

# SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY SLS DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday September 10, 2020 10:00 a.m. – 11:35 p.m. (Zoom meeting)



## Participants:

Anika Bahr - Author  
Bennett LaFond – Snohomish Conservation District  
Beth Liddell – Snohomish County SWM  
**Brian Bookey - National Foods, Co-chair**  
**C. K. Eidem – Ducks Unlimited**  
Carol MacIlroy - Carol MacIlroy Consulting  
Courtney Baxter – The Nature Conservancy  
Dan Calvert – Puget Sound Partnership  
Daryl Williams – Tulalip Tribes  
Heather Cole – The Nature Conservancy  
Gretchen Glaub – Snohomish County SWM  
Guillaume Mauger – University of Washington  
Janet Wright – Snohomish County PDS  
Jay Krientz – WA Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Jessica Hamill - Snohomish County SWM  
Kari Quaas - Snohomish Conservation District  
Kevin Teague – Snohomish County Parks  
Kirk Lakey – WA Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Kit Crump – Snohomish County SWM  
Kristin Marshall - Snohomish Conservation District

Kurt Nelson – Tulalip Tribes  
Kye Iris – Snohomish County Parks  
**Linda Lyshall – Snohomish Conservation District**  
Linda Neunzig – Snohomish County Economic Development  
Lindsey Desmul – WA Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Lisa Nelson – WA Department of Ecology  
Michele Anton – Snohomish County SWM  
Nick Bratton – Forterra  
Randi Shaw – The Nature Conservancy  
Rebecca Samy – Snohomish County PDS  
**Robin Fay – PCC Farmland Trust**  
**Rodney Pond – Sound Salmon Solutions**  
Spencer Easton – ESA Consultants  
**Terry Williams – Tulalip Tribes, Co-Chair**

[**Bolded names are Executive Committee members**]

## Facilitator:

David Roberts – Kulshan Services

## Actions:

All: Review and provide comments to [Spencer Easton](#) by September 18<sup>th</sup> on the Floodplains by Design Land Acquisition Strategy (See [website](#)).

All: Review and provide comments by September 25<sup>th</sup> on the [Draft Roles and Responsibilities document](#). Click on link and put comments directly in the document.

## Welcome, activity and agenda review

David Roberts made introductions, went over the agenda, and asked participants to answer this question in Chat, “What was the highlight of your summer?” He received many delightful answers, such as spending time with family and vacation activities.

## Approval of meeting summary

David asked for comments on the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and none were given. He will finalize the summary and make it available on the website.

## Community Comment

No community members were present.

## **Presentation, discussion, action**

### Draft Criteria for the Floodplains by Design Land Acquisition

Spencer Easton presented a presentation on the Draft Criteria for the Floodplains by Design Land Acquisition Strategy. Funding for the tool is coming from the FbD grant. He had introduced the concept at the July Partner meeting and now wanted to share the details of the draft criteria with partners for review and feedback. Spencer has circulated a memo for review and comment. He asked that everyone get their comments to him by September 18<sup>th</sup>. He will review the input, reach out to folks, then and report out the final recommendations in November. Feedback from a broad range of SLS partners is important. Everyone has a role and he appreciates everyone's input.

#### Discussion:

Spencer clarified that the focus of the acquisitions is on the parcel level. However, no specific parcels are targeted with the tool. It is more to indicate where there are opportunities for conversation. A factor of interest is whether there are water rights associated with the parcels. Having this information will open new opportunities for both fish and farm. Parcels that are not actively farmed at this time may have water rights. Water rights can be incorporated into the data and would be a factor in whether the land is farmable in the future. If there are no water rights currently, it would be good to know if there are water rights close by to purchase.

We also discussed the order of acquisitions. To some it feels sequential - losing farmland in some areas while waiting to secure replacement lands. It might be advantageous to pursue a parallel approach. There could be a lag in acquiring other land for farmers to pursue upland farming. There would be no lag if upland properties were acquired in advance by land banking. Spencer indicated that land banking can be discussed and developed in the acquisition strategy. Funding for purchases is not provided in the current FbD grant. Concerns were raised about the cost of stewardship. Jessica Hamill indicated she would follow up on stewardship and monitoring of countywide properties with County staff. She pointed out that ownership of properties is best defined by who is best suited to manage them.

There is interest and discussion underway to identify ways of capturing early and excess glacial melt and precipitation as habitat water for fisheries and ag to buffer the effects of climate change. There is an opportunity to recharge aquifers. We need to set aside and secure land and water for ag, wetlands and fisheries, and realign land use and water as a goal. Spencer will incorporate climate change in the acquisition strategy. *Model Builder* will make it very easy to incorporate new data over time and as we learn more about climate change.

Spencer asked if there are other data sources that should be considered in the criteria. King County is currently working to keep a base amount of farm acreage by purchasing and converting under-utilized farmland. Action is needed soon. Upland parcels are being converted very quickly. We need to look at the SLS goals and the integrated planning process. We also need to understand the ability to deliver products for distribution. Location is important for marketability as well as water supply. We need to plan for what works best economically and what meets market demands.

Spencer shared that the project team also talked about ways to consider flood insurance, zoning, development, basin protection planning, wildlife data, and cultural resources.

Spencer reminded everyone that the draft criteria memo is still available for review through September 18<sup>th</sup>. Send comments to me at [seaston@esassoc.com](mailto:seaston@esassoc.com). David offered to set up a special topics meeting if people want to discuss the criteria further.

## Executive Committee Report

Linda Lyshall introduced the new leadership for SLS. Linda, Brian Bookey, Andy Werkhoven, CK Eidem will remain on the committee. Terry Williams will also stay on the committee, but not as the Tulalip representative. New members Robin Fay, Rodney Pond, and Erik Stockdale were welcomed. Daryl Williams is interested in participating on behalf of the Tulalip tribe. The tribe is still discussing how to fill this role. The Steering Committee is hoping to have 14 members if all slots get filled. Additional potential members are currently being contacted. A first meeting of the larger group will be scheduled in early October.

Linda talked about the decision to change the name of the Executive Committee to the Steering Committee. The intention is to expand its role and make it a more action focused group.

David Roberts introduced the idea of an SLS handbook which he is drafting. He is pulling together everything that defines SLS, such as the mission, goals, structure, roles and responsibilities, decision processes, ground rules, and attributes of projects. The workplan and other planning documents could be included. He hopes this will help clarify where SLS is going and what we are doing. It will also point out where SLS has more work to do.

David circulated a draft roles and responsibilities document that has had preliminary review by the Steering Committee who is seeking feedback. For team or workgroup of SLS, he has suggested organization elements such as leadership, membership, representation, staffing levels, and meeting frequency.

One of the goals of this document and conversation is to streamline the SLS work. David suggested several changes related to meetings. A monthly newsletter could replace updates in Partner meetings. Special topic meetings can be continued and expanded to provide opportunity for those who are interested in learning about a particular subject or doing a deeper dive into specific issues or ideas. He also suggested changes to frequency of Partner meetings.

David concluded by asking everyone to review and comment on the document by **September 25<sup>th</sup>**.

### Discussion:

We talked about whether SLS is a collaborative body or an organization. Brian Bookey suggested that SLS is an organization, has bylaws and principles, and a 14-member steering committee. We need a governing organization to do the kind of work we do. Terry Williams shared Brian's opinion. SLS is a recognized organization by agencies and legislature. We need to be consistent with how we identify ourselves to keep our name recognition.

We also discussed what will happen to the Joint Planning Group. Linda Lyshall offered that the Steering Committee will assume most of the roles of the Joint Planning Group, so it will no longer be needed.

David asked everyone to read the document and send comments to him. A link to the document is [here](#). We need feedback. Carol MacIlroy indicated that the IT meeting is scheduled this month and she will be sharing the document and asking for feedback.

## **Updates**

### *Outreach and Engagement*

Kari Quaas is working on the SLS Near Term Action (NTA) budget and the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Snohomish County. The communication strategy plan will be ready in October. Lindsey Desmul is solidifying ideas for NTA funding and is meeting with contractors. The near final draft will be distributed soon.

*Funding*

Jay shared that the SRP list will come out in about a week. Funders are gearing up for the upcoming legislative session.

*IT Reports*

Carol said the Stilly IT has a meeting scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Future meetings and agendas**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Work Plan Reference</b>
October 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stilly IT - strategy document</li><li>• Roles and Responsibilities Document</li></ul>	Collaborative Org: Objective 1.B.
November 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FbD land acquisition strategy</li></ul>	
December 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TBD</li></ul>	

**Meeting adjourned at 11:35AM.**