PARTICIPANTS (*SLS EC members)

Bartelheimer, Dan - Snohomish Valley Farms
Bernhard, Bob - Snohomish County SWM
*Bookey, Brian - National Foods, SLS EC Co-Chair (Ag)
Cole, Heather - The Nature Conservancy
Desmul, Lindsey - Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Dittbrenner, Cindy - Snohomish Conservation District
*Eidem, CK - Ducks Unlimited, EC Fish rep
Evans, Dan - Dan Evans Consulting, facilitator
Fay, Robin - PCC Farmland Trust
Krienitz, Jay - Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
*Marti, Monte - Snohomish Conservation District, EC Ag rep
Masterson, Ikuno - Snohomish County
Neunzig, Linda - Snohomish County
Stockdale, Erik - Snohomish County SWM
*Williams, Terry - Tulalip Tribe, Co-Chair (Fish)

PURPOSE - The March SLS EC meeting focused on resource land protection and enhancement initiatives, including Stillaguamish and Snohomish basin projects and other protection and enhancement efforts. The SLS EC also received updates on and discussed the Integration Team (IT), legislative priorities and status, and farm-fish-flood/water news and updates.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTION – While EC participants were arriving Dan Bartelheimer and Dan Evans discussed Snohomish farmers’ view of SLS. Mr. Bartelheimer mentioned that he believes Snohomish farmers in general are frustrated with the pace of recovery and restoration efforts. Farmers want to see fish issues resolved so they can get back to farming. Additionally, the farmers would like to see other factors affecting salmon addressed (e.g., prey availability, fishing limits). After the discussion Dan Evans led participant introductions and began the March EC meeting.

FOCUS ON RESOURCE LAND PROTECTION, ENHANCEMENT

Integration Team coordination role, status, next steps

Cindy Dittbrenner gave an update on the Integration Team (IT)\(^1\). On March 11\(^{th}\) a request for quotation for the IT facilitator went out. Six candidates will be interviewed for the term-limited position. Between March and June the IT will develop the concept of the IT and create working documents. Afterwards, the IT will establish the needs of the interest groups (e.g., farm, fish and flood management). By the end of the year, it is expected that the IT facilitator will be moving multi-benefit packages forward.

Stillaguamish Basin initiatives

Twin-City Foods properties

The discussion about the sale of the Twin City Foods (TCF) properties (~800 acres) on Florence Island (~2,200 acres) began with a brief overview of a recent meeting with local agricultural interest groups, the Stillaguamish Tribe, and representatives of TCF. Please see the attached map for locations of TCF properties on Florence Island. Brian

\(^1\) [https://www.farmfishflood.org/integration-team](https://www.farmfishflood.org/integration-team)
Bookey mentioned that the area for sale south of Boe Road, which is approximately 250 acres, is not covered under TCF’s State Waste Discharge Permit. The TCF’s property north of Boe Road is covered under their State Waste Discharge Permit and is irrigated with nutrient rich wastewater produced at the TCF cold storage facility (10120 269th Place NW, Stanwood) located between State Route 532 and the Old Stillaguamish River. The Stillaguamish Tribe is interested in purchasing the land south of Boe Road while the larger portion of land to the north, which includes the cold storage facility, is being marketed for agricultural use. Heather Cole is meeting with the Port of Skagit to discuss potential uses of the cold storage facility. Brian Bookey suggested Heather look into practices at the Bellingham Cold Storage facility.

Local agricultural interests would like TCF’s properties to remain under agricultural production while the Stillaguamish Tribe would like to restore the land south of Boe Road back to estuarine habitat. Monte Marti stated there was a need for a community vision for Florence Island. The agriculture and habitat restoration groups need to map/identify priority areas within the Lower Stillaguamish Valley (including Florence Island) and explain what and why they need the priority areas. Parcels that are owned by absentee landowners who are just one decision away from selling out also need to be identified. It was stressed that the community vision for Florence Island (agriculture and habitat restoration) needs to be developed within the next nine months before the next Floodplains by Design proposals are due. The IT can develop a package of projects for the area while SLS participants reach out to funding agencies and discuss how funds are directed and learn what influences decisions.

Funding for the acquisition of the TCF’s property south of Boe Road was discussed. Terry Williams mentioned that the Stillaguamish Tribe is receiving funding from the Pacific Salmon Commission for habitat improvements in the Stillaguamish Basin because Stillaguamish chinook were identified as a weak stock that limit commercial fishing takes in Alaska. Dan Evans asked if funders are sensitive to concerns for both salmon and agriculture priorities and just more concerned with salmon priorities. Heather Cole mentioned that applications for Puget Sound Partnership’s Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds include a question about multi-benefits. Jay Krienitz also stated that local community buy-in is important for WDFW’s Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) funding and that the same is true for other grant opportunities.

Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiative

Robin Fay gave an update on the Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiative (SVPI). Currently there are six projects moving forward with the creation of permanent conservation work/easements. Three of the projects are located within Florence Island. The SVPI working group will try to use grant funds from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office’s Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) for agricultural easements in the Stillaguamish Valley. The WWRP has a supplemental grant round for forestland and farmland projects (pre-applications are due 5/1/19 and final applications are due 6/4/19).

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3 https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/40951/Stillaguamish-Valley-Protection-Initiative?bidId=
4 https://rco.wa.gov/grants/wwrp.shtml
**Snohomish Basin initiatives**

*Edgecomb Creek*

Dan Bartelheimer spoke with the City of Marysville about permit requirements for work along Edgecomb Creek. If agencies and the Tulalip Tribes feel that fixing the lower edge of Edgecomb Creek is important the city of Marysville will step aside and not require SEPA. The City of Marysville and the Tulalip Tribes will contact each other.

*Ducks Unlimited replacement project opportunity, Snow Water*

CK Eidem gave an update on the Snow Water project on Ebey Island (see attachment). Paperwork has been submitted to Snohomish County’s Planning and Development Services and is currently under review. CK is seeking additional projects within the Snohomish basin that are similar to the Snow Water project where rainwater is captured onsite during the fall for waterfowl and groundwater infiltration. In the spring, the retained water can be used for irrigation. Six years ago such projects were identified in King County, but Ducks Unlimited ran into permitting difficulties with two of the projects (permitting as agriculture work vs permitting as wetland work). If the King County projects fall through Ducks Unlimited has backup projects to consider near Highbridge (Tulalip). Additional project recommendations would be considered by Ducks Unlimited.

*Land protection tools and processes*

Linda Neunzig mentioned that she was contacted by Vulcan because they are looking to buy development rights.

From the December 2018 SLS EC meeting: The County Executive’s office tasked Planning and Development Services to create legislation for a transfer of development rights bank, which should be ready by the end of July. Certification of development right fees will be incurred at the time of the sale (no sale = no fee). Snohomish County currently holds 49 development rights. The funds generated from the sales of the development rights will be used to help seed the bank for the creation of more transfer of development rights.

**KEY UPDATES & REPORTS**

*Ag Resilience Plan update*

Cindy Dittbrenner gave an update on the [Agriculture Resilience Plan](https://snohomishcd.org/ag-resilience). Cardno has finished modeling [future groundwater conditions](https://snohomishcd.org/groundwater-report) (i.e., impacts of predicted sea level rise on groundwater levels and saltwater intrusion) on agricultural lands in the Stillaguamish and Snohomish Basins for 2050, 2080 and 2100. Maps produced from modeled data depict a gradual expansion of saltwater intrusion into Florence Island from the present day to 2100. However, most agricultural lands in the Snohomish River floodplain are not expected to be impacted from saltwater intrusion. This spring Cindy
and Cardno will be meeting with local flood control districts to present Cardno’s findings. The modeled results will also be presented at a community meeting on April 7th.

Communications

Lindsey Desmul gave an update on SLS communications. Lindsey spoke with Robin Fay (PCC Farmland Trust) and Bobbie Lindemulder (SCD) to better understand the story of agriculture in Snohomish County. Results of the conservations will be incorporated into a story map Lindsey is developing. Dan Bartelheimer was interviewed for the SLS multi-benefit film and Terry Williams is next on the list.

SLS partner reports, regional coordination

Jay Krienitz spoke about NOAA and community based restoration. With assistance from NOAA and WDFW, projects—such as the removal of the Pilchuck Dam, Port Susan, Ebey Island and the Integration Team—are being implemented that will advance multi-benefit results within Snohomish County.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE & FUNDING PRIORITIES

Legislative updates

Heather Cole gave a quick update on legislative budgets. The state revenue forecast will be released on March 20th. The house budget will be released soon thereafter and the senate budget is expected out by early April.

WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS

ADJOURN

7 http://leap.leg.wa.gov/