

DRAFT Snohomish Basin Policy Development Committee
April 18, 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)
 - Kate Engel (City of Seattle)
 - Morgan Ruff (Tulalip Tribes)
 - Paul Crane (City of Everett)
 - Cindy Dittbrenner (Snohomish Conservation District)

2. WRIA 7 WREC: The WREC and basin partners have been considering whether the Forum should have an ex officio seat on the committee. There was a meeting on April 4th with some key members to discuss the utility of a seat on the committee. All of the attendees agreed that there is a key intersection of the WREC process and the Forum's salmon recovery priorities and the resulting project development. The next WREC meeting will be in early May, after the Forum meeting on the 2nd. Gretchen presented the letter of interest to the PDC for review. The PDC supported the letter. The next steps will be to get Forum approval and then submit the letter to the WREC for their consideration in May. The WREC technical work group is meeting on April 29th to further discuss potential subbasin delineation methods. It would be good to have a Tech Comm chair/member present.

Staff will send out links to the Hirst piece on the Nooksack

(<https://whatcomwatch.org/index.php/article/updated-nooksack-watershed-plan-failed/>) and

Alison Osterberg's YouTube presentation on the Nisqually Plan

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILsbOVi6x4U&feature=youtu.be>).

3. State House Bill of Interest: This bill is targeted at orca recovery with a mention of dredging in the Snohomish. This dredging is being communicated as potentially helping with shallow, warming waters and fish passage problems. However, the benefits seem to be short term compared the significant impacts it would cause.

4. May Forum Agenda: Gretchen reviewed the May Forum agenda. Lynne with NOAA will be speaking about the plight of the orca. Amy with WDFW will be talking about the orca recovery task force outcomes. Colin with Tulalip Tribes will be speaking about the latest salmon status data.
5. November Forum: The November meeting agenda was discussed. This will likely be more of a working meeting to review bylaws, set new schedule for the SRFB round and think about new meeting locations. Gretchen is reviewing other Lead Entity scopes of work to get an idea of some of our options.

Others mentioned a future topic could be a report out on the PSP funding initiative and the state budget. PSAR is currently only funded at a level to cover the #1 project on the ranked list. But we still have to wait to see where the budget appropriations will land.

Another potential agenda topic could be an update on the Integration Team for the Floodplains by Design project. This project may have impacts on the lead entity work plan and capacity funding.

6. Salmon Recovery Council Update: Keith reported that at the last meeting there was a 1-hour technical presentation with most of the discussion focused on reviewing the budget. There was some talk about the San Francisco funding model.
7. Mining in the Skagit: in the 1930s when Ross Dam was constructed the dam was designed to be able to be raised in the future. It was raised 20 years later and backed up water into Canada. Then it was raised again in the 1970s and Canada pulled out of the agreement with City of Seattle. In 1984 the High Ross Treaty was signed and outlined that the dam would not be raised again. Instead Seattle would purchase power at wholesale from BC. The agreement included an endowment and commission to fund work in the Upper Skagit. Land was set aside in parks to protect the area. However, Imperial Medals has mining rights that can't be incorporated. Recently, a road was built on the site without approval from the commission. Imperial Medal has now filed for a permit for exploratory mining. This could pose a huge risk to fish due to the potential for copper to contaminate the water.

There has also been a gravel mining proposal in the Skagit. Seattle is pushing back against that as well. The site is next to salmon habitat projects on the old Sierra Pacific property. The project proponents are in the EIS phase right now. There will be a 30 day comment period to follow.

8. Puget Sound Day on the Hill: The Snoqualmie Forum is sending Elissa to Washington D.C. to participate in advocating for congress to support restoration funding programs. So far, it looks like around 52 people will be attending including representatives from the local tribes, lead entities, government, and nonprofits. There has been some coordination with Salmon Days which is focused on RFEG advocacy. The event kicks off with a meet and greet then agency meetings about the funding outlook. Then Puget Sound Day on the Hill will begin with a tour of the White House and then participants will have time to meet with senators and legislators. The event wraps up the next day.
9. Draft Status & Trends Report: The draft should be released next week with a very short turn around for comments. We are requesting a high level review. There may not be funding for the consultant to create an executive summary as previously discussed.
10. Jet Skis in the Snoqualmie: King County partners conducted a literature review on the impacts of jet skis to fish. Councilwoman Lambert felt there is not enough evidence of impact and only one resident has made a formal complaint at this time so no action will be taken for now.

The resident did present to the Snoqualmie Forum and many others came forward with similar safety concerns. There is a 5mph speed limit on the other King County rivers, but not on the Snoqualmie or SF Skykomish. People seem to want to see the policy changed.

11. Rivers Coalition: Formerly known as the Water Trail, the coalition meets monthly to discuss the river trail development project. The group is working on developing more consistent messaging and signage. They have discussed integrating habitat messaging as well. There are concerns from the tribes that signage will attract more public visitors to places not suitable for recreation.
12. King 5 News Special: Gretchen is working with a news reporter to cover a story on the salmon nexus with orca recovery.
13. Review Next Steps and Adjourn
 - o Meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.