

**SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 3.8.7  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Wednesday JULY 18, 2017 10:00 – 12:30**

**Stillaguamish Natural Resources Center 6th Ave. NE Arlington, WA 98223**  
(Take I-5 Exit 210 west on 236th, turn left on 6<sup>th</sup>, right near end of road)

**PARTICIPANTS**

Bernhard, Bob - Snohomish County SWM
Cole, Heather - The Nature Conservancy
Desmul, Lindsey - Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Dittbrenner, Cindy - Snohomish Conservation District
Evans, Dan - Dan Evans Consulting, facilitator
Fay, Robin - PCC Farmland Trust
Hazleton, Chuck - Stillaguamish farmer
Hennessey, Diane - Department of Ecology
Holbrook, Troy - Snohomish County PDS
Howard, Nathan - Snohomish County, PDS
Klesick, Tristan - Stillaguamish farmer, Co-chair (Ag)
Lakey, Kirk - Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Marti, Monte - Snohomish Conservation District, EC Ag rep
Stevenson, Pat - Stillaguamish Tribe
Stockdale, Erik - Snohomish County SWM
Warren, Brad - Global Ocean Health
Williams, Terry - Tulalip Tribe, Co-chair (Fish)

**PURPOSE:** The July SLS Executive Committee meeting focused on the Stillaguamish Basin, including an “indicators report,” Stilly Watershed Council (SWC) and tribal restoration priorities, a discussion of coordinated multi-benefit strategies for the Lower Stilly area, and Floodplains by Design (FbD) projects status and grant application overviews. Reports included Ag Resilience and Partner updates. Task Group updates are available on the SLS [website](#). Participants were invited to bring a brown bag lunch.

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

- a) Review purpose, agenda
- b) Introductions

**2) Stillaguamish Indicators Report, Updates: (10:10 – 10:50)**

- Discussion about a Stillaguamish basin resources meeting in mid-late August, sometime after the Festival of the River
- a) Fish & shellfish (Pat)

- i) Fish forecast are similar to past quarters (pink, chum, coho, and steelhead are down with little to no commercial harvest)
- ii) Funding
  - (1) Orca future: Legislature to bump hatchery production in order to feed Orca? Could future funding be diverted from restoration and be moved towards hatcheries? Pat expressed concern that increasing hatchery production would not be cost-effective from the Tribe's point of view, although it would help feed Orca, and also restoration funding could be reduced in favor of hatchery funding.
  - (2) Chinook habitat monies could also be diverted to culvert replacement.
- iii) Weak stock management approach (Terry)
  - (1) Because fish stocks mingle offshore and offshore fisheries are not stock selective, a catch limit is set to avoid depleting returning stocks of the weakest fish stock from a particular area (e.g., Stillaguamish)
  - (2) Allows for fisheries at different levels of stock condition, Pacific Salmon Commission adopted the approach
  - (3) Tribes didn't allow federal agencies to officiate, the fisheries' harvest was settled between the tribes and the states. Alaska didn't want to participate but eventually did to avoid lawsuit from the tribes
  - (4) Canada signed on because the coho model produced a predicted number to which Canada could agree with (not just making up a number)
  - (5) Stillaguamish, Nooksack and Hood Canal are the weak stocks that limit other fisheries
  - (6) Tulalip stocks are just behind the Stillaguamish's stock condition. Tulalips would like to remove the Pilchuck River dam for more salmon habitat access
- b) Ag, flood hazard reduction
  - i) Sediment impacts/flooding
    - (1) Accumulation of Oso sediment near Arlington affecting/delaying flood downstream
    - (2) Sediment carried up the Stillaguamish by incoming tide, settles out upstream
  - ii) Johnson Farm Acquisition and Flexible Easement – Lessons Learned (Robin Fay, PCC Farmland Trust)
    - (1) [Presentation](#) (on SLS website)
    - (2) <https://www.pccfarmlandtrust.org/pcc-farmland-trust-and-the-city-of-stanwood-protect-land-for-future-farming/>
    - (3) <https://www.pccfarmlandtrust.org/our-work/protected-farms/johnson-farm/>
    - (4) Protect 171 acres of farmland
    - (5) 15 acres acquired in fee, flexible easement to protect balance

- (a) Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiative developed flexible easement language that will apply at the Johnson farm
- (b) PCC attorney drafted language for easement (farm, habitat)
- (c) Landward shift of DD7 dike repair was addressed before the easement language was finished
- (d) The 171 acres will be broken up and sold to farmers, as long as it is consistent with PCC's flexible easement language
- (e) Money used from Conservation Futures fund (amended) for easements
- (6) Terry spoke about sea level rise implications and how PCC should incorporate saltwater overtopping into land management
- (7) A NGO (e.g., TNC, DU) is a good fiscal agent to spur these types of transactions with NRCS funds
- (8) Tristan suggested using a co-op approach, aggregating multiple farms or properties under a single flexible easement for efficiency

### **3) Floodplains by Design Projects Status & Grant Applications (10:50 - 11:20)**

- a) Project updates: Leque, Zis a ba, Irvine Slough, DD7, Ellingson, digester/distillation, Gold Basin sediment
- b) FbD grant application for Stilly Basin
  - i) \$7.5 million cap (\$1.5 million needs to be trimmed from the Stilly Basin proposal)
    - (1) Projects to be included will be discussed during the next weekly call-in
    - ii) Funding needs to be spent within the 2 years, so include projects that will spend that money within the 2 years
      - (1) Gold Basin and digester/distillation are fully funded

### **4) Ag Resilience Report (11:20 - 11:45)**

- a) Ag Resilience overview and update by Cindy Dittbrenner (SCD)
  - i) [Presentation 2](#) (on SLS website)
  - ii) Hydrologic and hydraulic modeling
    - (1) Flood maps for 2, 10, 50 and 100 yr flood
  - iii) Groundwater and saltwater intrusion modeling (Cardno)
    - (1) 5 groundwater wells monitored twice/yr (spring and fall) in the lower Snohomish basin
    - (2) 4 groundwater wells monitored twice/yr in the lower Stillaguamish basin
  - iv) Subsidence and channel aggradation
    - (1) Channel capacity included = determine impact of channel changing (Old Stilly and Hatt Slough)
  - v) Crop impact modeling

- vi) Conservation Districts will use the tool for individual farmers to understand how it relates to them
- b) Next steps and capacity needs
  - i) Impact assessments completed by December 2018
  - ii) Steering committee identifies focus areas in Winter 2018/2019
  - iii) Integration Team project packages developed in January 2019
  - iv) Types of packages
    - (1) Landscape-scale projects
      - (a) Drainage and diking improvements
      - (b) Drought resilience and irrigation
      - (c) Design and costs estimates
    - (2) On-farm recommendations (with info from fact sheets)
      - (a) Farm management practices
      - (b) Water storage
      - (c) Flood protection
  - v) Protection Strategy
    - (1) 15,000 acres in 10 years
    - (2) Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiative
      - (a) 2 landowner workshops
      - (b) 3,000+ acres expressed interest
      - (c) \$1,000,000 in NRCD funding
      - (d) TDR, FbD, ACEP potential future funding
      - (e) 10+ site visits in process
  - vi) CEQ (Terry)
    - (1) Snohomish basin identified as 1 of 4 in the nation as a watershed of resilience
    - (2) The Federal Council on Environmental Quality is revising federal coordination and NEPA policies
    - (3) Information and comments should be sent to CEQ
- c) Project Integration Team initiative update
  - i) ESRP funding ask (\$50-80,000) for IT to be added on to the recently awarded learning grant

## **5) Partner Updates (11:45 - 12:15)**

- a) Protect Washington Act (Brad Warren/Tulalip Tribes)
  - i) [Handouts](#) (on SLS website)
  - ii) [Initiative 1631](#), Protect Washington Act

- (1) Include features that allow people to invest in better fuel efficiency for tools (e.g., tractors, machinery) that cannot be operated without fuel
  - (2) \$1.2 billion in the first year from carbon fee
  - (3) Farmers, mariners and aviation are exempt from fuel fee
    - (a) Fee can only be spent on what it was intended for, whereas a tax has more flexibility
  - (4) Revenue allocation: 25% for restoration, 70% for clean air and energy (including sequestration – ag and wetlands)
  - (5) Opposition coming from agriculture and industry (already coming)
  - (6) Tribal efforts made this possible and supports agriculture's role in helping with carbon sequestration
  - (7) Global Ocean Health (Brad Warren) are thinking about having a workshop to explain benefits to the public
- b) SLS farm & fish to table dinner – Sept 18<sup>th</sup>
    - i) Swan's Trail (5:30 – 8pm)
    - ii) Agenda to be discussed next week
    - iii) 80 guests to be attending the dinner (include the number in the letter to the Tulalip's ask)
  - c) Communications: video project, interviews, materials for policy ptrs
    - i) Video starting out with fish, then farm and floods
  - d) Open table updates, news

**6) WRAP UP AND ADJOURN (12:15 – 12:30)**

**7) FOLLOW UP ITEMS**

- a) 7/25/18 weekly SLS Call-In to discuss FbD Stillaguamish Basin projects and funding
- b) Mid-August discuss Stillaguamish basin resources with the Stillaguamish Tribe
- c) November SLS EC meeting to be a ½ day workshop discussing resource issues