

SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY (SLS) DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY



Thursday February 13, 2020 9:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Snohomish County Campus, West Bldg, 3rd flr, Room 3A00 (SWM office)

PARTICIPANTS (Executive Committee members in bold):

Anton, Michele – Snohomish County SWM
Bookey, Brian - National Foods, SLS EC Co-chair (Ag)
Bartelheimer, Dan – Snohomish Valley Farms
Bratton, Nick – Forterra
Calvert, Dan – Puget Sound Partnership
Christianson, Joe – Marine View Farms
Cole, Heather - The Nature Conservancy
Desmul, Lindsey - Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Driscoll, Dani – Snohomish County SWM
Eidem, CK - Ducks Unlimited, EC Fish rep
Fay, Robin – PCC Farmland Trust
Hamill, Jessica – Snohomish County SWM
Lakey, Kirk – WDFW
Lyshall, Linda - Snohomish Conservation District
Masterson, Ikuno – Snohomish County Planning & Development Services
Nelson, Lisa – Washington Department of Ecology
Roberts, David - Kulshan Services (SLS facilitator)
Stockdale, Erik – Snohomish County SWM
Williams, Terry – Tulalip Tribes, Co-chair (Fish)

Follow-up actions

Terry and Brian - schedule a meeting between Rick Williams, Joe Christianson, the Stillaguamish Tribe, IT rep (ie Carol MacIlroy), and the Flood District.
David - add Venn Diagram of collaboration and Ag and Fish caucuses to organizational diagram.
EC - continue to work on topics like review of the SLS mission, expanding EC membership and Bylaws revisions.
Planning Team - Include time on agendas for providing input to the grant application process
Planning Team - Expand the SLS work planning effort to include Linda Lyshall, Lindsey Desmul, Carol MacIlroy, and Terry Williams
Lindsey – bring ideas for a communication needs to the SLS Planning Team

Welcome, introductions and agenda review

David welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda.

Roundtable/Sharing

- We began the meeting with Brian introducing Joe Christianson from Marine View Farms and on the Flood Control District Board to the SLS. Joe had some issues and concerns that he wanted to bring to the SLS regarding the Twin City Foods property and the FbD pre-proposal. Brian

attended a PSAR tour that included the proposed Stillaguamish Tribe's acquisition of the Twin City Foods property. He raised concerns about the Tribe acquiring this property and how it might impact agriculture in the area. Joe spoke about the proposed purchase and how it may affect his operations. He expressed concerns about loss of farmland in the area and shared his observations of changes in water levels associated with dike changes. Joe noted that the Flood Control District had not been consulted as part of the outreach with the FbD pre-proposal. Heather clarified with Joe that FbD pre-proposal does not have specific projects identified but a suite of actions for the lower Stilly from the \$23 million "shopping list of actions" that supports fish, farm and flood needs.

Regarding the FbD preproposal package the following questions were raised: What kind of support is being sought from SLS? Who will support these types of projects? How does the IT intend to engage with landowners? What is the process forward? Who is the proponent?

Robin pointed out that there are a number of investments in the FbD package that are designed to address Ag interests. Terry reminded us that the intent of SLS was to avoid getting into adversarial roles.

ACTION: Terry and Brian will work on scheduling a meeting between Rick Williams, Joe Christianson, the Stillaguamish Tribe, Carol MacIlroy (Stilly IT rep), and the Flood Control District.

Executive Committee

Linda Lyshall (Snohomish Conservation District ED) was nominated earlier and welcomed as the new EC member. Linda has a PhD in leadership change and environmental sustainability. Her research focused on climate change and action. She will sit on the Ag Caucus as part of the SLS Executive Committee.

Primary presentations or discussion topics

- Executive Committee Report and Group Discussion
David presented a draft of the Executive Committee's (EC) Roles and Responsibilities and asked for input from the group. No comments were offered. The draft list includes:
 - ❖ Guiding the process
 - ❖ Hosting the partners
 - ❖ Representing and advocating for SLS
 - ❖ Collaborating with partners as well as external entities
 - ❖ Harmonizing the efforts of partners
 - ❖ Providing credibility and endorsing proposals

We also reviewed the proposed SLS organizational model. Suggestions were made to add the three circle Venn Diagram of collaboration and a way to show Ag and a Fish caucuses in the EC circle.

ACTION: David add these to the diagram.

We also discussed whether should be additional EC members such as a fish representative perhaps from the Stillaguamish Watershed Council and a flood representative possibly from Snohomish County. The EC is looking for suggestions from the Partners.

ACTION: EC will continue to work on topics like review of the SLS mission, expanding EC membership and Bylaws revisions.

- SLS Workplan Development

Jessica proposed structure and timing for SLS meetings for the remainder of the year that meets the most immediate needs for input. She suggested the first half of the year be dedicated to full SLS meetings. The second half of the year could be focused on planning meetings. A field trip to visit project sites in August might replace a regular meeting. No decision was made.

Heather and Jessica suggested we have different forums to meet the needs of SLS. These forums might include: weekly calls, standing committees (i.e. IT's, the Snohomish County Farmland Conservation working group or SVPI) and disappearing teams. Some timely topics include development of a communications plan and a one-year workplan.

Lindsey has worked on an SLS communications plan in the past. It requires a strategy, various tools, and results of performance/benefits. The question is "What are we communicating?" This communication should reach all groups, including the Snohomish County Executive and County Council. We can look at Puyallup's communication plan at the next meeting's presentation.

Heather facilitated a brainstorming session to prioritize SLS work and to develop a one-year workplan. The question posed to the group was, "What are the biggest challenges that you see that the SLS should focus on for the next year." Ideas suggested included:

- Legislative advocacy
- Funding pursuit for joint benefit projects (farm, fish, floods)
- Addressing flooding through SLS and PUD (water for people/habitat)
- Mapping of farm/fish overlays (fish, farm, floods). Vetted map of actions by reach – put the strategy back in SLS.
- Plankton/climate change impacts – treatment plant and release of nutrients
- Support to implement Ag Resilience Plan
- How do you get Farm/Fish together? Supporting mutual benefit actions. (2 votes)
- Ag community feels that SLS is supported by SLS (manage expectations)
- Demonstrate that SLS can do actions. What have we done? What are we doing? (2 votes)
- Twin City Foods seminal issue – set-back from adversary to allies. Redefine what SLS is about.
- Educate one another on the different interests. Fish/Farm.
- SLS Communication plan

ACTION: Expand the SLS work planning to include Linda Lyshall, Lindsey Desmul, Jessica Hamill, Heather Cole, Carol Macllroy, and Terry Williams to consider and plan for these ideas.

Updates

- Lisa Nelson reported that Ecology has received all the FbD pre-applications. They are moving internally and should have feedback in March. Presentations and live feedback will be the last week of April and early May at Ecology's Headquarters. Ecology will review red flags and look for stakeholder agreement. Final FbD applications are due July 31st. Lisa expects a draft ranking list November 1st. After the final rank list is developed in January, SLS advocacy at the legislative level may be needed. This year's requests are expected to

double what was funded last year (\$50M funded in 2019 budget). Key parameters for grants: RFP, site, and scoring. The number 1 issue for the program is flood reduction. Ag proposals must have a flood component. Multiple benefit proposals are the best.

- *Updated* Heather Cole and Lindsey Desmul shared that the Lifeblood film event is March 23th in Ballard at Lagunitas Taproom (1550 NW 49th St. Seattle WA.) There will also be a panel to talk about the film and their stories. Booths are available at the event. We encourage SLS participants to attend the fun event. If SLS is interested in putting together a “call for action” for the public, please send your thoughts to Lindsey Desmul. If you are interested in a booth or more info about the event, please contact Lindsey. Linda Lyshall is also interested in partnering on an event in Snohomish County.
- Nick Bratton shared that the Forterra breakfast is April 21st from 7:30-9:00 at Washington Convention Center in Seattle.
- Dan Calvert said the *Puget Sound on the Hill* event is being planned for April 28-29 in Washington, DC. The event is to raise awareness of Puget Sound recovery. There will be a letter drafted that will be designed to address the collective needs of many groups working with the Puget Sound Partnership. See this [link](#) for more information and how to contribute to the conversation. A meeting is planned at the Center for Urban Waters in Tacoma for March 10, 9:00AM-11:00AM. WebEx participation is available for those who don't want to travel.
- Robin spoke of the challenges in securing funding from NCRS for ag easements. Apparently, NCRS lacks resources to get the funding out. SLS needs to advocate for improving the situation to help provide farmland protection. Robin will draft the letter after coordinating with SVPI and bring it to SLS.
- Terry said that surface and ground water need storage areas. The question is ‘How do we store water to access for utilization?’ Spring floods are coming 2 to 3 months early now because of climate change. Twin City Foods has a storage lagoon.

Decisions, next steps and future agendas

- Work on SLS planning (Planning Team)
- Continue efforts to expand EC Membership and other work items (EC)
- Make additions to add to the Proposed Model diagram (David)
- Communication plan development (Lindsey with the Planning Team)
- Organize a meeting to discuss the Twin City Foods site (Brian and Terry)
- Include time on agendas for providing input to the grant application process (Planning Team)

Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm

Upcoming meetings and proposed topics:

March 12, 2020

- Puyallup Floodplains for the Future presentation
- IT progress reports
- Planning ideas