

SNOHOMISH BASIN SALMON RECOVERY FORUM
Meeting Summary
Thursday, December 7, 2017 • 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Waltz Building, Snohomish

On December 7, 2017, the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum (the Forum) met for a regularly scheduled meeting from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The following were in attendance:

Attendee	Organization
Alexa Ramos	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Colin Wahl	Tulalip Tribes
Denise Johns	City of Snohomish
Elissa Ostergaard	Snoqualmie Forum
Gretchen Glaub	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Hiedi Popochock	King County
Jim Miller	City of Everett
Kirk Lakey	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Lindsey Desmul	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mike Rustay	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Morgan Ruff	Tulalip Tribes
Paul Crane	City of Everett
Scott Powell	Seattle City Light
Terry Williams	Tulalip Tribes

Meeting Summary

Introductions and Announcements

- **Terry Williams called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.**
 - Attendees introduced themselves
 - The agenda was reviewed and approved
 - No public comment was made

Forum Business

- **Reallocation of 2015-2017 PSAR Funds**

Gretchen reminded the group that there is approx. \$200K in return PSAR funds from the beach nourishment and Qwuloolt projects. We can start contracting with it right away since these dollars have already been allocated. There a few possible options for us to consider. The project review subcommittee met and have a recommendation for the Forum's review. See handouts for more information.

 - a. AASF project experiencing permit delay and changes in landowner willingness. Requested \$35K to support finding new landowners and getting new permits to continue work.
 - b. WFC project requested starter funds to carry them through the Capital budget delays for the Woods Creek Culvert Cooperative Project for design and permitting - \$51K

- c. SSS Cherry Creek Phase I project has encountered cost increases due to needing to haul material offsite. There are 3 potential scenarios: best, middle, worst case.
- d. Considered alternates too
 - Tulalip Tribes beaver restoration (alternate)
 - Wallace May Nexus (alternate)
 - Woods Creek Culvert Cooperative Phase II (alternate)

The project review committee was focused on supporting those projects already in progress and those that are facing hardships from the Capital budget delays. They recommended granting \$35K to AASF, \$50K to SSS, \$51K to WFC, \$33K to Tulalip Tribes, \$0 to Wallace-May, and \$30K to SCD/WFC. See handouts for details. Jim motioned to approve. Cindy seconded. It was approved.

- **2018 Meeting Schedule**

Gretchen reviewed the draft 2018 meeting schedule. The Forum considered whether they want a February meeting and/or October meeting. What about November conflicts with Focus on Farming? What about TC? The only push out the Jan and Sept meetings due to holidays. Sticking with first Thursdays (Feb 1). Will adjust if needed around the grant round. Approved the schedule.

- **4YWP:** loose deadline tomorrow for updating/adding projects to the 4 YWP. We are aiming to have NTAs related to salmon recovery included in the 4YWP also.
- **SRFB/PSAR grant round**
- **Forum Policy Review – Letters of Support moved to item 5 for discussion.**

Updates and News

- **Snoqualmie Report**

Elissa reported that the King County Executive issued a 6-month moratorium on net pens. There will be a public meeting on Jan. 8th if anyone would like to comment and weigh in on the issue.

- Gretchen noted that the Forum has discussed this issue before. Would we want an update on this topic at our Feb. meeting? The state agencies should have completed their report by then.

Snoqualmie Forum staff are working on updating a 10-year project list. They are drafting some proposed interim habitat targets to carry through 2025. They will be convening a small work group including folks from the SBSRTC.

Elissa mentioned that the PDC discussed Snohomish Forum membership at their last meeting. It will be an agenda item on the Jan 17th meeting of the Snoqualmie Forum to see if they want to have a representative on the Snohomish Forum.

- **Puget Sound Partnership State of the Sound**

Scott commented that the State of the Sound report seems to be a little more honest about how the indicators are responding to restoration.

- **Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council**

Scott reported that the meeting had high attendance and was held at the Clallam Long House. Jay Manning is the chair of the Leadership Council and he attended as well.

The TMC exerted leadership with the SRC around the Chinook regional priorities. There was a political dialogue about the strong language in the recommendations and the rationale behind the inclusion/exclusion of them. Some language was excluded based on it not lining up with the format of eliciting NTAs which is a goal of the Action Agenda. The discussion didn't solve the big problems at hand, but there was a good conversation.

Negotiations are ongoing related to the Hirst decision. Jay Manning is proposing an alternative (\$200M fund) to ensure water in streams is maintained and supplied to the people in rural areas without getting tied up in the exempt wells issue. The tribes are concerned about the compromise language moving forward. It seems to be becoming a political issue rather than a legal issue.

There was a good presentation from WRIA 8 on their Plan update. It looks like it was a thorough update of metrics and goals, etc.

Floodplains by Design folks were there to talk about re-visioning the program. They have been critiqued on competing packages of funds. TNC responded by offering to lobby to legislators since many other partners cannot. They have been interviewing partners for feedback on the program while they look at the developing the next iteration via a 5-year strategic plan.

There was discussion about PSAR and PSAR Large Cap. changes. The changes are mostly modest refinements including a potential requirement that projects describe how they respond to climate change. We need to think about the project's resilience, but also should consider whether we're selecting projects that bolster resilience at the watershed scale. They will review the final package at the Jan. 25th meeting.

Scott reminded the Forum that a new representative is needed for next year.

- **Local Integrating Organization**
 - Gretchen discussed the SWC decision to function as the LIO IC in the Stillaguamish. We have decided to increase integration by reviewing salmon-oriented NTAs.

10-Year Status and Trends Report

- Morgan noted that this is not intended to examine the effectiveness of actions. We are looking at the baseline plus restoration and minus degradation to find the net current condition. We are asking questions like: Are we implementing the early actions outlined in the SBPP? Is the habitat overall better, worse, or the same? How well are we doing to help our populations improve? If we're not doing well, do we need to adjust our

strategies? We are also looking at NOAA Sea Cap draft data. This can help us understand if we're meeting our total land cover acreage targets. But it has its limitations e.g.) only 30 x 30 m resolution. It is likely not able to pick up new restoration where the trees aren't tall enough to be seen. See presentation for more details. What about our funding goals? We had wanted \$15M/year to go towards implementation and we wanted it broken down in allocation as 80/15/5 (mainstem, nearshore, estuary/rural streams/headwaters). So what's next? Well, we need to do more analysis, write the report, and present again to the Forum next year.

- There was much discussion following the presentation. Someone asked if we have seen an increase in fish populations resulting from these increases to habitat. Not yet. But we're looking at other factors like how the fish are using the estuary habitat to then make predictions of how new areas will be used and how that will impact the populations. There's lag time in response too. It takes time after projects are installed before the area has natural functions restored and before we can expect to see a response.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities Discussion

- Gretchen announced that we are coming up on grant season which will likely trigger an influx of letters of support requests. The Forum reviewed the letters of support policy which covers comment letters too. Terry expressed concern about FbD support packages in the past and improving coordination for the future. Also, SLS has been working on TDR/PDR language and a proposal to remove associated fees...
 - Gretchen reviewed the Identified Gaps and Barriers document. There is potential for a programmatic or monitoring project proposal. She also reminded the Forum that the 2018 AA and NTAs are on a 4 year cycle now. Elissa mentioned that King County and partners are thinking about conducting targeted Coho surveys in WRIA 7 of pre-spawn mortality/urban runoff syndrome and doing outreach to jurisdictions with a tool box of things to assist them with to get better stormwater infrastructure in place (grant writing, designs, etc.). King County Noxious Weeds is submitting quite a few proposals to control knotweed. They're also considering a marketing campaign to reduce seed rain from invasives through outreach to private property owners (education and technical assistance for invasive weed removal). There was discussion about a knotweed strategy. We know the Tulip Harmonization Initiative is seeking to address land use. It streamlines the permitting process so that's what many of the agencies at the table are interested in. Proposals for monitoring combined with regulatory effectiveness could be useful too. Elissa and Morgan will have a phone call early next week to hash out some ideas and figure out potential project sponsors. SSS Watershed Education for Decision Makers happened in the Stilly, but Gretchen wants to encourage them to bring it to the Snohomish. Terry thinks the acquisition strategies should be a focus. SCD has an ESRP proposal tied up in the Capital budget that would do some H+H modelling to take the watershed characterization a step further to see where it would be good to do which types of projects. So they may be putting an

NTA forward for project implementation. The group also considered a NTA for adaptive management of our plan.

- Grants timeline: Gretchen reviewed the timeline document with the group. She noted that conversations in the watershed are happening around FbD. Anticipate putting forward 1 or 2 projects. Also, the ESRP RFP is coming out soon so be on the lookout for that.

Other Announcements

- Terry mentioned that Tulalip and Quinault tribes are working on an alliance for jobs and clean energy for the carbon storage bill due in January. They have been working on it for a year and a half and are getting close to a structure. They're trying to get at automobile air quality impacts through a carbon tax to put funding towards restoration. Hopefully, we will see an increase in funding for projects in the next few years that we can count on. The initiative could pass in November. The Governor is putting out one too which will likely pass.

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next Forum meeting will be held on February 1, 2018 at the Waltz Building in Snohomish.

Key Decisions

- Approved the 2018 meeting schedule and decided to keep the February meeting on the 1st.

Upcoming Meetings

- Technical Committee meeting: January 9, 2018
- PDC meeting: January 18, 2018
- Forum meeting: February 1, 2018