SUMMARY NOTES
SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 3.5.9
10:30 – 12:00 Thursday September 29, 2016
(Stillaguamish Basin focus)

Angel of the Winds Casino, Watershed Banquet Room
3438 Stoluckquamish Lane Arlington, WA 98223 (I-5 Exit 210 east)

PARTICIPANTS

Preston Hardison for Terry Williams (late arrival), Tulalip Tribes, SLS Fish Co-Chair	Tristan Klesick, Stilly farmer, SLS Co-Chair (Ag)
Dave Remlinger, Lord Hill Farms, SLS EC Ag rep.	Kristin Kelly, Pilchuck Audubon, SLS EC Fish / Environmental rep
C.K. Eidem, Ducks Unlimited, SLS EC Fish rep	Monte Marti, Mgr Sno Conservation Dist., EC Ag rep
Loren Brokaw, WDFW, habitat project manager (Leque, Spencer Island)	Gregg Farris, SnoCo SWM project engineer
Bob Everitt, WDFW NW Regional Director	Morgan Ruff, Tulalip, Snohomish Forum co-coordinator
Dan Evans, SLS co-facilitator	Deborah Knight, Manager, City of Stanwood
Terri Strandberg, SnoCo PDS	Jeff Parsons, PSP Leg Policy Dir
Sean Curran, SnoCo PDS	Chuck Hazleton, Stillaguamish Flood Control District Mgr, Commissioner
Jay Krienitz, WDFW, ESRP Manager	Pat Stevenson, Stillaguamish Tribe for Chairman Shawn Yanity, EC Fish Rep
Kirk Lakey, WA Depart Fish & Wildlife	Janet Curran, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Dan Calvert, Puget Sound Partnership Liaison	Erik Stockdale, SnoCo SWM, Special Projects Coordinator
Lindsay Desmul, WDFW	Mason Glem, WSU Extension

PURPOSE: SLS Executive Committee met in full, but abbreviated, session for Stillaguamish project updates, SLS Farm-Fish-Flood updates, initial roll out and discussion of the Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiative (SVPI). The Executive Committee meeting was followed by an Executive Committee strategic planning session (working lunch and executive session, 12:15 to 4:00) in the same room.

1. **WELCOME, INTRODUCTION (10:30-10:40)**
    a. **Review purpose, agenda**: The Executive Committee was called to order with thanks to the Stillaguamish Tribe for hosting the Executive Committee (EC) meeting and the follow up strategic planning session with the EC in executive session at the Banquet Room off their Watershed Restaurant.
    b. **Introductions:** In addition to self introductions, **Jeff Parsons**, Legislative Policy Director of the Puget Sound Partnership was reintroduced to the

group as a well-positioned expert in the State Legislative process who understands and appreciates the SLS multiple-benefit approach and could provide counsel on funding strategies and pathways. WDFW's **Loren Brokaw** was also reintroduced to the EC as a presenter on a grant proposal for mid-Spencer Island restoration project improvements.

2. LOWER STILLAGUAMISH PROJECT UPDATES (10:40-11:00)

a. **State Funding (Legislative)**: PSP's Jeff Parsons provided an overview of the State budget and legislative processes, noting that the SLS model – generating multiple-benefit (net gain) for fish-farm-flood control and resulting broad support is a compelling approach that is attractive to Legislators and Executive Branch program officials. He also noted that because Floodplains by Design and most other programs of value to SLS F3 interests are funded through the Capital Budget, action to be funded should be for "project development" rather than for "capacity" or "engagement." In addition to the flexible FbD program that specifically seeks multi-benefit projects and packages, other important funding sources include the PSAR (for large projects), SRFB and other RCO managed restoration programs, WWRP, and the Conservation Commissions land protection program, among others. State agency requests are submitted in September to OFM and the Governor, and the Governor's budget is packaged by the end of the year and submitted to Legislature in January. With improvements in water quality, some shellfish beds have been reopened in Port Susan Bay.

SWC: Stillaguamish Watershed Council priorities include SRFB projects — three SRFB projects in Stilly, more logjams in N and S forks. Riparian work with Monroe prison crew has been very effective in the past and efforts are underway secure more such assistance. Acquisition grants applications are in the works to buy property based on a strategy to target areas of floodplain in the North and South forks, but appraisals are running 3 - 4 times the value of the property for funding. Inflated appraised rates need more discussion, as the high values price properties out of reach. Purchase of easements may be part of the solution. The SWC is having trouble securing capacity funds to develop projects and grant applications through Tribes, County, Sound Salmon Solutions, Wildfish Conservancy, and other partners. Without such "capacity" funding (better to call it "project development" funding) there will be fewer grants applications. "Outreach" is another problematic term, even though it is important to make projects work. WWRP funding might be a helpful source of money for agricultural and other resource land preservation (would that work for a hedgerow pilot project?).

b. **Leque Island Restoration Project:** WDFW's Loren Brokaw and Bob Everitt provided an update on progress, along with CK Eidem with Ducks Unlimited, with is a design partner with WDFW on the project. Construction funding for Leque is currently being pieced together, with some of the funding still in the works. The project sponsors are working through permitting for early phase I before dike breach, and are still doing

design work. County, state and fed permits are needed, with the Corps' 404 permit and associated Section 7 ESA consultation being the most rigorous. Leque Island is one of the top restoration priorities in Puget Sound.

c. **Zis-a-ba dike removal (partial) and restoration project:** Pat Stevenson reported the 60% design milestone is complete and final design is underway (90-100%). In 2017, the Tribe will do some work inside the dikes, placing berms on two pipes to Twin City Foods. In 2018, dike removal will begin. The original design called for full dike removal; but the current revised design involves partial dike removal to protect interior salt marshes.

d. **Irvine Slough:** Stanwood City Manager, Deborah Knight, provided an update on the Irvine Slough stormwater separation project. Progress includes design of a pump station and force main. The City has hired Site Development Associates for design and locations for the force main, and anticipates 30% design by end of this year. The floodway enhancement work won't be done for many years. The principal reason for the long timeline is that $18 million is required for the entire project. The faster the money comes in the faster to get it all completed, with restoration of Irvine Slough being the last part of that work. It will take 5 - 6 years for each phase -- 10 years altogether to get to Irvine Slough. Chuck Hazleton of the Stillaguamish Flood Control was frustrated by the slow pace of the floodway component of the project and pushed for expedited funding.

e. **Johnson Farm:** Deborah Knight, and Bob Everitt of WDFW, also provided an update of the Johnson Farm acquicition, another FbD project. Along with Stanwood, WDFW is pushing for purchase of the property from the landowner and hopes landowner doesn't sell before funding becomes available. In addition to farm, open space, and flood storage, the farm would provide important mitigation for the loss of snow goose habitat on Leque Island, which will be converted to intertidal habitat for salmon, ducks, and other aquatic species. All of these projects provide multiple benefits.

f. **Sediment management:** Pat Stevenson — Gold Basin, one of the original FbD CI9 projects, is at 100 % design. The Stillaguamish Tribe is finalizing EA and NEPA documentation, with expected construction next summer. The design includes a crib wall structure with sediment detention pond in the glacial till landslide area. The project provides downstream benefits for ag, flood control, and salmon. Additional FbD money requested to expand sediment retention, but it's not yet clear if the additional $1.5M in funding will be granted. The total FbD funding request for the next Biennium by the Department of Ecology is $70M, twice the appropriation for the current Biennium.

g. **Stilly digester project:** Monte Marti reported on the Stillaguamish Digester project, noting that digester and nutrient management technology is a constantly moving target because technology keeps improving creating new opportunities and the need to redesign and re-evaluate project models. That said, the current plan is to partner with Janicki

Industries in Sedro-Woolley to demonstrate the Janicki Omni Processor at Lower Stillaguamish dairies. Permitting the Omni Processor will involve both resource and regulatory agencies, including WSU, FDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Ecology, Department of Health, etc. There is a fair amount of interest in this new technology, which uses dried manure as a fuel to run the Omni Processor that produces ash (from combustion of the dried manure), clean water, and some surplus electricity. The unit is transportable and can fill a gap with small to medium dairies at which a full anaerobic digester is impractical.

3. FISH, FARM, FLOOD CONTROL UPDATES (11:00-11:20)

a. **Salmon and shellfish status, SWC update:** Pat Stevenson of the Stillaguamish Tribe said early numbers show that Chinook salmon returns (adult spawners) are doing better this year than in recent years. The reasons aren't exactly clear, but we'll have more data as the season progresses. Returns include a mix of hatchery and wild adult spawners. At sea conditions are better, although the high-temperature "blob" just off the West Coast has apparently resulted in smaller fish and reduced runs. Coho salmon are showing up also in higher numbers this year. Chum in Stilly—used to be big money maker for Tribe – but there has not been much of a chum return in the last few years. Snohomish now open for coho, because numbers are up for reasons not well understood. Seal numbers are also up, however, and they are taking a big bite out of returning salmon runs. Steelhead are also up in the Skagit and Stillaguamish Basins, with potential historic runs in some of the creeks.

b. **Ag Strategy and engagement efforts, Focus on Farming classes:** The SLS will have two "classes" at the upcoming Nov. 3rd regional Focus on Farming event in Everett: 1) a fish and farm overview with SLS co-chair Tristan Klesick and NOAA's top "fish cop" Will Stelle; and 2) a class on Ag Resilience in the face of climate change.

c. **Stillaguamish Flood Control, Diking District 7:** Dike repair is largely compete, but additional seawall integrity issue require additional attention.

d. **Other reports:**

- **Spencer Island update (Loren Brokaw, WDFW):** The Spencer Island restoration enhancement project is one of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Program (PSNERP) priority projects to be authorized under the US Army Corps of Engineer's Continuing Authorities Program (Section 544). It includes expansion of levee breaches to allow enhanced tidal flows, a pedestrian foot bridge, and development of internal channels. The project cost is $6.5 million, with 65% of the cost picked up by the Corps. Over 300 acres of intertidal habitat for fish and waterfowl would be restored and enhanced.
- **Snohomish / Stillaguamish Story Map:** The initial Snohomish Story Map is nearing completion. WDFW's Jay Krienitz (ESRP director) and Lindsay Desmul will be expanding the Story Map with more detailed

takes on farm, fish / tribal, flood control / community profiles in the near future.

- Integrated Floodplain Design & Implementation
- Grants, funding strategies

4. STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY PROTECTION INITIATIVE (11:20-11:50)

a. SLS Resource Lands Protection program overview

b. **Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiative (SVPI) overview:** Tristan reported on the SVPI, noting a high level of interest in the initiative, which includes: 1) easements on habitat and farmland that prevent development on the land but are flexible and allow for changing uses over time between farming, habitat, openspace / parks. as farming needs contiguous land for infrastructure. Preserving heart of ag valleys… SVPI—preserve large blocks of land. Appraisal process, but drives up price. Get to truest value of property. PDR—those who live in swampy areas, put in lower bid because land isn't really usable for farming. From appraisal to competitive bid, like the dairy buyouts-- dairy farmers would submit bid to sell their herds. Supporting RCPP budgets—that go to OFM and Governor, and unless adopted by them, can't work on the project, which is part of the budget request by RCPP. If it works in Stilly Valley, than can be used by other communities. More talk about it at strategic meeting.

c.

d. Broad, flexible easement to prevent dev, save farmland, habitat, rec / OS

5. WRAP UP, ADJOURN (11:55-Noon)

APPENDIX

PUGET SOUND NEARSHORE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT (PSNERP)
TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN

Spencer Island

PUGET SOUND NEARSHORE

Spencer Island is located in the Snohomish River estuary between Union and Steamboat Sloughs near Everett, Wash. Diking and drainage for grazing has lead to the loss of tidally influenced wetlands and distributary channels. Existing levees, with current small levee breaches, and an existing field drainage system prevented full tidal hydrology restoration and tidal channel network development. Snohomish County and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife manage the site as a popular undeveloped recreation park and wildlife management area. The proposed action lowers and breaches levees, restoring full estuarine processes and seasonal riverine flooding. Restoration actions will reestablish conditions necessary to recreate 313 acres of rare tidal freshwater marsh.

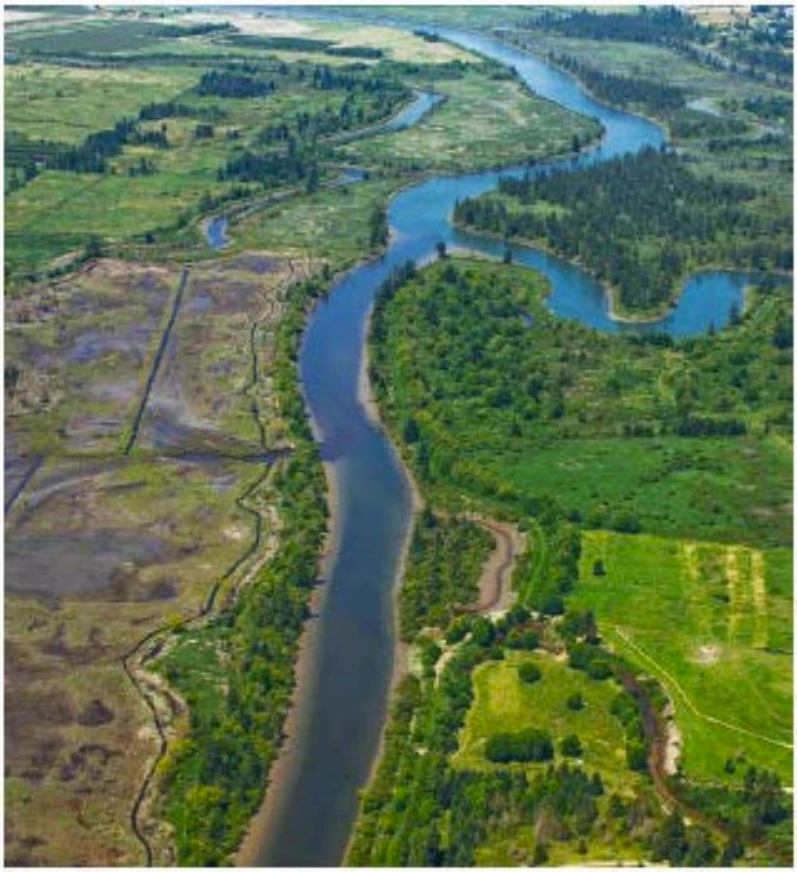

IMAGE Washington State Department of Ecology (2006)

Ecosystem Restoration Benefits

- Restore large river delta that provides valuable nursery habitat for juvenile threatened salmon species, increasing survival and supporting Puget Sound population recovery
- Restore highly productive tidal freshwater wetland habitats that support biodiversity and provide connectivity between land and sea
- Improve estuary water quality
- Improve public access to shore and recreational opportunities

Significance

- Completes previous restoration work and complements other slough system restoration work
- Included in the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Federal Recovery Plan
- Restored wetland area provides Trumpeter Swan habitat and filtration of agricultural pollutants

Spencer Island

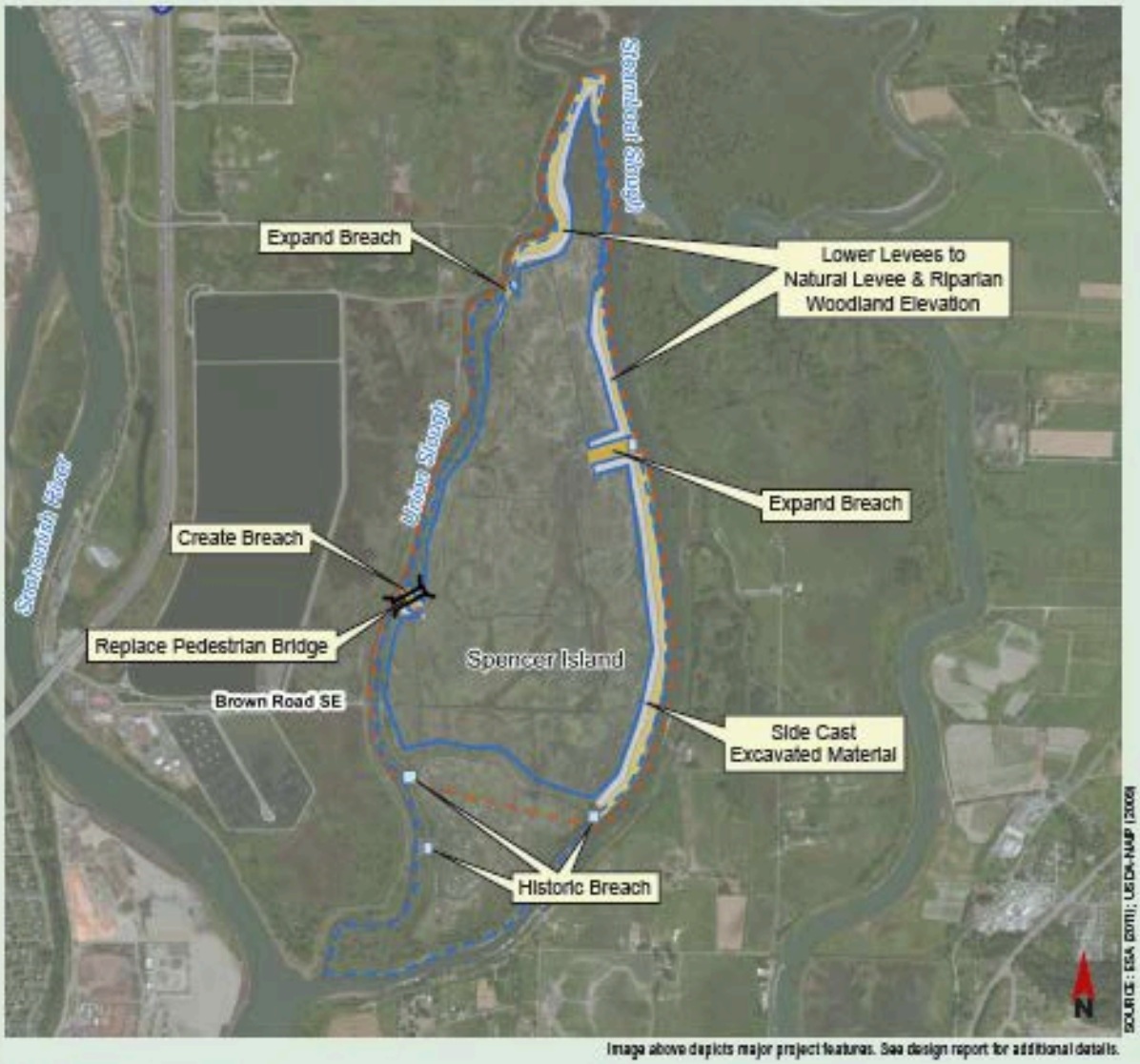

Image above depicts major project features. See design report for additional details.

Key Design Elements

The restoration expands two existing levee breaches and adds a third, allowing more tidal flow to enter the island interior. The interior island tidal channel network should form over time with the increased tidal prism. Existing Steamboat and Union Slough levees will be lowered and planted to create a riparian woodland corridor. A pedestrian bridge will be replaced across the Union Slough southern breach to maintain the existing public access trail.

Site Summary Statistics

- **Area of Restored Process:** 313 acres
- **Total Project Cost:** $6.5 million

US Army Corps of Engineers

FISH and WILDLIFE