

SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY (SLS) DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY



Thursday April 9, 2020 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.
Videoconference

PARTICIPANTS (Executive Committee members in bold):

Andy Werkhoven – Werkhoven Dairy

Barbara Mock - Snohomish County SWM

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

C. K. Eidem – Ducks Unlimited

Cindy Dittbrenner – Snohomish Conservation District

Carol MacLroy - Carol MacLroy Consulting

Dan Bartelheimer – Snovalley Farms

Dan Calvert – Puget Sound Partnership

Dani Driscoll - Snohomish County SWM

David Killingstad - Snohomish County PDS

Erik Stockdale - Snohomish County SWM

Jacob Lambert - Snohomish County PDS

Jessica Hamill - Snohomish County SWM

Heather Cole – The Nature Conservancy

Ikuno Masterson - Snohomish County PDS

Kirk Lakey – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Kit Rowson - Snohomish County SWM

Larissa Lee - NOAA

Linda Lyshall – Snohomish Conservation District

Lindsey Desmul – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Michele Anton - Snohomish County SWM

Nick Bratton - Forterra

Rebecca ?

Robin Fay – PCC Farmland Trust

Terry Williams – Tulalip Tribes

FACILITATOR

David Roberts – Kulshan Services

Welcome, introductions and agenda review

David welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. He expressed that these are times of resilience.

Approval of meeting summary

Meeting notes from March 12, 2020 were approved, including clarification by Lisa Nelson about point scoring for Floodplain by Design grant applications.

Community Comment

None

Primary presentations or discussion topics

David Killingstad from SnoCo Planning and Development presented an overview of the County's Comprehensive Plan Update and how critical areas and farmland are currently protected. There are 4 policy framework papers. Find policy information at:

<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/70140/2023-Comprehensive-Plan-Background-Papers>

The Comprehensive Plan Policy Review and the Countywide Policy Update are the most important for SLS. After the presentation he answered questions.

Questions and comments:

Brian - There is conflict between farm and fish. Policies that talk about natural environment require a need for consistency between documents and a need for consistency within the plan itself. Ensure vertical consistency and horizontal consistency. First framework policy talks about balances with development. The Comprehensive Plan can play a big role.

Ag 10 zoning currently has what you can and can't do there. When it comes to a habitat project there is no allowance. Inundating land is not a use and not covered by zoning.

Nick - It's good to hear the county has a strong commitment to public engagement. This is a great starting point to decide what issues to bring forward. **Where would you recommend for an engagement effort?**

Dave - Countywide Plan Update and Snoco Tomorrow are doing meetings through zoom. Engage through them and send in written comments. There is a website about the update and email contacts. Mitchell Brouse provides countywide planning policies (CPP's) updates and his number is included in this presentation. There is a challenge with shelter in place right now. In the long term, we will be out in the community to talk with the public. Public hearings are scheduled later in the process. Reach out through the project managers, go to the website, and sign up for email updates. There are links to updates, too. We will take email comments. There are opportunities for forums. We could be invited to future SLS meetings. SLS can develop specific ideas to see what to support for CPP's.

C.K. - Things our group has developed, such as salmon recovery, how does this affect zoning?

Dave - In the past, we have changed the future land use map. There will be changes in zoning on the future land use map. A lot of work has been developed at the watershed level. The degree to how much that has affected our decision is creating smaller usability of the land base.

Terry - We need to have more direct participation with Puget Sound Council of Governments for water supply. Issues have been raised with SLS, but we need more about river erosion and sea level rise in a changing landscape. Scientists call it climate squeeze. Feasible land is getting smaller for food crop growing and salmon habitat. Fish is

a local source of food for the Stilly and Tulalip Tribes. We need to have conversations and the ability to talk about farmlands with the Planning Department, SLS, and Master Builders.

Dave - We need conversations at the regional level. We struggle with the general public to get engaged. Raise the level to where the conversation occurs.

Terry – Utilities in the basin agreed with Ecology and the governor to put in a larger watershed delivery process for habitat and agriculture. There was no real connection with the county. We need to talk to Dave Somers about SLS and planning to decide our future. Habitat and agriculture have needs that are limited in space; access to markets, etc. Landscape is being sold and the location is not relevant. Get executive and council to understand that we need to communicate with them in offline discussions. Organizations need contact discussions for agriculture and cultural issues. It's hard to compete with developers when important information about areas comes up. The Regional Council talked about SLS and how to connect, questions about agriculture and habitat, fisheries, but left out planning.

Ikuno - The next steps are Countywide Planning discussions. Bring issues to Mitchell for zoning, use, and water supply. This is a good forum for this kind of discussion.

Cindy - Incorporating other plans, such as the Agriculture Resilience Plan, and impacts of climate change on agricultural land. What is the process for that?

Dave - I'm familiar with the plan. We need to look at the intersection of that plan and the regional open space and county plan as they pertain to land in river valleys and upland land, and opportunities at increasing land supply. We can start a discussion about the Agriculture Resilience Plan and relevancy to county plans. CPP's and the Comprehensive Plan go through Snoco Tomorrow.

Dave – This was a helpful kickoff. Exactly what we wanted this meeting to be. Good presentations. There will be additional conversation on this in the future.

Action:

SLS should take this opportunity to provide comment to the County's Comprehensive Plan. Possibly a disappearing task group should be formed to provide input. We need to have representatives from the broader SLS to incorporate multiple perspectives on the plan.

TNC letter

David reported that the Executive committee has not reached a consensus for support or opposition.

- There was consensus from the group that there needs to be a more comprehensive approach

Ground rules for SLS meetings (David Roberts)

David, Dani, Heather, and Jessica prepared version 2 of Proposed Ground Rules for final review. Edits were made and the draft was approved by those in attendance. David will update and send out.

Proposed SLS Ground Rules (version 2)

- Create an environment for open dialogue, stay in a place of asking questions and learning—to understand, to clarify and to introduce alternative perspectives.
- Ensure a balance of voices; Be aware of the amount of time and space you use to weigh in and create space for other voices to be heard.
- Proactively share perspectives and actively listen to others: **THINK – True Helpful Important Necessary and Kind**
- Be willing to work through, rather than avoid, conflict.
- Acknowledge that all partners bring legitimate purposes, goals, concerns and interests, whether or not there is agreement.
- Acknowledge that different organizations or agencies have different business models, decision-making requirements and obligations.
- Be transparent when a project directly or indirectly benefits you or your organization and recuse yourself from decision making when appropriate or requested by others.
- Ensure respectful meeting participation (i.e. turn phones off, arrive on time, speak one at a time, avoid sarcasm).
- Don't blame, criticize or talk about people when they are not at the table.
- When issues arise be clear on what you are asking and the preferred approach to following up on the concern.
- Create the proper forum and process for addressing community issues.
- Volunteer for tasks at hand.
- Have fun and bring a sense of humor!

Updates

Carol - Stilly IT met on March 23rd and a powerpoint was presented. The Ag Caucus met on March 12th. The March 19th meeting was canceled due to Covid-19. Cindy called eleven farmers and spoke to nine of them about the transition of agricultural land to habitat in the Stilly floodplain and delta. They took the Twin Cities property off the Near-term Action list and FbD proposal, and added Trafton Floodplain Restoration. Will we submit a proposal at all? David will send out the revised action list. Send ideas for projects.

Brian - What happens to the Twin Cities Foods property after FbD?

Kit - The Tribe is dedicated to capital funding for it. I do not know whether they will go ahead without public funding.

Brian – The Tribe funding proposal for the Thurmond property was not favored.

Jessica – Snohomish IT had a recent meeting. We broke out into smaller groups. FbD was the substance of the meeting as to whether we should proceed with the proposal; capacity, available funding, etc. We agreed to go forward with the proposal, but will reduce the project. We are working to get additional information for a project list and match amount.

Cindy – We are looking into covenants and water issues.

C.K. - I was asked by management to pursue three or four large projects. Partners put a list together for me from FbD, mostly fishing expedition. There are seven from WDFW, nine from Snohomish, and ten projects in north Puget Sound.

Kit —This came from the 2012 stimulus package. They have to be shovel ready. WDNR has also put together a package.

Heather - TNC is also looking at projects, mostly shovel ready economic development projects. We are going to do listening sessions with partners for projects.

Terry - A WDNR project about how to create water for habitat and agriculture to help watersheds and critical flow in summer.

Many of the groups are anticipating funding being available in the future when the COVID-19 situation subsides, and based on previous experiences with the recession, the projects need to be ready to go once funds are available.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45AM

Upcoming meetings and proposed topics:

May 14, 2020

- Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan Update (Part 2) – Ikuno and staff

June 11, 2020

- IT grant proposal reviews