

SUMMARY NOTES

SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PHASE 3 2015

Wednesday, July 24, 2015 10:00 – 12:00pm, Stillaguamish Tribe's Nat Res Center
(22712 6th Ave. NE Arlington, WA 98223, just SSW of I-5 Exit 210)

PURPOSE: Conduct monthly Executive Committee business, including reports from the County Ag Coordinator and Snohomish Conservation District. The primary focus of the session will be on coordination of SLS with related regional initiatives – including Floodplains by Design, NOAA's Coordinated Investment effort, and the President's designation of the Lower Snohomish as one of four areas nationwide under the Resilient Lands and Waters Initiative. Other items include review of the SLS Work Plan, strategic 10-year vision for floodplains, and update on the NOAA planning grant application.

PARTICIPANTS:

Executive Committee Members: CK Eidem (Ducks Unlimited), Kristin Kelly (FutureWise, Pilchuck Audubon), Tristan Klesick (family farmer), Monte Marti (Snohomish Conservation Dist Manager), Terry Williams (Tulalip Tribes), Shawn Yanity (Stillaguamish Tribal Chair)

Conveners, Support Team, Other Participants: Pat Stevenson, (Stillaguamish Tribe); Jeff Parsons, Heather Cole (Puget Sound Partnership); Jay Krienitz, Kelly Snyder (ESRP, WDFW); Joan Lee (King County); Bob Everitt (WDFW regional Dir); Chuck Hazleton (Stillaguamish Flood Control District); Laura Gurley (Port of Everett); Beth Liddell (SnoCo SWM); Linda Neunzig (SnoCo Ag Coordinator, sheep farmer); Erik Stockdale (Ecology, Regional Wetlands Manager); Jason Lehto, (Paul Cereghino by phone) (NOAA Restoration Center); Janet Curren (NOAA); Lew Moore (former SLS co-coordinator, President of WA Research Council); SLS co-coordinators Cynthia Carlstad and Dan Evans.

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION (10:00 – 10:10)

- a. **Review purpose, agenda:** The principal focus of the July SLS Executive Committee meeting was to review regional funding initiatives and how they can be coordinated and applied in the Snohomish County SLS context – supporting net gain for farm, fish, and flood control needs.
- b. **Introductions:** Special introductions included Jeff Parsons, Puget Sound Partnership's Legislative Policy Director; NOAA Restoration Center's Paul Cereghino (on the phone), Laura Gurley (Port of Everett).

2. BRIEF UPDATES FROM SLS PARTICIPANTS (10:10-10:25)

- a. Agricultural Updates:
 - SnoCo Ag Coordinator Linda Neunzig offered several updates:
 1. Ag, timber / wood products trade promotion with Asia

2. Stillaguamish Economic Recovery Grant application for a planning coordinator
 3. Upcoming Focus on Farming / Forestry Conference in Nov.
- Sno Conservation Dist Manager, Monte Marti, addressed:
 1. water issues during the dry summer
 2. Congressman Suzan DelBene's tour of lower Sky farms and restoration / erosion control projects

b. Flood Control / Infrastructure:

- Stillaguamish Flood Control District Manager Chuck Hazleton noted the need for a better understanding of sea rise projections
- WDFW Regional Dir Bob Everitt addressed the issue of dams and water storage strategies in light of changing hydrology

c. Salmon Recovery / Ecosystem Health:

- Tulalip's Terry Williams noted low river flows and high temperatures and the damage to salmon stocks
- Stillaguamish Tribal Chair Shawn Yanity noted lethal temperatures and low flows were devastating Stilly salmon, and creating opportunities for poachers
- Stilly Tribal Environmental Manager Pat Stevenson reported on engineered logs and Zis-a-Ba project design and feasibility study
- Ducks Unlimited's CK Eidem reviewed the schedule for Leque Island project redesign

3. ST. LEG. ANALYSIS, MULTI-BENEFIT APPROACH (10:25-10:50)

Jeff Parsons, Puget Sound Partnership's Legislative Policy Director, outlined PSP's mission, structure, policy priorities, and funding, especially in light of the recent session of the Washington State Legislature. Jeff's overview included the following points (note the highlighted funding, which creates opportunities for the SLS and its participants):

**STATE OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET BILLS ENACTED,
SUPPORT FOR PUGET SOUND RECOVERY DEMONSTRATED**

The Legislature adjourned today, the 13th day of its third 30-day Special Session of 2015. This marks the first time in Washington State history that the Governor has called three Special Sessions. Each special session has carried its own uncertainties and victories, but the third Special Session focused on the capstone legislation for 2015: passage of the capital, operating, and transportation budgets for the 2015-17 biennium.

Operating budget includes funding for the Partnership to support ecosystem monitoring and salmon recovery planning

By a vote of 90 to 8 in the House and 38 to 10 in the Senate, the Legislature on June 30 passed ESSB 6052, the state operating budget. The new budget

maintains, and in some areas increases, funding for Puget Sound Partnership operations. The following provisions are stipulated in the Partnership's funding allocation:

\$1,004,000 for assessing recovery for effective investments.

State law requires the Partnership to assess and monitor the Puget Sound ecosystem and to set measurable outcomes for Puget Sound recovery. The Partnership has designated 21 Vital Signs as indicators of the Sound's health. Several Vital Signs are currently unmonitored or monitored at a low level. The enacted operating budget provides a combination of one-time and ongoing funding to enhance the amount and usability of data for several Vital Signs: birds, estuaries, Pacific herring, land use and cover, shoreline armoring, and human quality of life. The Partnership will also coordinate and support monitoring and analyses that assess the effectiveness of efforts to protect and restore shellfish beds, prevent stormwater pollution, and protect and recover habitat.

\$600,000 to revise Puget Sound salmon recovery plans.

The operating budget provides one-time funding to begin updating Puget Sound Chinook salmon recovery plans, originally developed in 2005, to fill information gaps, complete prioritized monitoring plans and implement adaptive management processes.

Reduction of \$80,000 for local gov't consultation contract.

The Partnership contracts with the Washington State Association of Counties to facilitate collaboration and communication between the Partnership and city and county governments in support of Puget Sound restoration. The operating budget permanently reduces funding for this contract by 50 percent for the 2015-17 biennium.

Operating budget funds important Puget Sound recovery programs

With passage of the operating budget, several other programs important to Puget Sound recovery will also receive funding:

Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP).

The enacted budget restores \$800,000 to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) budget for PSNERP. This appropriation provides the state match needed to support the Puget Sound nearshore partnership between WDFW and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to restore nearshore estuary habitat.

Steelhead data collection.

The budget allocates \$800,000 to WDFW for collection of data on the decline of Puget Sound steelhead. This one-time funding allows WDFW to continue research by leveraging existing study results, testing hypotheses, and developing a range of management actions.

Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP).

The budget provides WDFW with \$1,526,000 for tracking the health of fish in Puget Sound. The ongoing funding allows WDFW to implement a fish contaminant assessment and monitoring efforts as part of PSEMP, a scientific

effort to track Puget Sound fish toxicity and ecosystem health. This effort will help document the impact of contaminants on fish survival, the safety of Puget Sound seafood for human consumption, and the effectiveness of current efforts to cleanup and prevent pollution of Puget Sound.

Capital budget compromise averts threat to pace and scope of Puget Sound recovery

By a vote of 96 to 2 in the House and 44 to 1 in the Senate, the Legislature reached a compromise on June 30 to pass 2EHB 1115, the state's capital budget. The enacted budget averts previous budgetary threats to the pace and scope of

Puget Sound recovery posed by competition for capital funding and concerns about land acquisition. The budget funds several programs critical to Puget Sound recovery:

\$53 million for the Stormwater Financial Assistance Program, which enables the Department of Ecology to provide grants for local governments to implement stormwater retrofit projects that treat polluted stormwater in priority areas throughout the state.

\$37 million for the Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration (PSAR) program. The enacted bill does not include the proviso proposed by the Senate that would have prevented state funds from being used to acquire land, which is an integral part of advancing many Puget Sound restoration projects. This budget provides all requested funding for small capital projects in watersheds throughout Puget Sound and also funds the program's top-ranked, regionally significant large capital project, the Busy Wild Creek Protection Project

\$66.5 million for grant-making by Salmon Recovery Funding Board. However, only \$16.5 million of this amount is state funding, compared to \$40 million in state funds requested by the Governor and \$40 million included in the original House version of the capital budget.

\$35.56 million to Department of Ecology for Floodplains by Design program. The Senate's original version of the budget included no funding for this program.

\$8 million for the Estuary & Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) of the Department of Fish & Wildlife, which provides planning, design, construction, and coordination funding for restoration projects, with a focus on estuaries and nearshore areas.

Jeff concluded his remarks and the ensuing discussion by noting the value of multi-benefit collaboration, such as the SLS, that:

- Broadens the base of support for actions and initiatives
- Attracts investment
- Locks in progress ("sustainable solutions")
- Is responsive to local community needs and interests

4. NOAA COORDINATED INVESTMENT INITIATIVE (10:50 – 11:05)

- a. Jason Letho and Paul Cereghino, NOAA Restoration Center, outlined the NOAA Coordinated investment strategy that focuses agency resources and funding on multi-benefit projects and initiatives. Paul (and colleague Steve Landino) is especially engaged with developing local teams, determining appropriate scale of initiatives, creating vision, securing agency commitments, and working on the Snohomish CI. Jason is leading interagency and executive branch discussions, reducing stove-piping, and working with multi-benefit groups like the SLS to achieve better results. They have been interviewing stakeholders, agencies, and funders and are preparing a report summarizing their findings.

Coordinated Investment

What does it take to restore and protect ecosystems and meet diverse human interests?

Goals

- ▶ *Incubate creative solutions*
- ▶ *Solve problems by combining resources*
- ▶ *Remove barriers to action*
- ▶ *Bring new resources to ecosystem recovery*

Principles

Local Teams

The ability to envision and implement ecosystem recovery emerges from teams of people who know the social and ecological details of a place.

Right Scale

Too large of a place, and the issues and stakeholders get tangled. Too small and we are not working at an ecosystem scale. Each place requires an integrated vision.

Integrated Vision

Ecosystem recovery requires protection *and* restoration, and projects with multiple benefits. An integrated vision can frame community and agency commitment.

Agency Commitment

Ecosystem recovery is breaking trail and requires sustained effort. Leadership must invest in teams that can earn the trust and collaboration of their communities.



Next Step: The Snohomish Analysis

We will assess the potential for coordinated investment in the Snohomish River Watershed following the Resilient Lands and Waters designation. This work will include an inventory of government assets, identification of potentially willing communities, and the identification of ideas for reorganizing existing agency assets to support ongoing local work.

Washington Departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, and Natural Resources, Puget Sound Partnership, Washington Conservation Commission, Recreation and Conservation Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Administration, US Navy, Environmental Protection Agency, The Nature Conservancy

Notes and contacts for coordinated investment efforts can be found at
[https://salishsearrestoration.org/wiki/Coordinated Investment](https://salishsearrestoration.org/wiki/Coordinated_Investment)

5. SLS WORK PLAN & FLOODPLAINS BY DESIGN 10-YR VISION (11:05-11:45)

- a. Dan Evans, SLS Co-Coordinator, briefly outlined the SLS strategic work plan and approach (attached below), noting alignment with the Coordinated Investment initiative and other regional efforts.
- b. SnoCo's Stillaguamish Basin technical coordinator, Kit Crump, summarized the effort to draft a response to the Floodplains by Design initiative's 10-Yr Vision for Puget Sound floodplains and estuaries. A final draft of the document will be submitted in the near future.

6. NOAA COASTAL RESILIENCE, COORD INVESTMT GRANTS (11:45-11:55)

- a. With the recent designation of the lower Snohomish River and estuary under the federal Resilient Lands and Waters Initiative, the SLS and partners have an opportunity to apply for a major Resilience planning grant through NOAA's National Ocean Service.
- b. SLS partners, lead by the Snohomish Conservation District and including Snohomish County and the Tulalip Tribes, has developed an application for a \$1 million planning and coordination grant. The SLS Executive Committee unanimously approved SLS participation in NOAA Resilience planning grant through signature of the attached letter by SLS co-chairs Terry Williams and Brian Bookey.

7. COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, NEXT STEPS (11:55-12:00 – adjourn)

8. PARTICIPANT FOLLOW UP DISCUSSIONS (12:00-12:30)

July 24, 2015

Re: Support for Regional Coastal Resilience Grant from Snohomish Conservation District

Dear Evaluation Committee:

The Executive Committee of the Snohomish County Sustainable Lands Strategy (SLS) wishes to express our enthusiastic support for the grant application submitted by the Snohomish Conservation District and partners to develop and implement a strategic approach to climate resilience in the lower Snohomish River and estuary in Washington State. The SLS, convened in 2010 by Snohomish County and local municipalities, Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribes, state and federal agencies, and agricultural, infrastructure, and environmental stakeholders, is a collaborative forum with the goal of generating progress -- "net gain" -- for fish, farm, and flood control (F3) communities.

For the last five years, the SLS has been developing the tools and strategies to achieve net gain for these interests through 1) an integrated information system and GIS, 2) connecting and providing a forum for coordinating F3 stakeholders, 3) building net gain F3 packages at a reach scale that are technically sound and earn broad support, and 4) measuring and evaluating performance. The SLS, with a reach- and watershed-scale focus, has coordinated closely with such regional efforts as the Puget Sound Partnership, Floodplains by Design, and the Coordinated Investment Initiative in addition to F3 stakeholders. We are pleased the Snohomish Basin is one of four areas nationwide to be designated a "priority landscape" under the Resilient Lands and Waters Initiative, due in large part to the local and regional coordination of multiple interests and work to build resilient and productive ecosystems, farms, and communities. The planning grant will support and ramp up this work and demonstrate broadly applicable tools and methodologies.

We encourage you to give careful consideration to the innovative collaboration taking place in the lower Snohomish River and estuary – as evidenced by the diverse project team – and the opportunity to build on and extend this promising work.

Sincerely,

Executive Committee
Snohomish County Sustainable Lands Strategy

Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes, Co-Chair

Brian Bookey, National Food, Co-Chair

**DISCUSSION DRAFT
SLS WORK PLAN – SUMMARY OUTLINE
JULY 23, 2015**

Task 1 – Technical Information Integration

Help coordinate and facilitate:

- Fish, farm, flood control (F3) information, including hydro/geo reach assessments and modeling, salmon recovery plans and studies, ag strategies and priorities, flood control and drainage info and plans, zoning and land use,
- F3 GIS hosted by SnoCo and partners that includes these data layers for four target reaches (Sky, Lower Sno, Sno Estuary, Lower Stilly) and basins
- Technical assistance to interpret & access integrated info system
- Measurement tools to document net gain accomplishments, project performance, and support adaptive management actions

Task 2 – Facilitation of Farm/Flood/Fish Projects, Measures, and Packages

Coordinate and support --

- Projects & actions in combined in reach packages that generate F3 net gain through reach-scale Tech Design & Implementation (TDI) team (agencies)
- Meeting management and facilitation of SLS or similar F3 groups, such as the SLS Executive Committee, Basin work groups, subcommittees, and ad hoc task groups
- One-on-one and small group meetings (“shuttle diplomacy”) needed to coordinate projects and actions to support F3 priorities and work plan

Task 3 – Support Funding Priorities

Identify and help develop coordinated, broadly supported F3 funding priorities for projects, measures, and packages that provide “net gain” for F3 interests

Task 4 – Regulatory/Permitting Assistance

Engage and coordinate with F3 stakeholders to identify regulatory/permitting issues and obstacles to implementation of priorities, and with regulatory agencies (e.g., through multi-agency permitting “MAP” Team) develop strategies to facilitate permitting of net gain projects, measures, and packages.

Task 5 – Coordination with Related Regional Programs and Initiatives

Continue the work of the SLS to develop the methodology for, and demonstrate, F3 net gain packages that use reach assessments and best available integrated technical information, coordinate farm-fish-flood net gain packages, streamlined regulatory approvals and funding, and measure and evaluate progress, and to share these lessons and principles with other regional initiatives, groups, and stakeholders seeking to coordinate multiple benefit floodplain / estuary projects and measures.