

DRAFT Snohomish Basin Policy Development Committee
January 17, 2019 Meeting Summary
Willis Tucker Park, Weikel Room, 9:30-12:00

1. Agenda Overview and Introductions

- The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.
- Introductions were made; in attendance were:
 - Gretchen Glaub (Snohomish County)
 - Alexa Ramos (Snohomish County)
 - Elissa Ostergaard (Snoqualmie Forum)
 - Keith Binkley (Snohomish PUD)
 - Kirk Lakey (WDFW)
 - David Beedle (Seattle City Light)
 - Morgan Ruff (Tulalip Tribes)
 - Kevin Lee (WDFW)
 - Paul Crane (City of Everett)

2. Ongoing Business

Gretchen reviewed the agenda. The group welcomed David Beedle who is replacing Scott Powell and filling in for Kate Engle.

3. Salmon Recovery Council (SRC)

Rodney is attending the SRC meeting this morning. These PDC meetings follow the Snoqualmie Forum's evening meetings and often overlap with SRC. Maybe we can look into moving these meetings to a different day or week. Other conflicts were discussed regarding moving the meeting dates. Staff will explore switching to the 3rd Tuesdays of the month and/or potentially meeting via conference call instead.

4. November Forum Meeting Follow-Up

There are ongoing conversations with PSP staff about presenting the buffer information to the boards. At the last SRC meeting before the holidays, there was discussion about flexibility with buffer width requirements, but it was tabled. It's hard to tell what behind the scenes conversations are occurring, but PSP staff seem to be waiting on the Governor's office for direction on riparian buffers.

The EPA is considering using the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) buffer standards. They want to increase the buffer width requirements. If the King County buffer task force finds that smaller buffers are acceptable, there may be conflict with the tribes.

Morgan adapted Cindy's buffer presentation for use with Tulalip partners to begin the conversation on buffer widths. Gretchen and Morgan will continue attempts to discuss this issue with PSP more.

5. Governor's Budget

There are nominal increases for some restoration funding programs. The greatest increases are for WDOT culvert replacements. Other sources are being funding at equal or lesser levels than usual.

There are concerns that the Governor's office doesn't understand our goals and needs. RFEs have a lobbyist and have attended lobbying efforts to communicate our interests to legislators. But they don't have much capacity right now. County and agency staff are restricted in their participation; they are prohibited from lobbying.

6. Legislative Priorities

Gretchen is still working to figure out if the Washington Conservation Commission was funded at the same level or if they received an increase. Gretchen and Elissa are working to keep the documents for WRIA 7 and 8 updated as information becomes available. The letter to legislators will be updated and presented to the Forum for approval.

7. February Forum Meeting

The focus topic will be on Water Quality. The Sno-Stilly LIO will be invited. Sandi O'Neill will present on early marine survival. Nat Schultz is scheduled to speak about pre-spawn mortality, but it's uncertain if he'll be available to present due to the current government shutdown. Committee members suggested reaching out to Jill Macintyre. She works out of the WSU Puyallup Education Center and may have outside funding to present. Others mentioned the Green Stormwater focus for the new Everett Station, the SnoPUD water temperature regulation infrastructure in Sultan, the Sound Toxins work by UW and Chris Kremb's nutrients and toxics work. Someone also mentioned that perhaps there should be 2 meetings on water quality – 1 focused on salmon and 1 broadened to encompass LID and other related topics. The end goal of the water quality discussion is to guide the Tech Comm's work and water quality white paper.

8. Potential Forum Meeting Agenda Topics

- Orca recovery
- ILA for WRIA 7 – timing is key on this topic. The 10-Year Status & Trends Report could be a useful vehicle for the conversation with partners.
- Multi-benefit work – there might be some funding coming to partners through NEP for their NTAs.

- WRE Committee Involvement – Staff have been exploring the idea of having an ex officio seat for the Lead Entity. The WRE committee want to ensure that their planning is aligned with salmon recovery goals and they’ve shown interest in utilizing our existing Technical Committee for project review. An incentive for having an official seat is that non-members only get 5 minutes to speak during the public comment period in meetings. The PDC members discussed having a general salmon recovery seat that could rotate between Snoqualmie Forum staff and the Tech Comm co-chairs.

9. Snoqualmie Watershed Forum

The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum is working on increasing outreach efforts to spread the word about the work we do. They have created some items with their logo and the tag line “Restore and Protect Salmon Habitat”.

10. Review Next Steps and Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

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