

SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY (SLS) FINAL MEETING SUMMARY



Thursday June 11, 2020 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Videoconference

PARTICIPANTS (Executive Committee members in bold):

Bennett LaFond – Snohomish Conservation District (SCD)
Brandon Roozen – Western Washington Agriculture Assn
Brian Bookey - National Foods, SLS EC Co-chair (Ag)
C. K. Eidem – Ducks Unlimited
Carol MacIroy - Carol MacIroy Consulting
Cindy Dittbrenner – Snohomish Conservation District
Chuck Hazelton - Stillaguamish Flood Control District
Dan Calvert – Puget Sound Partnership
Dani Driscoll - Snohomish County SWM
Erik Stockdale - Snohomish County SWM
Jessica Hamill - Snohomish County SWM
Heather Cole – The Nature Conservancy
Henry Lippek – Stillaguamish Flood Control District
Jason Griffith - Stillaguamish Tribe
Jay Krientz – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kari Quaas – Snohomish Conservation District
Kirk Lakey – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kit Crump – Snohomish County SWM
Kristin Marshall – Snohomish Conservation District
Linda Lyshall – Snohomish Conservation District
Lindsey Desmul – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Lisa Nelson - WA Department of Ecology
Michele Anton - Snohomish County SWM
Nick Bratton – Forterra
Pat Stevenson -- Stillaguamish Tribe
Randi Shaw - The Nature Conservancy
Robin Fay – PCC Farmland Trust
Shaara Ainsley
Spencer Easton - Environmental Science Associates (ESA)
Terry Williams – Tulalip Tribes

FACILITATOR

David Roberts – Kulshan Services

Welcome, introductions and agenda review

David welcomed all to the meeting and asked everyone to enter in chat a few words about acts of kindness. It's been tough the last couple of weeks.

Brief highlights...

David Roberts noted that the ITs have been busy since the Partners last met pulling their project packages together. The Snohomish IT held a meeting to complete a detailed review of their project package on June 8. Nick Bratton is still looking for volunteers to help with developing suggestions for the County's Comp Plan update. He hopes to have a meeting soon. Dani is still working on the SLS Workplan and looking for input. David hopes to get the Joint Planning Group together soon to keep things moving on the workplan and to identify topics for future meetings.

Pat Stevenson talked about the installation of the digester at Jeremy Visser's dairy. The system was designed by Janicki as part of a local partnership. The system is showing positive results at controlling pollution. Heather Cole encouraged everyone to look at the video about the project produced in partnership with TNC. At next month's meeting we will talk more about the process that made the project possible.

Approval of meeting summary

Meeting notes from May 14, 2020 were approved.

Community Comment

None

Primary presentations or discussion topics

Presentation of Stillaguamish FbD Grant Package of Projects

Carol MacIlroy, SCD consultant, presented an overview of the Stillaguamish FbD grant package on behalf of the Stillaguamish IT. She shared the list of projects that the Stillaguamish IT plans to include in the 2021-2023 Floodplains by Design grant application. Her goal is was for us to understand components, get to the content, and address any lingering questions.

The proposal was reduced to \$7.9M with 20% match, for a \$9.875M total investment. The Funding for the Twin City Foods land acquisition has been dropped. New additions to the proposal since the earlier version include the Jorgensen Tide Gate Replacement, a high priority, and the Trafton Restoration. See the full list of projects on the SLS website.

July 31st is the deadline. Last changes can be made until the end of June, then the IT will need to prepare for the July 9th SLS meeting where the Executive Committee will be asked for a letter of support. Carol indicated letters of support will be sought from SLS and many groups individually. She needs to collect them by July 17th. SLS support is the most important of all.

Questions and comments:

- Kudos to the group for reducing the budget with cooperation from the Ag and Salmon groups.
- It's a good package. I appreciate the responsiveness.
- I commend the group for working hard to find a balance. We may have missed multi-benefit opportunities, such as Jorgensen Tide Gate is a fish-friendly item and should also be a salmon benefit. Ag caucus has concern about Port Susan Bay and Stilly Thurmond and it is being addressed. We still have large process questions to contend with.
- There is an obligation to minimize impacts to Ag. How do we accomplish that for Port Susan Bay?

Need to consider opportunity costs, timing and sequencing. Not planning to flood new ag land. Funding is going to PSB and not Thurmond property.

- How do projects fit together? Level of cost?
PSB is a stand-alone project, and fish benefit and future restoration happening. Need additional modeling and flow value.
- Since early on discussions we have come a long way from when PSB organizers first got together, from what was proposed before and what was accomplished, in line with what is proposed now. Good to hear about Janicki proposal.
- How will Trafton minimize negative impacts?
It was transitioned from a golf course and Ag already. It is a salmon project. Trafton is surrounded by a levee that prevents the site from flooding. There is several acres of storage and could be significant flood reduction benefits.
 - We should make sure we fill out as many Xs as possible in the matrices.
Xs on the document are drivers of the project. We can clarify more of the benefits.

Executive Committee members comments:

- Linda Lyshall – Supports the package. A lot of work and collaboration.
- C.K. Eidem - Feels good about package – well balanced. Appreciates all the hard work.
- Brian Bookey – Feels good about where we have come to find a balance. We still have some internal SLS processes to work on.
- Terry Williams – The package feels pretty good. Need more conversations with Morgan and Kurt. Doing well on the ground and coming together. Feels good about where we are heading now.

The EC reached consensus on the project package prepared by the Stilly IT and that meets their expectations.

David Roberts thanked everyone, especially the IT members. Also Carol MacIlroy and Spencer Eaton for their leadership. The Stilly and Snohomish grant packages will be queued up for the July 9th meeting for formal decision and drafting of letters.

Increasing Executive Committee membership

Linda Lyshall introduced the topic of increasing EC membership. There are currently only 5 members. It is time to increase membership. There is a desire to have Stilly Tribe back on the EC. She asked if any SLS members have an interest or want to nominate someone let David know. The EC should balance farm and salmon. David Roberts suggested the EC consider having flood representation as well since Floodplains by Design grants have such a significant flood requirement.

Brian Bookey would like to see the Stilly Tribe back on the EC. Good to have direct participation. Entities are stronger if more people come through. With exception of the tribes, each member represents themselves. The two tribes have a different status. They should always have a place at the table. Terry Williams would like Patty Gobin, chair of Tulalip board of directors, participate as we move into comprehensive integrated plans. She works on presentations for the board. It would be helpful to have her participation. C.K. Eidem suggested that when thinking about folks for different basins and fish interests, we should seek to find the right kind of people, not necessarily representing their employer.

Linda Lyshall suggest we stay tuned on the process and asked everyone to let David know about your interest in participating or nominating anyone else.

Updates

Dani Driscoll updated group that the County has hired ESA for on-call contract to work on a Snohomish land acquisition strategy. The model they develop could be used throughout the County. Spencer is the project manager.

Nick Bratton updated everyone on the effort to inform the County on during their Comprehensive Plan update. He met with Ikuno Masterson and Dave Killingstad to discuss how SLS can best provide input to the process. There is no immediate sense of urgency. Most of the work is planned for next year. One suggestion is to have Paul Ingram at Puget Sound Regional Council come to a Partners meeting. Lots of guidance is coming from the 2050 regional planning. PDS could also bring in a project manager. Brian Bookey, Terry Williams, and Jessica Hamill will work with Nick to identify the process.

Terry Williams shared he has been asked by the Puget Sound Regional Council to participate in their discussions. He would like to see the structure for how the County planning processes are moving forward such as the linkage to Regional council, Snohomish County, City of Everett, and SLS. He is also interested in getting a sense of the thinking that has gone on with the land use, structure and understanding how people are responding. Nick thought it would be valuable to know who is listening and participating. Terry noted that local governments are looking at SLS projects and asking how it relates to local land use. Also, how our recovery work fits future planning and addresses climate impact. Where do we want to be in the future with SLS and sustainability? How do we fit into overall plan? Need to start having conversations with others. Nick responded that PDS said there will be an increased emphasis in climate change in the CCP.

Lindsey Desmul updated everyone on Ebey Island. WDFW has hired Triangle Associates to help with project prioritization. They are holding off on outreach until next spring due to the pandemic. Lindsey also reported that the NTA to support SLS communication needs was recommended for funding. We should hear from EPA soon.

Kari Quaas was introduced from SCD. Her new role includes working on SLS communications. She is looking forward to working with everyone.

Jay Krientz shared that WDFW is continuing to run grant programs and trying to maintain normalcy.

David - Will be talking to Joint Planning Group about the future meeting schedule. July 9 the agenda will focus on the SLS workplan and letters of support for the FbD grant packages. August was supposed to be a field trip. Possibly a virtual field trip.

Upcoming meetings and proposed topics:

July 9 – Decision to provide letter of support for FbD grant packages and SLS workplan.

August 13 – Not defined

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.