

SNOHOMISH BASIN SALMON RECOVERY FORUM
Meeting Summary
Thursday, February 6, 2020 • 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Waltz Building, Snohomish

On February 6, 2020 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
Morgan Ruff	Tulalip Tribes
Elissa Ostergaard	Snoqualmie Forum
Gretchen Glaub	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Rodney Pond	Sound Salmon Solutions
Lindsey Desmul	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Linda Lyshall	Snohomish Conservation District
Janne Kaje	King County
Keith Binkley	Snohomish PUD
Denise Johns	City of Monroe
Terry Williams	Tulalip Tribes
Erin Murray	Puget Sound Partnership
Cory Zyla	Snoqualmie Forum
Colin Wahl	Tulalip Tribes
Ingria Jones	Washington Department of Ecology
Jamie Burrell	City of North Bend
Beth leDoux	King County
Paul Crane	City of Everett
Stephanie Celt	Washington Dept. of Natural Resources
Megan Dunn	Snohomish County
Cindy Dittbrenner	Snohomish Conservation District
Susan O'neil	Environmental Science Associates

Meeting Summary

Introductions and Announcements

- **Terry called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.**
 - Attendees introduced themselves.
 - The agenda was reviewed and approved.
 - No public comment was made.

Forum Business

- **Review recent decisions:** Gretchen reminded the Forum that in December the reallocation of PSAR/SRFB returned funds was approved by the basin. The reallocation left \$530K remaining in returned funds that will be added to the 2020 PSAR/SRFB grant round. See handout for details.
- **2020 SRFB/PSAR grant round:** Gretchen reminded the Forum of key dates and upcoming decisions related to the grant round. There will be approximately \$2.91M available to allocate to our prioritized project list this year. Full applications are due February 28th. Site visits will be held on March 17th and 18th. At the June 4th Forum meeting members will approve the ranked list for distribution of the basin's SRFB/PSAR allocation, letters of support for Floodplains by Design project applications, and letters of support for PSAR large capital projects.

For Floodplains by Design, four pre-applications were submitted for projects in our basin:

- Community Floodplains Solutions, Snohomish County
- Nintendo Levee Setback, City of North Bend
- Cherry Valley, Wild Fish Conservancy
- Hafner-Barfuse Levee Setback, King County

For PSAR Large Cap, at least two projects will be submitted in our basin:

- Acquisition, Tulalip Tribes
- Hafner-Barfuse Levee Setback, King County

Regional Updates

- The House passed the Puget SOS bill on February 5th. This would authorize \$50M in funding for Puget Sound. The bill has to pass the Senate next.
- An additional \$5M for National Estuary Program funding was approved thanks to efforts at Puget Sound Day on the Hill last year. The EPA is encouraging that some of the funding should be used to increase support for LIOs by raising capacity awards to \$125K from the current \$75K.
- The state Fish & Wildlife budget deficit is a priority to fill.
- There are some state bills proposed that would affect special purpose districts. One would require them to be included on the general election ballot. This can be very costly and organizations like the conservation districts do not have funds to support this. The Forum could send a letter of support for the conservation districts' stance against the bill.
- Some Net Ecological Gain bills are looking to establish inclusion of salmon and steelhead recovery into the Growth Management Act.
- There is a tribal taxing authority bill to enable Snohomish County to collect more funds. A letter of support from the Forum could be helpful.
- There is a suction dredge ban bill proposed. The Forum could submit a letter of support for this bill too.
- Jeff Parsons hosts weekly conference calls with legislative updates if anyone is interested in tracking these developments more closely.
- The Salmon Recovery Council met two weeks ago. The meeting focused largely on Chinook recovery priority discussing questions from NOAA and the tribes. The goal is to use adaptive management to assess if the targets are still appropriate, incorporate new science, and ways to fund recovery actions. There will be a retreat to tackle these questions with the Science Panel.

Some members shared concerns about a shift in salmon recovery approaches that would seek to stop funding urban watersheds.

Chapter Update

The Forum discussed the Vision for the plan update. Members noted that match requirements are a major constraint to implementing projects. There is a need for voter support for better regulations and funding. The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum has nearly completed a communications plan that they could share to help tackle some of these issues.

Local Updates

Kristin Marshall was promoted to fill Cindy's position. The SCD is also looking to fill a project manager position for their ag. resilience work.

Ag Resilience Plan

Cindy presented the finished Ag. Resilience plan. See PowerPoint for details.

Multibenefit Engagement Discussion

There was discussion about the Stilly salmon population decline limiting harvest levels in Alaska causing stakeholders to complain to Congress. This work has broad impacts and requires tough decisions to be made that will need to demonstrate support behind our thinking.

DNR Salmon Strategy

Stephanie Celt spoke about the Commissioner's initiative to increase DNR's contributions to salmon recovery. The Snohomish basin was selected as a pilot due to DNR's authority level in the watershed and the area's local efforts already in place. They want to find ways to direct more resources towards recovery.

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The next Forum meeting will be held on

Upcoming Meetings

- PDC meeting: 3/19/20
- Technical Committee meeting: 3/3/20
- Forum meeting: 6/4/20