

**SUMMARY NOTES**  
**SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**10:30 – 12:25 June 13, 2017**  
**Snohomish County Room 6A04**  
**3000 Rockefeller Ave, Everett WA 98201**

**PARTICIPANTS**

Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes, SLS CoChair (Fish)	Tristan Klesick, Stilly farmer, SLS CoChair (Ag)
C.K. Eidem, Ducks Unlimited, SLS EC Fish rep	David Remlinger, Lord Hill Farms, SLS EC Ag rep
Kristin Kelly, Pilchuck Audubon Society, SLS EC Fish rep	Kate Riley, Monte Marti, Sno Conservation Dist. Manager, EC Ag rep
Bob Everitt, WDFW, NW Regional Dir	Brian Bookey, National Food, SLS EC Ag rep
Nora Haider, WSU Extension	Chuck Hazleton, Stillaguamish Flood Control District Mgr, Commissioner
Judy Bartelheimer, Snohomish County Farm Bureau	Dan Evans, Consulting, Facilitator
Erik Stockdale, Snohomish County SWM	Heather Cole, The Nature Conservancy
Jay Krienitz, WDFW, ESRP Program Manager	Kelly Marquardt, Congresswoman DelBene liaison
Linda Neunzig, SnoCo Ag Coordinator	Lindsey Desmul, WDFW ESRP
Meg Bommarito, WA Dept. of Ecology	Nick Bratton, Forterra
Paul Cereghino, NOAA Restoration Center, Coordinated Investment	Robin Fey, PCC Farmland Trust
Terri Strandberg, Snohomish County PDS	Valerie Normand, Snohomish County, SWM Communications
Cat Gowan, WSU Extension	Noelle Hart, Advanced Hardwood Biofuels Northwest (AHB), WSU
Julia Terlinchamp, Gov. Inslee's NW reg'l rep	Patrick Capper, WA St. Dept. of Ag
Lauren Tracy, Surface Water Management	Jim Jensen, WSU Energy

**1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS (10:30 – 10:40)**

- a. **Review purpose, agenda:** The Executive Committee was called to order. Dan Evans reviewed the agenda and purpose for the monthly SLS Executive Committee (EC) session. A meeting with Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers occurred earlier that morning so the EC meeting needed to start a half hour later than usual, compressing the time permitted for updates and to let presenters have enough time to introduce and discuss their subjects. Lower Sky update would also be presented by Erik Stockdale.

- b. **Introductions:** Erik Stockdale, Noelle Hart and Jim Jensen were introduced as presenters for the day. Participants introduced themselves. Bob Everitt is retiring at the end of the month and his replacement, Amy Windrope, starts mid-July. Bob Everitt was thanked for his many years of service, productiveness and work. Bob thanked the group for their collaborative efforts with SLS and said that Amy, his new replacement has a diverse background and is a problem solver. The Executive Committee and participants thanked Bob for his role as a convener of the SLS, active participant, and bridge between the fish and farm communities.

## 2. Report on Meeting with County Executive Dave Somers (10:40-10:50)

The briefing with Executive Dave Somers occurred earlier that morning and Dan mentioned that meeting with Executive Somers will hopefully occur on a fairly regular basis, perhaps twice a year.

The agenda for the meeting with Executive Somers (see Appendix 1 for full agenda) included:

- An overall update on SLS progress and objectives
- Review of SLS priorities and initiatives
- Discussion of specific issues and needs

Several of the key items discussed included such SLS priorities as reach plans, resource land protection, regulatory efficiency, including culverts and drainage maintenance, and the ag resilience plan.

Takeaways from the session with Executive Somers included:

- SLS update the County Council and discuss priority actions, noting the Council will be taking up the County Budget in the fall, so it is a good time to discuss SLS priority actions
- Resource land protection, both farmland and habitat, depend on well-functioning TDR (transfer of development rights) and PDR (purchase of development rights, such as Conservation Futures) programs. Exec. Somers said that we should be aware that revenue is generated by cities, which may favor spending scarce PDR dollars on parks rather than farmland protection, so there are some challenges with this. Tristan mentioned that Dave was very engaged.
- Culvert replacement is a high priority for the County and for SLS, which has identified streamlined permitting for culvert replacements as a time-sensitive initiative with its partners. Terry Williams suggested we can engage the County Council and fed/state agencies. He said there needs to be a clear story on what the plan is and how to coordinate multi-agency permitting. Linda Neunzig mentioned that educating the Council on these is timely and that ag reps have an important voice in this conversation. Dan said the SLS team will coordinate SLS meetings with Council members and the Council as a whole.
- Executive Somers appreciated the SLS work on ag resiliency and said he's using the term "resiliency" frequently with County and regional entities as significant changes in weather and hydrology require rapid adaptation.

### **3. Ag Strategy Report and SLS Work Plan (10:50-11:10)**

Dan referred participants to the SLS Strategic Priorities handout (see Appendix 2 below). He briefly reviewed the SLS priorities – Resource lands protection; Reach Plans; Regulatory Coordination and Efficiency; Ag Resiliency; and regional coordination and engagement / communications. With respect to the Regulatory Efficiency initiative (drainage maintenance and culvert replacement programs), participants noted we can use some new techniques (i.e., bridges, using repurposed concrete bridge deck panels, rather than narrow, dark culverts). An engineer should oversee the operation to make sure that federal rules will be met. Paul Cereghino (NOAA) said technical staff will be brought in to match permit requirements with BMPs and other efficiencies. Participants also discussed the value of identifying a good population of demonstration culverts in the county, outline a streamlined approval process, and use this as a broadly applicable template for culvert replacement. Paul and SLS partners will work with key entities to commit the personnel (engineers, permit writers, project managers, policy staff) needed to develop the demonstration program and produce a model process. Tristan mentioned that culverts are a high priority for multiple interests and that it shouldn't take long to show tangible progress. Erik said noted the County can't take out a culvert and make it wider without getting a culvert permit. Many fish are being killed by these culverts and we are trying to restore them, at the same time, failing culverts prevent proper drainage and can worsen flood risk. Terry said we need to talk to CORE and develop a scope of work. French Creek apparently has a culvert being replaced. Dan suggested the Council needs to be on board and updated on these issues. Erik and Linda will talk to Dan B and other stakeholders about the culvert initiative.

### **4. Lower Sky Reach Plan Debut (11:10-11:40)**

Erik Stockdale with Surface Water Management presented a PowerPoint on the Lower Skykomish River Reach-Scale Plan. Erik said that the Lower-Sky reach was developed through an intensive and productive effort over the last 6-7 months and, based on feedback from several quarters, is likely to require some additional work. The Lower Sky Reach Plan team is still working on several adjustments; and a draft document will be available on Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> and posted to the SLS website. There will be a Word document that is a comment form and Erik and the team would appreciate stakeholder feedback. Erik went over the review schedule that will last two weeks. He said the team will finalize the plan in July with consultants.

The Stillaguamish Reach Plan initiative will be launched in July.

Erik also noted a change in a key term: since the Snohomish River begins at the confluence of the Skykomish and Snoqualmie Rivers, it's a misnomer to call the reach from the confluence to the estuary the "Lower Snohomish River." He therefore suggested renaming that stretch of the river the "Snohomish River reach." In July, the team also will focus on the Snohomish Estuary.

Erik outlined the purpose of the SLS Reach Plan. He then demonstrated the interactive map in GIS, showed the meeting members how different data layers can be tapped and overlaid. Lauren Tracy suggested several changes and adaptations for grant writing and stakeholder engagement. Erik suggested people "poke around" and make additional suggestions. Terry asked if the Snohomish Basin Watershed Forum can be shown the

map and layers once it is completed. Erik noted care must be taken to engage landowners before showing proposed project work in their area or on their property.

Erik went through the outline of the chapters in the presentation, seeking comments and feedback from SLS participants. Funding will always be a challenge, and several challenges were discussed, including the need for flexibility to cobble together conventional single-purpose funds, and securing adequate funding for multiple benefit programs, such as Floodplains by Design. Lauren Tracy added that feedback from stakeholders on revenue increases is needed and that there may be private grants that SLS can pursue.

Linda Neunzig addressed the issue of food security as part of the Plan and that the state should look at food security plans for to create funding to support food security planning and efforts. Linda asked “Do we have enough food to feed the Snohomish County?” Tristan opined that we won’t get broad public engagement on food security until a food crisis occurs. Erik offered next steps and asked for comments to be submitted. He asked that people use the comment form that will be posted. Review needs to be conducted by June 29<sup>th</sup> and is 150 pages.

#### **5. Working Buffers: poplars for riparian & biofuels – Noelle Hart (11:40-11:55)**

Noelle is a resource planner with Advanced Hardwood Biofuels Northwest’s (AHB), whose mission is to grow poplar trees to create transportation fuel. Poplar is one of the fastest growing trees. Noelle proposed a “Tree Summit” and discussed poplar cycles and how harvesting them works. She outlined the benefits of harvesting poplar trees and how they can be managed to improve the environment. Hybrid and native poplars are available but hybrid poplars are the default choice. Kristin asked if there have been any pest/disease investigations. Terry asked about the issues with leaves that fall into the water and the effect of oxygen depletion on the water quality. Dan asked how many pounds of nitrogen would be needed for a crop like this. Others asked about the impact of poplar trees on low-water streams and how they can affect water volume. Noelle said these are all great questions and she will have to find the answers.

Although single purpose poplar plantations – for liquid biofuels, nutrient uptake, buffer shade and habitat, bank stabilization, and other ecosystem services – are generally not currently cost effective, creative multi-benefit combinations of these applications could be.

#### **6. Stilly dairy demo opportunity – Jim Jensen (11:55-12:10)**

Jim Jensen, WSU Energy Program Director (Olympia), review dairy nutrient management challenges and non-point source pollution. He discussed Lower Stillaguamish needs and high nitrogen in Chinook fish, in particular. He also reviewed anaerobic digester benefits (as demonstrated at the tribal-dairy-fish restoration Qualco Energy consortium in the Tualco Valley) and limitations. Terry noted that Tulalip spearheaded the Qualco digester and that it has been very successful.

Jim summarized a new system under development by Janicki Bioenergy, that uses established recompression and distillation technology, to convert dairy manure into a biofertilizer and clean water. Dan asked what the composition of the biofertilizer (NPK content); Jim responded that they won’t have such analysis until the system is demonstrated. This application of the Janicki system requires a fair amount of

electricity and grants for the demonstration unit. Brian said that SLS has been the reason that there has been progress in agriculture and that technology in agriculture has really grown. Jim continued by saying that ½ of the \$2 million has been provided with grants and he is looking for another million from the Legislature (in the Capital Budget) for a 50% match. Solving the problem of nutrient runoff would be a big deal and has attracted among stakeholders and within the Legislature.

#### **7. Updates and Reports (12:10-12:25)**

There was limited time remaining for additional updates, but several included:

- The next meeting of the SLS Executive Committee is July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Stillaguamish Natural Resource Center
- Floodplains by Design workshop was held in Seattle on June 2<sup>nd</sup>
- SWM consolidation hearing/ Council meeting is scheduled to take place in June, no further comments are accepted.
- Dan said he would recirculate two proposed support letters: 1) to RCO regarding replacement waterfowl habitat for Leque Island (to meet original grant requirements); 2) Mid-Spencer Island restoration project.

#### **Wrap Up and Meeting Adjourned (12:25)**

## **APPENDIX 1: AGENDA FOR MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE SOMERS**

### **SLS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WITH COUNTY EXECUTIVE DAVE SOMERS 9:30-10:15 TUESDAY JUNE 13, COUNTY EXEC. CONF ROOM (6<sup>th</sup> Floor)**

**SLS PARTICIPANTS:** SLS Executive Committee Members Tristan Klesick, Dave Remlinger, CK Eidem, Kristen Kelly and Terry Williams; Linda Neunzig, Will Hall and Erik Stockdale (SnoCo), Heather Cole (TNC), Kate Riley (Conservation District), Dan Evans, Paul Cereghino (NOAA Restoration Center), Bob Everitt and Jay Krienitz (WDFW)

**ADDITIONAL COUNTY PARTICIPANTS:** Dave Somers, Eric Parks, Ken Klein, Kendee Yamaguchi, Barb Mock, Lacey Harper

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:** Dave Somers, Linda Neunzig **(9:30-9:35)**

#### **PURPOSE**

- 1) Update on SLS status, priorities, progress
- 2) Seek support for key priorities: reach plans, resource lands, culvert permit
- 3) Get feedback / counsel on key initiatives

#### **AGENDA**

- 1) SLS Overview – **Tristan and Terry (9:35 – 9:45)**
  - a. Farm & Fish caucuses
  - b. Appreciation for County role – coordination, support
- 2) SLS Priorities and Initiatives **(9:45 – 10:05)**
  - a. Reach Plan updates **(Erik)**
  - b. Resource Land Protection **(Heather, Tristan)**
  - c. Regulatory Efficiency: culverts, drainage maintenance **(Paul)**
  - d. Ag Resilience and outreach **(Kate)**
  - e. Communications & coordination with Floodplains by Design, WDFW, Feds **(Jay, Heather, Paul)**
- 3) Feedback from Exec. Somers / staff re specific requests – **(10:05 – 10:15)**
  - a. Resource lands protection: Conservation Futures, TDR
  - b. Culvert programmatic permitting initiative
  - c. County role and coordination: SLS support and coordination

## APPENDIX 2: SLS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES – DISCUSSION DRAFT

JANUARY 10, 2017

1. Resource Lands Protection Initiative
  - a. Broad, flexible (among F3 needs) protection from development
  - b. Easement tool
  - c. Funding sources & tools: PDR, TDR, CREP lease
  - d. Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiative (SVPI) demonstration project
  - e. Campaign and broad consensus to protect resource lands
  
2. Integrated Reach Design & Implementation
  - a. Description: in SLS Lower Sky Reach Plan, Coordinated Investment Initiative and FbD materials
  - b. Structure: assessmt, tech, design, implementation assistance, MAP
  - c. Focus area reach plans:
    - i. Lower Sky: work group actively finalizing (spring 2017)
    - ii. Lower Snohomish: Fr. Crk, mouth of Pilchuck, DMP
    - iii. Estuary: complex, many big ongoing projects
    - iv. Stillaguamish: 8 projects funded in initial FbD CI-9 round
  
3. Regulatory Coordination & Efficiency
  - a. Drainage maintenance example (FSFCD) and template
  - b. Culvert replacement programmatic permitting
  - c. Water management flexibility for net gain (WID, water bank, “toolbox”)
  
4. Ag Resiliency
  - a. Develop Ag Resilience Plan (Sno Conservation Dist lead)
  - b. Ag representation at other floodplain & planning efforts
  - c. Collaborative multi-benefit implementation
  
5. Communications & Engagement
  - a. SLS and partner websites
  - b. On-line materials, classes (e.g., Fish & Farm 101)
  - c. Story Maps (WDFW’s ESRP)
  - d. Op-Eds, press
  - e. Focused outreach to key groups