appraisal will help identify and prioritize locations for multi-benefit projects and discern the likelihood of their success. Assessment data will also directly inform flood modeling and region-wide planning efforts.

Timeline and Approvals

This project is part of a continuum of habitat restoration actions, from landowner engagement through implementation. This grant period of performance is three years, beginning January 2017 and concluding December 2019, and the proposed scope of work will be completed within this time frame.

Landowner participation is voluntary and parcels associated with Task 1 through Task 3 are in private ownership. Approvals have been obtained for Task 1 and Task 2 activities and will be obtained for Task 3 activities prior to on-site work. Task 4 is undertaken within the publicly accessible river boundaries and landowner approval will be obtained for any upland survey work, as needed.

Project Cost and Partners

This proposal requests $1,000,000 in federal funds from NOAA, match by $917,900 in non-federal resources from landowner in-kind contributions, Conservation District and County resources.

Task	NOAA Grant	Non-Federal Match
1. Skykomish River Mile 0.5 Habitat Restoration	$ 500,000	$ 80,400
2. Skykomish-Snoqualmie River Confluence Restoration	$ 250,000	$ 407,500
3. Coastal Floodplain Agricultural Engagement	$ 220,000	$ 230,000
4. Skykomish River Geomorphic and Habitat Assessment	$ 30,000	$ 200,000
Total	$ 1,000,000	$ 917,900
Project Total	**$ 1,917,900**	
Percent increase over required federal match	34%	

Project partners have varying degrees of involvement; contributing toward the grant match and leveraging additional resources focused in this area of the Snohomish River Watershed.

Contributing Partners	**Grant**	**Match**	**Total**
Landowner	$ -	$ 461,900	$ 461,900
County	$ 925,000	$ 426,000	$ 1,351,000
Conservation District	$ 75,000	$ 30,000	$ 105,000
	$ 1,000,000	$ 917,900	$ 1,917,900
Leveraging Partners			
Forterra	PDR acquisition negotiations		
The Nature Conservancy	Coordinated		
WA Ecology	Floodplain by Design advocasy and proposed funding		
NRCS	Appropriation for SCD agricultural BMP implementation		
SLS	Facilitation of landowner negotiations		
Tulalip Tribes	Political and technical support		