

**SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY (SLS)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)
DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**

Thursday August 8, 2019 10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Snohomish County Campus, East Bldg, 6th flr, Room 6A02 (Mt. Baker conf rm)

Participants (EC members in bold):

Bernhard, Bob - Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM)

Bookey, Brian - National Foods, SLS EC Co-chair (Ag)

Calvert, Dan - Puget Sound Partnership

Cereghino, Paul - NOAA

Desmul, Lindsey - Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Dittbrenner, Cindy - Snohomish Conservation District (SCD)

Eidem, CK - Ducks Unlimited, EC Fish rep

Fay, Robin - PCC Farmland Trust

Fike, Jean - Washington State Conservation Commission

Krienitz, Jay – WDFW

Marti, Monte - SCD, EC Ag rep

Masterson, Ikuno - Snohomish County Planning and Development Services

Nelson, Lisa - Washington Dept. of Ecology (Floodplains by Design)

Nicolello, Bree - Forterra

Roberts, David - Kulshan Services (SLS facilitator)

Ruff, Morgan - Tulalip Tribes

Shaw, Randi - The Nature Conservancy

Stockdale, Erik - Snohomish County SWM

Roundtable and Sharing

- This was Monte Marti's last meeting as an EC member. The attendees recognized Monte for his many contributions to SLS. Erik Stockdale presented Monte a framed plaque, and Brian Bookey and C.K. Eidem shared acknowledgements.
- Erik Stockdale mentioned the need to search for new voices at the SLS EC table to fill Kristin's and Monte's positions, and to perhaps add a tribal position as well.
- Randi Shaw (TNC) introduced herself and spoke about the Port Susan Bay Preserve Adaptive Management Project.

Approval of Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from July 11, 2019 was approved with no comments.

Inclusion of ag benefits to WDFW's "Assessing the Benefits of Restoration in the Stillaguamish Estuary"

Jay Krienitz provided a two-page proposal to add an ag benefits assessment to WDFW's existing restoration project in the Stillaguamish. The project would research historical uses, ID major drivers, and look into alternative crop scenarios including providing values for those crops. The cost for the additional work is estimated to be about \$20,000. Jay asked if SLS was interested in the project and for comments and suggestions on how to make it stronger. He also asked for ideas on how this added part of the project could be funded.

Comments: Crop rotation is important and needs to be considered (Skagit model). Floodplains for the Future (Puyallup) has developed metrics to consider. Perhaps we can use this type of assessment to help develop a tool for rating potential future Ag projects. The big picture needs to be envisioned for the Lower Stilly, not just the loss of specific sites (e.g., Leque and Zis-a-ba).

Questions WDFW has for SLS

1) *Is this something SLS wants to do/own?*

Yes, Ag component needs to be included because if it's not there the rest of the report has no value when examined by the local farming community. If the Ag component is captured incorrectly then the rest of the report also has no value when examined by the local farming community.

Indicators of success are a large component of the Integration Team objective. Indicators need to be embraced by the community they're involving.

2) *Where can we seek funding?*

The TNC grant is a potential source of funding

3) *Who is the Ag liaison?*

Idea: Perhaps we could hire Tristan Klesick. The project consultant isn't familiar with ag in the Lower Stilly. Assistance/coaching is needed by a local Ag interest in order for the consultants to capture the message accurately.

Jay asked that these three questions be answered over the next couple of months. The project wraps up in 1.5 years. There could be a connection to the ag resilience project. The value in this assessment is in understanding economic benefits of agriculture. We also need to consider trade-offs.

Cindy Dittbrenner and Morgan Ruff will talk with Carol MacIlroy to determine the implications for the IT. They will come back to the EC in the next few months with outcomes from the IT

effort. David will get the report from Herrera Consultants when it is completed that evaluates different methods of scoring projects.

See Jay's proposal on Website

SLS Interview Report

David Roberts presented a summary report from his interviews of SLS EC members, partners and others. In total he interviewed 25 people. His impressions provide a good source of information in preparation for the November strategic conversation that will replace our normal meeting.

We discussed the need to start looking now for future EC members and consider some form of succession planning. We also need to clarify what SLS is doing to attract future participants.

David asked everyone to review his report and send any comments his way.

See David's report on Website

General Updates

IT progress report

Cindy Dittbrenner and Morgan Ruff provided a brief update about the status of the Stillaguamish Integration/Implementation Team progress to date. A more robust conversation is scheduled for the September and October meetings where there is a hope the SLS EC will continue to provide feedback and engagement. The intent of this update was to provide a brief overview and gather input on what is most important to cover in upcoming EC meetings about the IT.

- The group has held two meetings and will be having a 3rd meeting August 19th.
- Cindy described that the group is continuing to work to identify possible opportunities to identifying multiple “lifts” for farm, fish and flood issues.
- Cindy provided an overview of the refined area/scale that has been considered as the most useful place to start (maps will be provided for discussion at upcoming September and October meeting)
- Cindy identified the concepts of having nimble project teams for each sub-area that has been discussed, but the details of how, etc. will still need to be developed. We hope to talk more with the EC and project sponsors about this idea

- Cindy updated the group that there is an interest in orienting any additional phase 2 work toward the next Floodplains by Design grant round. There is interest in hearing if the EC thinks that is a good idea. More discussion will be held in September and October about this idea.
- Cindy briefly described the Stillaguamish Tribes “fish memo” that is working to further state the Stillaguamish Tribes salmon recovery interests and how they might find opportunity for collaboration. She indicated that Pat is actively looking to talk with Brian Bookey and Tristan Klesick to discuss this.
- Current participants have included Pat Stevenson, Jason Griffith, Kit Crump, Frank Leonetti, Cindy Dittbrenner, Ryan Bartelheimer and Sky Miller, and Morgan Ruff. Carol MacIlroy and Spencer Easton have been providing meeting facilitation and content support.

Feedback about remaining questions and ideas to be sure to discuss and identify at the September and October meetings:

- Further clarification of the Stillaguamish Tribes interests in collaboration with the agricultural community and what specifically is included in the “fish memo”. Morgan and Cindy shared that Pat and Carol are working on a memo that identifies the Stillaguamish Tribe’s perspective on salmon recovery in the Stillaguamish and attempts to set the stage for a discussion with the agricultural community on where the Tribe sees the possibility for potential collaboration.
- EC would like a clear presentation from consulting team (Carol and Spencer) or Morgan and Cindy on the developing strategy document referenced by Morgan and Cindy.
- EC is interested in a the proposal for Phase II which includes a process to develop a group of project for the next FbD package.
- Presentation on the lessons learned from initial formation of the IT and their work together to date.
- Identify how ideas and findings coming out of IT conversations might be relevant to the EC November retreat and strategic conversation.
- Include in future September/October discussions some ideas on how IT and EC are working together, their relationship, etc.
- Include in the September/October presentation: What are the plans for community engagement regarding packages/projects? How will we ensure WDFW, PCC, DU and other important project sponsors engage in the discussions? How will WDFW be engaged in the IT work explicitly? How can current projects for conservation easements in Florence Island ensure they are consistent

with strategies that are being explored and discussed by the IT? How will these strategies be integrated with sponsor work (e.g. how to ensure that PCC is able to advance future agreements)?

Outreach and Engagement

Lindsey Desmul spoke about the lack of the communication plan for SLS. She and Kate Riley have drafted some ideas for the EC to consider. They need some basic questions answered about what SLS does, what we are trying to accomplish, and how the EC wants their work portrayed. Besides informing the community, answers to these questions may help attract future EC members. Lindsey suggested that we start by developing a plan that works for the Lower Sky. Materials produced for that project should be usable in other reaches. David suggested that we have a discussion focused on a communication plan after the new year and following our strategic discussion in November.

In other news...NOAA's Josh Chamberlain has offered to present the results of his research on fish in the Snohomish. Monte shared that the Farm Bureau wants to invite presenters to talk about salmon recovery, perhaps at the annual meeting in October or November. Paul suggested that the presenter have knowledge of hatcheries operations because that always comes up. Finally, Jay and Lindsey shared that they are working with a consultant to produce video. They are looking for someone to interview from the Tulalip Tribe. Morgan will try to make a connection.

Funding

We need a discussion of the upcoming biennial budget on future EC agenda.

Projects

- Leque Island: Contractors are operating; the breach date is not set but will occur in early October.
- SnoWater: Bidders on the project backed out; Dan Bartelheimer might be able to do the project.
- Paul Cereghino is wrapping up several projects for the next Ecosystems Coordination Board meeting:
 - a. A culvert replacement standard template and process;
 - b. A budget structure template based on a tool from South Sound Salmon Enhancement Group;
 - c. Procedures to streamline process improvement (email Paul sent out earlier) based on a backlog of problems with bureaucratic infrastructure.

Decisions, Next Steps and Future Agenda Topics

1. The conference call for 8/14/19 was cancelled. Jay suggested WebEx or similar for the future.
2. CK, Lindsey and Morgan volunteered to help David with planning for the November strategic conversation.
3. Dr. Alexander will share his perspectives about Ebey Island on August 29th, 10:00AM-12:00PM at SWM conference room (3rd floor, Admin West bldg.)
4. Next meeting of the EC is September 12, 10-12, SWM conference room (3rd floor, Admin West bldg.)

Meeting Adjourned at 12:15PM

Upcoming Meetings and Proposed Topics:

September 12 Meeting

- SLS Funding – A high level look at capacity and gaps. (Jay, Paul, Dan, Lisa, Linda)
- Integration Team Presentation (Carol MacIlroy)

October 3 Meeting (Note New Date!)

- DNR to speak about opportunities for collaboration (Tom Bugert, DNR)
- Ebey Island Bog: DNR presentation
- Integration Team Presentation – Phase II proposal (Carol MacIlroy)

November 14 Meeting (New meeting time will be in your calendar invite)

- Extended meeting for Retreat/Strategic Conversation

Actions

1. All - Review David's report and send any comments his way
2. Bob - Reschedule the October meeting to County Building. Let the folks at Tulalip know we don't need the meeting room. Discuss options for holding November meeting at Tulalip.
3. Cindy – Have IT review Jay's proposal for inclusion of ag benefits in the WDFW project
4. Cindy and Carol - Prepare a presentation on the IT for September 12 meeting
5. Jay – Organize presenters for the funding discussion at the EC on September 12
6. Morgan – Help Jay and Lindsey identify someone to interview for their video production.

7. David - Get report from Herrera on project scoring systems
8. David - Schedule a discussion of the upcoming biennial budget on future EC agenda.
9. David – Organize strategic conversation for November with CK, Lindsey and Morgan.
10. David – Schedule NOAA’s Josh Chamberlain to present the results of his research on fish in the Snohomish sometime after the first of the year.