

REGULATORY EFFICIENCY TASK GROUP PROGRESS REPORT

Priority Objective	Description	Tasks	Work Group
1. Regulatory Efficiency (a) Culvert Replacement Permitting Strategy (b) French Slough Drainage Maintenance Permitting Strategy	(a) Reduce the cost per culvert of regulatory review. (b) Obtain permits for drainage maintenance and test mechanism for more efficient reach scale regulatory assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize regulatory regime Assess protected resources (water types, etc.) Scope impacts Define stewardship approach and document net-gain Secure permits 	Paul Cereghino (NOAA, lead) Monte Marti (SCD) Erik Stockdale (SnoCo) Dan Evans (SLS) Kirk Lakey (WDFW) Janet Currna (NOAA) Diane Hennessey (Ecology) Frank Nichols (USACE) Morgan Ruff (Tulalip) Sean Curran (SnoCo)

CULVERTS

PROGRESS: Wright completed a review of state and federal culvert guidance. We identified the Regional Road Maintenance Program, which Snohomish County is a party to and provides NOAA ESA coverage, as a likely model for coordinated regulation. Stockdale has provided a list of culverts. Snohomish County has not yet prioritized culvert replacement, so we will have to proceed based on a set of most-likely candidates. Wright began assembling BMPs, but has retired, and will not be contributing additional work.

NEXT STEPS: Cereghino is *de facto* project management, but has limited capacity. Ruff will attempt to assess tribal concerns about culvert replacement. Stockdale and Cereghino will approach US Army Corps of Engineers to better understand the Clean Water Act maintenance exemption criteria. The critical next action is to schedule and conduct a “table top assessment” of the SnoCo culverts to group them into “regulatory cases” (October?). Our greatest limiting factor is focused project management labor.

DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE

PROGRESS: Cereghino spoke with the FSFCD Manager (Neil Wheeler) about general concerns and approach. He digitized the SEE 2015 stream typing, and constructed a GIS to support ecosystem assessment (pulling map resources from SCD riparian work). He reviewed Otak et al. 2017 (county floodplains by design deliverable) to better anticipate the range of net-gain options described there. Cereghino prepared a summary of regulatory authorities and got review from most regulatory partners (Draft).

NEXT STEPS: Cereghino will continue with project management, and meet with FSFCD commissioners and staff at their 9/14 meeting to verify direction and intent. Provided agreement there, next steps will be inventory of district resources and actions, a field day, inventory of protected resources, a rough scope of impacts, and then a workshop with regulators to make sure we are on the right track. Following that we’ll return to the district to develop a stewardship strategy as a response the protected resource and impact assessments.

REACH-SCALE PLANS TASK GROUP PROGRESS REPORT

Priority Objective	Description	Tasks	Work Group
2. Reach-scale Plans (a) Lower Skykomish (b) Lower Stillaguamish (c) Snohomish River & Estuary	(a) Lower Sky reach-scale plan (completed Aug 2017) Launch reach-scale plans for: (b) Lower Stillaguamish River in July 2017 (due end of year) (c) Snohomish River & Estuary (combined) January-Nov 2018	<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 	(a) Erik Stockdale <i>Anchor QEA</i> (b) Stilly Reach Plan: Erik Stockdale & Kit Crump Snohomish County Pat Stevenson Stilly <i>AnchorQEA</i> Others TBD (c) Snohomish/Estuary Reach Plan: Erik Stockdale Snohomish County <i>AnchorQEA</i> Others TBD

LOWER STILLAGUAMISH REACH SCALE PLAN

PROGRESS: Plan is on schedule.

- Building on lessons learned from the Lower Sky Reach Plan (available on SLS website)
- Plan outline and writing assignments have been made.
- Team meeting with consultant team scheduled for Monday Sept 18.
- Some chapters and subchapters have been drafted (e.g. water quality considerations, agricultural issues in the reach, geomorphic summary).
- Reach and Sub-reach boundaries have been established; see map on SLS website at <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/45828>.
- 2016 WSDA Agricultural Land Survey map created; see <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/45872>.
- Future Land Use Designations map created; see <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/45873>.
- Table 12 (projects in reach) has been largely completed.

NEXT STEPS:

- Long list of steps ahead.... Work plan available upon request.
- Sept 18 team meeting with consultant team.
- Map completed, proposed, conceptual projects in the reach (Table 12).
- Start building the web map.
- Landowner engagement: several meetings scheduled next month.
- Team writing assignments: Sept 15-Oct 27 for Chapters 1,2,3,4.
- More details at October meeting.

RESOURCE LAND PROTECTION - STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY PROTECTION INITIATIVE
(SVPI) TASK GROUP PROGRESS REPORT

Priority Objective	Description	Tasks	Work Group
<p>3. Preserve large blocks of farmland in the Stillaguamish valley that supports habitat restoration, but limits future development.</p>	<p>(a) Landowner outreach (b) Manage a Resource Lands Working Group (c) Create a SVPI Easement template (d) Research other models/processes (e) Sno. Co. TDR bank (f) Explore feasibility to transfer regional TDR credits to Sno. Co. (f) Develop TDR demand in Sno. Co.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a timeline for grower meetings • Develop a MOU to coordinate ag. land protection efforts • Explore feasibility of using the SVPI flexible easement on Johnson Property. • Scope research project • Explore TDR opportunities with Seattle developers • Complete TDR bank 	<p>Heather Cole (TNC, lead) Hilary Aten (PCC Farmland Trust) Adam Draper (Forterra) Nick Bratton (Forterra) Linda Neunzig (Sno. Co.) Cindy Dittbrenner (SCD) Jay Krienitz (WDFW) Tristan Klesick (Klesick Farms)</p>

PROGRESS: A facilitator (Abby Hooke) has been hired to manage the resource lands working group and to develop a MOU between the various entities involved in Snohomish County land acquisitions. The next meeting date is scheduled for October 12. Options are being explored to use a flexible easement template for the Johnson property. PCC farmland trust template is being reviewed by the City of Stanwood for applicability. Forterra is working on completing the TDR bank and generating TDR demand in Snohomish County. TNC is exploring feasibility to transfer regional TDR credits to Snohomish County.

NEXT STEPS: Our next steps are to develop a timeline for the grower meetings. We need to scope out the research project on developing alternative models/processes for protecting large blocks of farmland. And to further the development of the MOU for the Resource Lands Working Group.

AGRICULTURE RESILIENCE PLAN TASK GROUP PROGRESS REPORT

Priority Objective	Description	Tasks	Work Group
4. Ag Resilience Plan (a) Ag Resilience Report (b) Farmland protection prioritization	(a) Ag Resilience Plan: ii. Develop plan of priority ag resilience projects iii. Secure funding for project implementation (b) Land Prioritization: County-wide analysis of farmland protection opportunities to inform Resource Land Protection Strategy and Ag Resilience Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage stakeholders Complete flood, groundwater, and crop impacts modeling Scope and design priority ag resilience projects Implement priority objectives 	(a) Ag Resilience: Cindy Dittbrenner , SCD (b) PCC Prioritization: Hilary Aten , PCC FT

The Agriculture Resilience Plan will help farmers plan for future changes and risk, and scope and prioritize landscape-scale agriculture projects that can be incorporated into a multi-benefit approach to floodplain management in Snohomish County. This plan will help build a resilient agricultural community into the future through a combination of information gathering and sharing, creation of online planning tools, project scoping and design, project implementation, and farmland protection. This planning effort is driven by a Steering Committee of farmers and will also be vetted by the larger agricultural community. For more information see www.snohomishcd.org/ag-resilience.

PROGRESS

Flood modeling – Started this month (to be completed by March 2018). UW and SSBN are under contract to complete the flood modeling for the Stillaguamish and Snohomish Rivers.

Groundwater modeling – Funding was tied up in the state capital budget process in SCD’s ESRP Learning grant application. Funds were secured (\$200,000) in NEP funding through the Near Term Action process that will now cover this and efforts will commence this fall (to be completed August, 2018). Planning a technical modeling committee meeting in mid-October to plan next steps and ensure collaboration with other partners. This group will be expanded to include Tulalip Tribes (SLAMM modeling), Snohomish County Emergency Management, and NOAA.

Farmland protection prioritization – ongoing. A draft prioritization map was completed and vetted by the Ag Resilience Plan Steering Committee of farmers. The map will be refined to incorporate results of flood and groundwater modeling in 2018.

Crop impacts modeling and online tool – Tool to be completed December, 2017 (no funding secured for crop impacts modeling). WSU (Rajagopalan) is updating their online climate change planning tool to include the west side of the state. With funding from Snohomish CD (NOAA grant) and King CD, they will complete this using students by the end of the year.

Project scoping and design – No funding secure. Goal is to start summer 2018.

Project implementation – 2019-2024

OBSTACLES and OPPORTUNITIES: Have not been able to secure funding to scope and design projects or complete the crop impacts modeling work. Advocate for funding to keep this moving forward.

CONFLUENCE PROJECT TASK GROUP PROGRESS REPORT

Priority Objective	Description	Tasks	Work Group
5. Confluence Project (Lower Sky RM 0-9)	Private landowner-tribal joint venture to demo subreach farm-fish-flood net gain action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define scope, work plan, personnel, structure Identify/engage team, key stakeholder Review Meadow Wood Protect/enhance confluence site Develop sub-reach strategy 	Morgan Ruff (Tulalip, lead) Dan Evans (SLS) Dave Remlinger (FSFCD)

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 between the landowner, Tulalip Tribes, and potentially other entities; 2) the net gain design and permitting of the Meadow Wood Equestrian Center; and 3) the development and potential implementation of a sub-reach scale plan for the Lower Skykomish River, within the Lower Skykomish Reach-Scale Plan, involving river and bank protection and enhancement measures that improve conditions for fish, landowners, and flood hazard reduction, as a joint venture between landowners, Tulalip Tribes, and potentially other entities.

PROGRESS: The Confluence Projects Task Group, with Morgan Ruff (Tulalip) as designated lead, accomplished the following during August and early September:

- Organized an initial Task Group
- Met twice at Tulalip, and members had numerous individual and small group conference calls and meetings
- Developed a working mission statement with objectives and next steps
- Identified potential organizational structures
- Outlined next steps and a rudimentary work plan

OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES: The Task Group identified the following challenges and opportunities:

- Creating a joint venture between private landowners and a tribe (Tulalip) to demonstrate a “cheaper, faster, smarter” way of improving conditions for fish, farmers / landowners, and flood management
- Developing project self-funding mechanisms, such as sale of sand and gravel from back channel excavation, that is a net gain for fish and hydrology and is transparent and driven by the multiple benefit mission

SUPPORT FROM SLS AND PARTNERS

- Coordination with the Lower Sky Reach Plan, support from Plan partners
- Information on sub-reach river dynamics -- share hydro/geo assessment and modeling analysis
- Technical and permitting support

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT TASK GROUP PROGRESS REPORT

Priority Objective	Description	Tasks	Work Group
6. Communications & Engagement	Develop SLS communications strategy and tackle key goals, objectives, and tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define scope, work plan, personnel & budget • Identify & engage team, key stakeholders, and audience • Key Tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Flyers, handouts ii. Website, online info iii. Focused outreach iv. Annual dinner/ events <p style="text-align: center;">Advocacy</p>	<p>Kate Riley (Snohomish Conservation District) Kristin Kelly (Pilchuck Audubon Society) Lindsey Desmul (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) Tristan Klesick (Klesick Farms) Jay Krienitz (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) Morgan Ruff (Tulalip Tribes) Monte Marti (Snohomish Conservation District)</p>

PROGRESS: The group met on September 13th for 1.5 hours to discuss the communication plan. Audiences and events such as the annual Farm to Table dinner were discussed. Consideration was given to hiring a facilitator to complete the communication strategy due to the time commitment required.

NEXT STEPS: Before hiring a facilitator, goals and objectives of the Sustainable Lands Strategy need to be identified, which will then lead to communication goals. Time constraints need to be considered among group members to determine feasibility of communication timeline. Audience needs to be solidified.