

SUMMARY NOTES
SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 3.7.9
Wed, Sept. 13, 2017 10:00 – 12:00
 Tulalip Tribal Admin Center
 6406 Marine Drive, Tulalip, WA 98271

PARTICIPANTS

Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes, SLS Co-Chair (Fish)	Tristan Klesick, Stillaguamish farmer, SLS Co-Chair (Ag) by phone
Brian Bookey, National Food, SLS EC Ag rep	Kristin Kelly, Pilchuck Audubon Society
Monte Marti, Sno Conservation Dist. Manager, EC Ag rep	C.K. Eidem, Ducks Unlimited, SLS EC Fish rep
Amy Windrope, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Cindy Dittbrenner, Sno Conservation District
Colin Wahl, Tulalip Tribes Nat Res Dept fisheries biologist	Dan Bartelheimer, Snohomish County Farm Bureau
Dan Evans, SLS Facilitator	Daryl Williams, Tulalip Tribes
Erik Stockdale, Snohomish County SWM Special Projects Coordinator	Greg Green, Ducks Unlimited
Gretchen Glaub, SnoCo SWM Planner	Heather Cole, The Nature Conservancy
Hilary Aten, PCC Farmland Trust	Jay Krienitz, WDFW, ESRP Program Manager
Jessica Hamill, SnoCo SWM Planner	Judy Blanco, Forterra
Kate Riley, Sno Conservation Dist	Katrina Sukola, SnoCo SWM Planner
Kirk Lakey, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Linda Neunzig, SnoCo Ag Coordinator
Lindsey Desmul, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Meg Bommarito, WA Dept. of Ecology
Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes	Patrick Capper, WA St. Dept. of Ag
Paul Cereghino, NOAA Restoration Center, Coordinated Investment	Phil North, Tulalip Tribes
Ryan Larsen, City of Stanwood	Patti Gobin, Tulalip Tribes
Marie Zackuse, Tulalip Tribes Chair	

PURPOSE: The September meeting of the SLS Executive Committee is focused on the Snohomish Basin and communications issues. Tulalip, Snohomish Forum, and Conservation District staff updated the SLS on fish and watershed status and a recent sea rise study. The Communications Task Group, which met immediately prior to the Executive Committee meeting, outlined strategies and issues and sought input from the EC. Task Group leads for SLS priority objectives (Resource lands protection, reg efficiency, reach plans, ag resilience, communications) provided updates and status reports.



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

- a. **Welcome, recognize Tulalip hosts, Introductions:** Terry introduced Marie Zackuse, Chair of the Tulalip Board of Directors. Chairwoman Zackuse welcomed the SLS to the Tulalip Administrative Center, offered an invocation, and shared a summary of the Tribe's values and her support for the SLS. SLS facilitator Dan Evans recognized SLS co-chairs Tristan and Terry, who thanked Chairwoman Zackuse and offered their sense of common goals and principles. Dan thanked the Tulalip Tribe for hosting the meeting and making their Training Room available for the SLS meetings and called for self-introduction of participants. Dan asked WDFW's Amy Windrope to provide some biographical background. Amy is Bob Everitt's replacement and the new Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 4 Regional Director out of their Mill Creek office.

- b. **Review purpose, agenda:** The Executive Committee was called to order. Dan reviewed the agenda and purpose for the monthly Executive Committee meeting, noting that the Communications Task Group had met with members of the Executive Committee and several core team leads in executive session immediately prior to the full SLS session to discuss outreach strategies, issues, and follow up actions for the SLS communications strategy.

Monte reminded SLS participants of the Snohomish Conservation District annual Partner Breakfast at Craven Farms (Friday September 15). Dan Bartelheimer mentioned the Farm Bureau BBQ (Sunday September 17) at SnoValley Farms.

2. SLS PRIORITY OBJECTIVES, PROGRESS REPORTS (10:10-10:40)

- a. **Brief SLS Strategic Priorities & Objectives review (10:10-10:15)**

Dan briefly reviewed updated status reports on the SLS Priority Objectives Worksheet (attached as Appendix 1). He emphasized that, in addition to status reports and next steps, a key part of these reports is for Task Group leads to highlight critical obstacles and opportunities during Executive Committee meetings and to engage with SLS partners in brief discussions about how they can help to advance the Priority Objective by providing needed "capacity" and other support to efficiently accomplish these SLS priority actions. The Task Group leads were called on to make their brief verbal reports and submit one-page updates, using a common format, for posting on the SLS website.

- b. **Task Group progress reports: (10:15-10:35)**

Resource Lands Protection (Heather Cole)



The Resource Lands Protection Task Group's lead, Heather Cole of the Nature Conservancy, has focused on spearheading the Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiative (SVPI) work that supports the protection of resource lands important to the viability of fish, farm, and flood management efforts in the floodplains and estuaries of the Lower Stillaguamish River. Heather identified several separate initiatives under the Task Group umbrella, and noted the leads of these efforts would be providing updates of their respective work. For example, work groups have been established to prioritize farmland and other resource land protection (headed by Hilary Aten and the PCC Farmland Trust); Brian Bookey has been spearheading discussions with the Arlington School District to protect the Betcher Farm owned by ASD; Linda Neunzig is leading the effort to prevent the conversion of the Hofstra Farm in the Lower Sky area and provide exchange opportunities for farmers losing land to bank erosion and provide habitat enhancement opportunities; and Forterra's Nick Bratton is coordinating Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) strategies. Some funding has been made available for these efforts but it is also the primary constraint. TNC is looking for contacts of developers in South Lake Union to transfer their development rights in Snohomish County.

The SLS EC was also informed that Terry Williams and Brian Bookey were recognized with an award for their pioneering work to protect resource lands by Forterra's Snohomish County Chapter at their annual event. Terry spoke briefly to some of the challenges and need to address and reform ("harmonize") fragmented regulatory processes. It was noted that Snohomish County is the second fastest growing county in the U.S., and that we have limited time and opportunity to protect key resource lands through thoughtful land use policies and a pragmatic recognition that hundreds of thousands of people are moving to the Puget Sound area and that we need to accommodate growth in a way that protects farm, fish, and flood management mandates.

Brian Bookey provided an update regarding the initiative to save the 160-acre property Betcher farms, owned by Arlington School District (ASD). A meeting with the School District indicated their priority is to maximize the sale value of the property and that preservation of farmland is not highly valued countervailing factor. The highest potential economic value is for a gravel pit operation, although the cost of remediation and extraction would reduce that value significantly. The farmland value of the land is assumed to be approximately \$600,000, but an appraisal is needed to confirm that estimate. Brian is looking for support from SLS and partners, such as the PCC Farmland Trust for an appraisal. An appraisal would help determine several key values, including development restrictions and conservation easement values, as well as mineral rights and development values. Cindy Dittbrenner suggested use of an appraiser who conducted a riparian zone appraisal and may be able to provide a starting point. It is challenging to connect with the interested mining companies because ASD declines to identify who the mining companies are. Brian noted the District is not yet recognizing Ag/SLS as a serious interested party in the land, which is zoned R-5 and has a mine land use overlay, but has had unsuccessful gravel mining use in the past.



Linda Neunzig summarized work on the Hofstra Farm land exchange concept. Terry Williams will present this effort to the Ag Board (Thursday September 14). The subdivided lots for sale were redrawn through a boundary line adjustment (BLA) are being listed at \$155,000 per lot, however water rights is a question.

Regulatory Efficiency (Paul Cereghino)

Paul noted there are two parts to the Regulatory Efficiency Priority Objective / Permitting Strategy: a) culvert replacement, and (b) drainage maintenance (floodplain focus).

Currently, Paul and the Task Group are focused more on floodplain and drainage maintenance. He has prepared written summaries related to regulatory documents, gathered GIS data including French Slough Flood Control District data, and completed document review. A meeting is scheduled with the District next Tuesday. On the culvert initiative, Paul is reaching out to the Army Corps of Engineers regarding how maintenance fits into County plans. The regulatory process is the primary hold-up for culvert project development. The Tulalip Tribe is seeking an improved relationship with the Army Corps and working with the Task Group on streamlined approval strategies for plans that achieve net gain.

Reach-scale Plans (Erik Stockdale)

Erik presented a map of the Stilly Reach and sub-reach boundaries. The plan framework is modeled after the Lower Sky plan completed last August. The effort is on schedule; the SWM team is meeting with the consultants to discuss assignments and deliverables. Some elements of the plan have been completed. Maps of the planning area are available on the [SLS website](#). The Lower Stillaguamish Reach Plan will be completed by January/February 2018.

The Snohomish River and Estuary Reach Scale plan will commence in January, however preliminary map layers will be developed this fall.

Ag Resilience (Cindy Dittbrenner)

The Snohomish Conservation District's (SCD) Ag Resilience initial phase is well underway. Flood modeling has started and is anticipated to be completed in March, including inundation mapping. The SCD is waiting on ESRP and capital funds to continue parts of the modeling including the need for monitoring wells for groundwater modeling. Groundwater modeling will be completed by spring or, most likely, late summer. Groundwater levels have a major impact on surface stream flows, soil moisture levels, and sub-irrigation. Funds are still needed for ag project scoping and ag project development. The (Focus on Farming) Photovoice Exhibition



will be on display at several additional locations this fall. The Conservation District applied for the NOAA resilience funding, and did not receive funds in the last two cycles, but should hear back in the following months regarding current funds.

Confluence Projects (Morgan Ruff)

The Confluence suite of projects include: 1) the conservation and enhancement of natural habitat and farmland on approximately 180 acres of private property at the confluence of the Skykomish and Snoqualmie rivers through a joint venture with the Tulalip Tribes and riverfront land owners; 2) a “net gain” permitting of riverfront property; and 3) the development and potential implementation of a sub-reach scale plan for the Lower Skykomish River, involving river and bank protection and enhancement measures that improve conditions for fish, landowners, and flood hazard reduction, as a joint venture between landowners and the Tulalip Tribes and potentially other entities. The Confluence initiative seeks to create a complementary private-tribal model for “faster, cheaper, smarter” restoration and conservation of farm and other resource lands. Part of the initiative is to demonstrate self-sustaining funding and streamlined approvals. Recent meetings at Tulalip provide forward momentum.

Communications Strategy (Kate Riley)

Kate Riley (Snohomish Conservation District) led the discussion during the Communications Strategy Concepts session (below).

c. Funding (Cap Budget, grants), other progress reports (10:35-10:40)

Action on the State Capital Budget, which stalled at the end of the Legislative session due to the Hirst Case controversy, will likely not occur until a special election for an open Senate seat is filled to determine the majority in the State Senate on November 7, 2017. Insiders expect action on the Capital Budget, which contains funding for the Floodplains by Design and other programs vital to the SLS and its partners, to occur early in the new year.

See up-to-date status reports for SLS Strategic Objectives on the [SLS website](#).

3. KEY SLS UPDATES -- FISH, FARM, FLOOD CONTROL (10:40-11:30)

a. Tulalip, Forum, SCD – fish/shellfish status, sea rise, WDFW rept. on escaped Atlantic salmon (10:40-11:10)

Returning adult Chinook salmon numbers are up this year, and the tribal terminal fishery in Tulalip Bay is strong. Good at-sea conditions, improved hatchery stock, and several other factors have certainly boosted the hatchery and wild stock returns, but the wild fish restoration priority remains habitat protection – especially in the estuary and floodway. Habitat projects are struggling for lack of funding with the failure of the Legislature to enact a Capital Budget in the extended Legislative session. Project



leads are working with sponsors to mitigate the Capital Budget slowdown. Hatchery reform directed a shift fall Chinook to summer stock to prevent intermixing of wild and hatchery fish and interception of wild fish. Terry also would like to see more ag members back on the Snohomish Salmon Forum.

Colin Wahl and Tulalip staff worked with Global Ocean Health to conduct climate modeling including sea level rise (SLR). The interest was to see how SLR would impact near shore areas, including Port Susan, from Tulalip Bay up to the Stillaguamish River. Tulalip Bay is a good example of what could happen with varying SLR scenarios. A significant area of loss is expected by 2100 with 1.6 feet and 3.3 feet of SLR, which would impact shellfish habitat. Freshwater marsh habitat would be changed to saltwater marsh habitat, which is not ideal for chinook habitat. Modeling is solely based on ground elevations, and does not consider levee elevations.

Jay Krienitz and Cindy Dittbrenner discussed projects including SLR predications being updated and assessed in Puget Sound and along the coast from California to Alaska by several different agencies and groups, including Coastal Resilience Partners and USGS. Funding is provided by the EPA's National Estuary Program (NEP) and Near Term Actions (NTAs).

Cook Aquaculture has three net pen arrays that recently released Atlantic salmon. Atlantic salmon were found in Tribe nets and by recreational fishers. An emergency was declared by three agencies (WDFW, Ecology, and DNR), which have regulatory authority over net pen operations. Approximately 140,000 Atlantic salmon still remain in the wild. Follow up actions regarding the release include:

- determining health of released fish,
- presence of escaped fish at fisheries and hatcheries,
- whether escaped fish are eating, and
- whether escaped fish are picking up diseases or viruses.

Some escaped fish have been found with empty stomachs, indicating they are not eating in the wild. The Fraser River Panel, an international group, has found that escaped fish are generally migrating to the Fraser River. The Panel met during the event and decided to open up select bays for fishing. Managers are gathering on September 27th to discuss findings and the appropriate response. A handout summarizing the key points of the Atlantic salmon net-pen failure was provided. See [SLS Website](#) for the summary.

b. Forterra's riparian restoration concept (Judy Blanco, 11:10-11:30)

Forterra's riparian zone specialist Judy Blanco discussed Forterra's restoration and knotweed control work. As part of their conservation mission, Forterra has added a riparian restoration component to their services. Forterra is addressing riparian restoration on public and private land and engaging volunteer participants. Much of the riparian restoration effort in the Skykomish is coming from partners. There has



been a great deal of survey work, and Forterra is interested in continuing and carrying the effort beyond the county line. Project areas include Bear Creek, Cedar River, and Samish River. Efforts are typically hands-on, with a desire to get on the ground in the first year (to get presence known and initiate outreach efforts), and usually would be a long term commitment (20-year time period). The next round includes funding and strategy development.

4. SLS COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY CONCEPTS (11:30-11:55)

- a. Com Task Group report and outline of elements, issues
- b. Discussion and guidance re elements and issues
- c. Next steps, schedule

SCD's Kate Riley summarized the communication strategy and needs. A draft communication strategy was presented and discussed in an SLS Communications Strategy meeting immediately prior to the Executive Committee Meeting. The plan aims to develop clear and comprehensive messaging and engagement of key audiences, which are an important priorities of the SLS initiative.

Key audiences include: Tier 1 – policy level SLS conveners and interested parties, government agencies including Tribal, Federal, state, and local; Tier 2 -- landowners in the floodplain; and Tier 3 – the general public.

Brian Bookey noted the communication plan could benefit land acquisition initiatives, such as the Betcher Farm protection effort and having the SLS and its partners be identified as a recognized entity and significant player. Tulalip Board Vice Chair Teri Gobin noted the opportunity to bring divergent interest together within the County and the region as a whole. Terry Williams and Monte Marti noted the importance of engaging the ag community in SLS initiatives during the winter downtime.

Additional foundational work with the SLS Executive Committee and key partners is necessary to provide clarity regarding the SLS mission, role, and value proposition, as well as target audiences for the communications strategy.

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

The next SLS EC meeting is scheduled for 10:00 – 12:00 October 10th (Tuesday) at Snohomish County (Admin East 6A04).



APPENDIX 1

SLS PRIORITY OBJECTIVES WORKSHEET (work-in-progress draft) September 13, 2017

Priority Objective	Description	Tasks	Task Group, Lead (policy, tech)
<p>1. Regulatory Efficiency</p> <p>(a) Culvert Replacement Permitting Strategy</p> <p>(b) French Slough Drainage Maintenance Permitting Strategy</p>	<p>(a) Reduce the cost per culvert of regulatory review.</p> <p>(b) Obtain permits for drainage maintenance and test mechanism for more efficient reach scale regulatory assessment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarize regulatory regime • Assess protected resources (water types, etc.) • Scope impacts • Define stewardship approach and document net-gain <p>Secure permits</p>	<p>Paul Cereghino (NOAA, lead) Monte Marti (SCD) Erik Stockdale (SnoCo) Dan Evans (SLS) Kirk Lakey (WDFW) Janet Curran (NOAA) Diane Hennessey (Ecology) Frank Nichols (USACE) Morgan Ruff (Tulalip) Sean Curran (SnoCo)</p>
<p>2. Reach-scale Plans</p> <p>(a) Lower Skykomish</p> <p>(b) Lower Stillaguamish</p> <p>(c) Snohomish River & Estuary</p>	<p>Complete Lower Sky reach-scale plan (Aug)</p> <p>Launch reach-scale plans for:</p> <p>(b) Lower Stillaguamish River in July 2017 (due end of year)</p> <p>(c) Snohomish River & Estuary (combined) in fall 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Sky reach plan template & lessons to develop scope, structure • ID team, key stakeholders (S/H) • Engage S/Hs • Develop draft RP with team • Review/revise draft with S/H input 	<p>(a) Erik Stockdale <i>Anchor QEA</i></p> <p>(b) Stilly Reach Plan: Erik Stockdale & Kit Crump SnoCo Pat Stevenson stilly Erik Stockdale <i>AnchorQEA</i> Others TBD</p> <p>(c) Snohomish/Estuary Reach Plan: Erik Stockdale Sno <i>AnchorQEA</i> Others TBD</p>
<p>3. Resource Land Protection</p>	<p>Task groups tackle specific Res Land Protection objectives: a-c</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define scope, WP, personnel, budget 	<p>(a) Betcher: Brian Bookey</p> <p>(b) Easement: Heather Cole /</p>



<p>(a) Betcher farm (ASD)</p> <p>(b) TDR / easement</p> <p>(c) Sky farmland easement swap (RN 10-13)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ID team, key stakeholders (S/H) • Engage S/Hs • Develop draft Res Land Protect Strat & specific objectives • Pursue, implement approved objectives 	<p>Tristan Klesick / Hilary Aten</p> <p>(c) Sky farmland easement / exchange: Linda Neunzig</p>
<p>4. Ag Resilience Plan</p> <p>(a) Ag Resilience Report</p> <p>(b) Farmland protection prioritization</p>	<p>(a) Ag Resilience Plan:</p> <p>ii. Develop plan of priority ag resilience projects</p> <p>iii. Secure funding for project implementation</p> <p>(b) Land Prioritization: County-wide analysis of farmland protection opportunities to inform Res Land Prot Strat and Ag Resilience Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage shareholders • Complete flood, groundwater, and crop impacts modeling • Scope and design priority ag resilience projects • Implement priority objectives 	<p>(a) Ag Resilience: Cindy Dittbrenner, SCD</p> <p>(b) PCC Prioritization: Hilary Aten, PCC FT</p>
<p>5. Confluence Project (Lower Sky RM 0-9)</p>	<p>Private landowner-tribal joint venture to demo subreach farm-fish-flood net gain action plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define scope, WP, personnel, structure • ID / engage team, key stakeholder S/H • Review Meadow Wd • Protect / enhance Confluence site • Dev subreach strat 	<p>Dave Remlinger / Tulalip</p>
<p>6. Communications & Engagement</p>	<p>Develop SLS communications strategy and tackle key objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define scope, WP, personnel, budget 	<p>Kate Riley scd Kristin Kelly pas Lindsey Desmul wdfw Others...</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ID / engage team, key stakeholder S/H• Tackle key tasks<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Overviews, flyerii. Website, o/l infoiii. Focused outreachiv. Annual dinnerv. Advocacy	
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