

Meeting Summary

Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Technical Committee
WDFW Office, Mill Creek
9:00 am – 12:00 pm, November 7, 2017

In attendance:

Mike Rustay, Snohomish County
Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Tribe
Heather Khan, Ecology
Denise Krownbell, City Light
Scott Powell, Seattle City Light
Elissa Ostergaard, King County
Beth leDoux, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum/King County (Co-Chair)
Colin Wahl, Tulalip Tribes (Co-Chair)
Andrew McDonnell, Snohomish PUD
Lindsey Desmul, WDFW
Esther Moseichuk, Snohomish County
Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County
Paul Crane, City of Everett
Ikuno Masterson, Snohomish County PDS
Doug Hennick, WFC
Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes
Alex Pittman, Snohomish County

Meeting Summary:

Introductions

Mike Rustay opened the meeting with introductions. Mike says that today will be a working meeting. 2017 was a year to re-staff the Basin and 2018 we are poised to get some work done. Snohomish Basin 2018 Draft Work Plan will a major topic of discussion in this meeting.

Basin Updates

Gretchen says the State still has no capital budget. We do have approximately \$200k in 2015-17 PSAR return funds. She is still collecting info on cost increase needs for previous projects and will be sending out a poll to the Project Review Sub-committee to review options for how funds will be allocated. It has been difficult to narrow down what the options are as funds will need to be spent by June 2019. Gretchen said she is working with sponsors to see what is feasible.

Shoreline Implementation Strategy

Beth announced that WDFW has released draft implementation strategy for marine shorelines. The committee discussed the details and possible ramifications. Gretchen said the Snohomish MRC was

reviewing. There was not a strong opinion that the TC should provide comments by the Nov 30th deadline, but if members had comments they could be delivered to Gretchen.

Follow-up on Recreation and Restoration discussion from October meeting

Mike gave some background about Snohomish County Parks Skykomish/Snohomish River Coalition planning to promote river towns and organize river recreation. There have been some concerns from the restoration community about how this may impact recovery efforts. Parks is moving on the planning process. The coalition is working with Forterra on the draft concept plan that will be released soon. Tulalip has the draft but many gaps will need to be filled. The TC will be kept up to speed and may be asked to provide input/comments as the plan is developed. Beth reminded the committee that King County has had a lot of experience with recreation concerns driving wood policy and urged Colin and Mike to connect with King Co. staff.

Other announcements

Matt relayed a desire for more coordination among groups doing temperature monitoring in the Snoqualmie. There will be a meeting in January hosted by the King County with this as a goal. Snoqualmie Tribe offers assistance and may help with funding future efforts.

Heather mentioned Ecology will schedule advisory group meetings by the end of January for the Pilchuck River Temperature TMDL. Some groups that will be involved are Snohomish County, Snohomish CD, Fish and Wildlife, Adopt-a-stream and others.

2018 TC Work Plan

Mike walked the committee through the draft 2018 work plan noting a robust list of potential objectives and deliverables. He stated that the document is draft and may be edited throughout the year, but this plan should set realistic goals for what we hope to accomplish in 2018. The committee discussed schedules, meeting topics and work products (see below for detail on additional work products). Mike offered to incorporate comments in the draft work plan. Some initial comments included...

Basin Monitoring Plan Beth said that we should focus on the habitat monitoring. One reason the plan was not finished in previous efforts is because it covers so many topics. If we put it on the work plan with a due date and focus on habitat metrics, it will get done.

Water quality white paper Scott noted that WRIA 9 did a great job on the contaminants paper. They also have a temperature one we can use to see how temperature impacts fish. He suggested sub-committees get together who can work on projects. Matt commented that water quantity should be considered along with water quality is the white paper and offered to help with that component.

Additional presentation ideas Floodplains by Design approval processes was brought up and needs to be reflected in the work plan. The project will be reviewed by RFP and we need to figure out the timing.

Getting proposals first would allow us to look at them and then presentations can happen. Sending out an email to project sponsors about the project proposals would be helpful.

Beth mentioned that first quarter should do updated fish views in Snoqualmie and Stilly to learn more about technology. King County has a desire to get ten year targets established and have asked for feedback.

10-yr Status Update Report

Colin shared a presentation with preliminary land cover summary data that showed changes in acres of forests, scrub shrub and wetlands in fish bearings stream buffers. He also showed data on increases in acres of development within 150 ft stream buffers over 2001-2016. The committee discussed preliminary results and offered suggestions on how to move forward with the analysis.

Status update Schedule

Gretchen said that the Forum will get an update at the December meeting that will include summary information though the report will not be distributed at that time. The goal is to have a draft of the report to the Tech Committee before the February meeting. TC Comments will be incorporated in February.

Plan Update and Restoration Targets

Beth reviewed work done in WRIA 8 to update their salmon plan and handed out supporting materials. This effort included an update of habitat restoration goals and has led to a desire to do the same in the Snoqualmie. The committee discussed including this in the 2018 work plan, while there was a general consensus that updating targets is necessary for the next ten years and beyond, no decision was made about the timeframe for doing this. The Snoqualmie team will be moving forward with their effort but the question remains how much capacity there is at the Basin level. Placeholders will remain on the TC work plan and details can be worked out at a later date. It is likely that a sub-committee will need to tackle this topic.

Meeting adjourned

Next Steps

- Continued analysis for 10-Year Status and Trends Report
- Edit and distribute 2018 draft TC work plan
- Continue discussion of major work products for 2018

Upcoming Meetings

- Policy Development Committee meeting: 11/16/17
- Forum meeting: 12/5/17
- Technical Committee meeting: 12/5/17