

SLS Ag Caucus Meeting

4-9-2020

Attendees: Brian Bookey (EC), Andy Werkhoven (EC), Linda Lyshall (EC), Dan Bartelheimer, Robin Fay, Linda Neunzig, Cindy Dittbrenner, David Roberts (*observing*)

Purpose: Review input from 9 Stillaguamish floodplain farmers regarding FbD project package and provide input to Integration Team. *Note: this is not a comprehensive write-up of the minutes of the meeting, rather a summary of the feedback directed to the Integration Team for use in refining the FbD project package.*

Summary of Comments for Integration Team:

Ag elements of FbD Project List - All 7 members of the Caucus support these elements if the following are met:

- Changes are made to the project list that reflect the input gathered from farmers
- Funding for drainage infrastructure is significantly increased

Full FbD Project List – 2 members identify as “champions” for the full project list, 4 members identify as “supportive if issues are resolved” (one didn’t vote). The group discussed these issues and conclusions are summarized below:

- The group feels it is critical to protect viable farmland including lands currently used for commercial agriculture as well as land that could be used for agriculture in the future.
- They would like to see more certainty around protection of agricultural land near proposed habitat projects to include:
 - Potential farmland protection (PDR) for farm east of Cicero project (Flying T Ranch)
 - Tribe to provide a plan for the new location of the proposed sea dike on Florence Island if TCF property is restored
 - Potential farmland protection (PDR) for farms on Florence Island behind proposed dike setback
- They would like to develop a more comprehensive plan for agricultural land protection and prioritization in the floodplain that can be used in conjunction with habitat priorities to move multi-benefit collaborative work forward. This would be an extension of the Agriculture Resilience Plan work. They would like to see funding allocated in the FbD application for this task.