

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Snohomish Basin Salmonid Recovery Technical Committee

Tulalip Tribes, Tulalip

9:00 am - 12:00pm, December 5, 2017

In attendance:

Beth leDoux, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum/King County

Colin Wahl, Tulalip Tribes (Co-Chair)

Denise Krownbell, Seattle City Light

Scott Powell, Seattle City Light

Paul Crane, City of Everett

Lindsey Desmul, WDFW

Alex Pittman, Snohomish Conservation District

Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County

Mike Rustay, Snohomish County (Co-Chair)

Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes

Andrew McDonnell, Snohomish PUD

Luke Hanna, Snohomish County

Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Tribe

Seth Amrhein, King County

Allison Bachner, Snohomish Conservation District

Natalie Seitz, Snohomish County

Alexa Ramos, Snohomish County

Meeting Summary:

Introductions

Basin Updates

- **2018 Meeting Calendar:** The January and September meetings will be a week later than usual due to holidays... please see the Snohomish Basin website for meeting calendars, agenda, and summaries
 - Work plan – Mike added a little more detail about the deliverables and some subcommittee meetings. We will post on this on the website and update throughout the year if necessary.
- **Basin and Regional Updates**
SRC Update: Scott reported on Leadership Council discussions about SRC regional priorities and conversations about the Hirst decision/issue of exempt wells and NTAs.

Also, there are changes being proposed for the PSAR application process. A fairly detailed set of 10-11 changes are being put forward. One of these was the climate change addition to the scoring requirement for PSAR Large Cap projects. Scott reported that this change focused more on the

notion that projects should be resilient to a changing climate rather than the types of projects to do to foster watershed resilience to climate change.

Floodplains by Design representatives also attended and discussed potential revisions to the program. There was discussion about competition for capital funds and an offer to coordinate across stakeholders across the Puget Sound region to coordinate around lobbying efforts in the future.

2018 funding: Gretchen commented that despite not having a capital budget, RFPs for 2018 grants are still moving forward. The 2018 NTA solicitation came out and the pre-registration deadline is Dec 22nd. For our grant round we anticipate having a very similar RFP as last year even though it'll be a large PSAR round. ESRP is coming out soon too. Morgan and Gretchen would like to be in the loop on what people are thinking about putting forward. There is a FbD workshop tomorrow. As a reminder about the NTAs – we'll be pulling together an ad hoc group to review any NTAs that have to deal with salmon recovery before/as they go through the LIO process. Ask Alexa and Jessica for help on NTAs if you need it. Anything dealing with salmon recovery also needs to get on our 4YWP.

Morgan noted we have a policy for letters of support. FbD pre-applications go in in February and won't have an extensive level of detail. But it's helpful for sponsors to have some indication of support from the Forum and Tech Comm. So Gretchen and Morgan are looking at how they can be vetted with the committee. This will probably be on the agenda in January. We have a good sense of who all is potentially applying.

- **4 Year Work Plan:** Morgan reported that we are underway with the 4YWP Update. We changed our process from every year to every *other* year. We have an ability to add projects in the off years, but really want to get as much information in this year as possible. This time we're using Smartsheet and not asking sponsors to update Habitat Work Schedule. We can be logged into Smartsheet simultaneously so if you need help we can hop on there with you and walk through it together. There's probably not a lot of changes needed unless the project has been re-scoped, etc. For new projects, just put in as much information as you can and we will probably need to follow-up with you. HWS is a requirement for our grant. We have to get it to PSP in February. It will go to Tech Comm. in January and the Forum in February. Someone asked if education/outreach type projects should be on the 4YWP. The answer given was: sure.
- **2016 PSAR Allocation:** Gretchen explained that the Basin has ~\$200K in return PSAR funds from the beach nourishment project to reallocate. The project review committee met last week and came up with recommendations. The review committee was committed to making sure projects that are already going are continued. The review committee recommendations are as follows: AASF should receive the requested \$35K to cover cost overruns associated with their Woods Creek instream wood project. WFC requested funds to start their Woods Creek Cooperative Culvert project for design and permitting while they wait for 2017 funding to become available and they should receive a requested \$51K from return funds If and when 2017 funds become available this \$51K can be reallocated. Likely to the SSS Cherry Creek project which has a few potential scenarios for their cost increase. \$35K is recommended for the Tulalip beaver project. And the remaining return funds should go to SCD design money for the SCD Woods Creek Culvert Phase 2 project. We know that Forterra with Tulalip Tribes will be bringing forward the Wallace-May acquisition project again and

hopefully with more information as was requested last round. The Tech Committee didn't have any issues with the review committee's recommendations. It was approved for recommendation to the Forum at their Thursday meeting.

- **10-yr Status Report:** Colin gave a brief update of land cover change work done to date. Morgan is planning on giving a snapshot presentation to the Forum on Thursday and will try to paint the story of what we know about progress toward restoration and protection goals **Pearson's Eddy:** Colin updated the Committee on ongoing conversations concerning the Pearson's Eddy site that is on the left bank of the Snoqualmie, just north of the King/Snohomish County line.. Landowners were concerned about perceived flood impacts of riparian plantings and other restoration work. NRCS ran 2-D HEC RAS modelling to look at flooding elevations related to vegetation which showed minimal increase in elevation at moderate flows due to increased floodplain roughness. They have proposed some potential restoration and mitigating actions which includes commissioning a group of stakeholders to discuss alterations to vegetation in a vegetation plan. The first stakeholder committee meeting was held last week. Colin represents the Tulalips and raised the Tribes' concerns around working against salmon recovery restoration goals. Elissa was also asked to participate and she is representing the Snoqualmie Forum. They're going to be meeting more and Elissa and Colin will keep the committees apprised. Scott commented that FFF will be starting discussion about riparian issues again next year and asked if there has there been an effort to include the FFF group and allow the Ag community to provide an independent review of the process, follow a similar FFF approach. Colin said it doesn't appear there was an independent reviewer for the process at this time.
- **Snoqualmie Restoration Targets Update:** Elissa informed the group that they're working on a 10-year project list (we had one in 2015 and this is for 2025) as a first step in a plan update, but also as a King County request so they can do some project planning. Perry wants updates on the 2015 targets. They're not sure if the Snohomish group is ready to move forward on basin targets, but figured they'd propose something for the interim. In general, the approach was to look at the Conservation Plan 50-year targets and take 40% of those to start with. The Plan says we should do 40-60% of the effort in each of the counties so they split it down the middle and said King County should do 50%. So it's half of the 20-year target. See handout for some options. There was much discussion about lumping some buffer target metrics. They're still figuring out how to do the accounting without double counting. But putting numeric values to these will help people outside of salmon recovery understand our goals better. Elissa presented to the committee to see if anyone has input on this. They will continue to work on it and can talk about this again in January.
- **Net pen issue update:** Dept. of Ecology is putting the recommendations on hold indefinitely while this summer's Atlantic salmon release is being investigated.

BREAK

Stormwater Toxicology and Coho Mortality: Nat Scholz, with NOAA, gave a presentation on the 15-year project involving NOAA, UW and WSU that investigated stormwater effects on coho mortality. The study focused on Coho because they are extremely sensitive to stormwater runoff and spend more time in freshwater so they are even more susceptible to the runoff effects. They found that

the rates of mortality were very high in the very developed areas. A very consistent set of symptoms was seen: loss of orientation, pronounced surface swimming, and gaping and circling. The fish are usually dead within an hour. Up until a few years ago, the evidence was indirect that chemicals in stormwater were responsible for this observed pre-spawn mortality. So they looked at directly exposing fish to contaminated stormwater to test the hypotheses. Runoff from the SR 520 bridge was used in experiments. Exposure to unfiltered runoff was 100% lethal to the adult Coho. To investigate possible solutions green stormwater infrastructure experiments were conducted and bio-retention systems were shown to quickly remove contaminants and reduced mortality to zero.

Additional study was done to isolate the landscape conditions and compounds responsible for lethal effects. 51 spawner study sites around the Puget Sound were monitored and results indicated that more roads in contributing watersheds equated to higher mortality rates. So cars are the defining factor more so than impervious surface in and of itself. The group is working on tools that may assist in green infrastructure planning. Mass spectrometry and further trials point to compounds present in tires dust over many others found in road stormwater.

One other curious outcome of the study was that the effects seem to be unique to coho. Chum tested under similar conditions did not exhibit lethal response.

There was much discussion about watershed scalability of these findings for stormwater treatment solutions.

Wrap Up: The meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on 1/9/18.

Next Steps

- Continued analysis for 10-Year Status and Trends Report
- More discussion needed around 10-Year target update

Upcoming Meetings

- Policy Development Committee meeting: 1/18/18
- Forum meeting: 2/1/18
- Technical Committee meeting: 1/9/18