

SLS Partners meeting
SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY MEETING
Thursday March 11, 2021 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.



Participants: Keith Binkley, Nick Bratton, Dan Calvert, Lindsey Desmul, Dani Driscoll, Spencer Easton, **C.K. Eidem, Robin Fay**, Heather Khan, Heather Cole, Jessica Hamill, Kirk Lakey, **Linda Lyshall**, Kristin Marshall, Kurt Nelson, Carol McIlroy, Morgan Ruff, Lisa Nelson, **Linda Neunzig**, Laurel Jennings, Kari Quaas, Rebecca Schwarz, **Daryl Williams**, Janet Wright. (Apologies if this list is incomplete. Those in bold are steering committee members)

Facilitator: David Roberts, Kulshan Services

Notetaker: Allison Roberts

Tasks:

- All - Reach out to farmers and fish people for new Steering Committee nominees and send names to David, Linda or Daryl.
- CK, Daryl, Morgan, and Linda - Work together to plan vision, mission, goals, policy discussion for our May 15 meeting. Send an email to David if you are interested in helping and join a planning meeting in the next ten days.
- All - Molly Bogeberg should check in with David if she wants to present a special topic session on their lower Stilly area work.
- David - Consider hosting a special topic session on funding work group.
- All - Let Kristin know if you wish to volunteer to work with her and Tracy Petroske from Kulshan Services on the monitoring project.
- All - Please let David, Rebecca, or Nick know if you want to volunteer on the work group looking at the Comp Plan. This is your opportunity to get your oar in the water regarding how rural lands are used in the future.

1. Welcome and Agenda Review

2. Breakout Room for Networking

Introduce yourself and share the most gratifying work you have ever done.

3. Community Comment

- Molly Bogeberg noted that TNC will be conducting test blasts on the lower Stilly delta area. She's happy to provide more info or a special topics session.
- Two resignations – Due to the pressing nature of his business, Brian Bookey is resigning from the Steering Committee as of today. He will be missed as he has been a long-term active contributor and key ag participant. Everyone wishes him well and thanks him for his insightful and committed support of SLS. We will need to replace him with a rep from the agriculture sector. David will send Brian a message thanking him for his service to SLS. Also, Rodney Pond retired recently and has moved to Arizona. We will miss his cogent thinking and relevant contributions to SLS. Rodney was a fish representative, so we'll need to replace him with someone from the fish community.
- David asked Partners provide suggestions for replacements to Linda L, Daryl, or him.

4. Presentations, Discussion, Action

Steering Committee Update on Policy Issues and Engagement with Partners (Linda Lyshall and Daryl Williams)

- Linda outlined progress made on Partner engagement and policy identification. With the action plan and strategy document developed, we now can dig into policy issues with an in-depth conversation at our next meeting on May 15. The Bylaws don't present the clear vision and mission that we need. We will be developing goals as well. This process sets us up for our multi-benefit monitoring project with metrics for measuring the success of our work.
- Morgan suggested deploying creative engagement structures appropriate for a large group to accomplish this such as asynchronous meetings with a shared space to encourage productive interaction and engagement as a way to spearhead our efforts. She hopes the process includes systematic thinking beyond wordsmithing to really capture the essence of SLS. Morgan might be able to work on a sub-committee.
- Kari said the next quarterly news (mid-May) will highlight the Steering Committee. She also noted that the Farm Fish and Flood [website](#) can feature videos members submit as well as recordings of special topic sessions.
- Linda N reiterated the importance of having agricultural voices represented in the goals discussion to ensure a balanced approach. She noted that farmers' schedules require we be creative in our outreach such as phone diplomacy, meeting farmers on their property while they are working, meeting with them in the evening, and something other than a meeting during the day. We can develop questions to prime these conversations and ask questions while they are working. Linda noted that email isn't the best way to reach them. Dani, and Linda concurred, and suggested we host an evening meeting just for farmers. Stipends may be irrelevant when time and weather dictate farmer priorities. Kirk L suggested that farmer input be obtained on their terms at their place: while riding the tractor, at their barn, or during morning coffee. The Comp Plan will need farmer input as well, perhaps with a survey or where they don't have to attend a meeting. Heather C suggested we develop an arc of engagement for the farmers throughout the year with multiple ways to engage them at different times of year noting that meeting engagement is best done between Oct 15 – February 15 and in-person during the growing season.
- The Legislative outreach approach taken this year should be expanded in the next Legislative session. While we got a late start, Linda and Jessica and others led the effort this year with the community floodplains work, virtual tours, and videos as well as many, many meetings with Legislators. David reflected that we should queue up our work ahead of Legislative session starting in the late summer and fall. David also noted that we need our public-facing tools to reflect the goals, mission, and vision and show progress with data obtained from our monitoring program.

Progress update from ITs (Kristin Marshall & Morgan Ruff)

- The Snohomish IT Core Team met recently. Lots of things are happening. Riley and Haskell Slough are active. Conversations are occurring with the Sultan Levee Project. An upcoming Core Team meeting is planned. Spencer has been a key worker on this. The Core Team is developing a tracking list for collaborative efforts. Collaborative

conversations are also starting up about the Sultan Levee Project, and plans are in the works for more comprehensive conversations about project lists.

- Regarding the Stillaguamish IT, Kristin reported that funding from TNC has been super helpful and has allowed them to maintain Carol MacIlroy's help in facilitating their group. They were able to reconvene in late February after a hiatus due to the pandemic. Kristin and Robin both agreed on their need for capacity; some staffing changes have affected this. They are attempting a new model with disappearing task forces and staggered meetings. For 2021, they are looking at a lot of project work in farm and fish realms with design work focused on projects from the Ag Resilience plan. A goal is to bridge the Stilly efforts and other IT work.
- Robin indicated that there are additional projects on the Work Plan with big questions about agriculture viability in the Stilly and flood hazard reduction. Coordinating who is heading these initiatives up will take up capacity/funding they don't yet have. David noted to check in on status at the May meeting.

SLS Approach to Grant Coordination (All)

- David queued up the question regarding the value of a standing committee composed of funding agencies to advance and optimize the efforts of SLS. This group could note where we need matching funds and document money spent for the monitoring program. We all agreed there are huge benefits in coordinating funding efforts for SLS projects. Heather hopes for more collaboration on SLS advocacy which has worked really well in the past. Getting started well ahead of the 2022 Legislative session would be great. She also supports the funding work group which could be difficult and complex, but not undoable. Jessica suggested establishing a Legislative priorities list to inform the grant process. The group could keep track of what's been endorsed and what needs more discussion.
- From a grant coordination perspective, ESRP is one grant funding source and getting that coordinated would be very beneficial. We want to promote a contextual, multi-benefit funding focus. David pointed out we can marry the work plans with the grant cycles and make sure we are representing all of the SLS interests. A special topic session could be helpful. Letters of support would be helpful but would require coordination.
- Jay Kreintz has been a key funder and helped out so many times. Kirk can be a liaison. Robin pointed out that sometimes projects don't fit neatly into a farm or fish category. He feels the lead entities do a good job coordinating. Heather said that they have a NOAA grant through WDFW (through Paul Cereghino and Jay Kreintz). She repurposed some of the funding to keep Carol and Spencer working. Laurel Jennings is working with Paul at NOAA's Restoration Center and is helping with funding. She is a great contact for us in the future.
- Daryl shared that the next Legislative session will be a good time to access broader implementation funding. We should work with Legislators now so we're ready to move.

Monitoring Program Kickoff (Kristin Marshall and Linda Lyshall)

- Kristin showed a PowerPoint on Monitoring Effectiveness of Multi-benefit Projects (Snohomish CD). In 2018 they applied for a Near Term Action as part of the Puget

Sound Action Agenda. They obtained funding in Summer 2020. A stakeholder group representing the SLS interests will work over the next two years (Spring 2021-Fall 2022) to decide on metrics, develop an implementation strategy, monitoring implementation, and hold a summit in Fall 2022 to report and launch it into the next phase. She discussed using decision matrices to organize complex issues, create priorities, and define a path forward. Partners include the SCD, Tulalip and Stilly Tribes, WA Farmland Trust, 2-4 agricultural producers and Snohomish County plus consultant support from Kulshan Services, Carol, and Spencer. They also intend to engage broader SLS interests. She sees this informing the Steering Committee and Partners as well as the ITs. They plan to engage with regional folks on monitoring other programs. Linda said there are some County folks who've volunteered to participate. Tracy Petroske from Kulshan Services will be provide support to the project.

Status of County Comp Planning Process and Next Steps by SLS (Rebecca Schwartzman, Nick Bratton, David Killingstad and Mitchell Brouse)

- Rebecca summarized the work of the Comp Plan Working Group. They met yesterday and have submitted input to Mitchell at the County.
- David Killingstad spoke about the Buildable Lands Report which looks back to 2012. It shows how well the land was utilized as compared to ten years before, looks at intensities and densities of land use, and is used to evaluate 2024 capacity for meeting population and employment targets. The report will be done and adopted in June 2021. At the end of December, they will initiate next steps in the Comp Plan update process. It relies on the Regional Growth Strategy which shows metro, core, high-capacity transit communities. One key finding is 95% of total population growth will be in urban areas. Only 4.5% of growth will happen in rural areas – a significant decrease in rate of growth for the past three decades. This marks a major shift into urban areas. An additional 300,000 more people are expected to move to the County over the next 20 years which will require 180,000 more homes. This population growth impacts efforts to preserve the natural environment and requires we look at alternatives to plan for this influx into urban areas.
- Mitchell indicated they are meeting with the Planning Advisory committee today briefing them. He spoke about Snohomish County Tomorrow and the 2050 plan. Public comment is being taken on the County-wide Planning Policies (CPP) from February 18 – March 16. It then goes to Snohomish County Tomorrow Steering Committee (made up of elected officials from the County and all the cities). In August 2021, recommendations go to County Council who will finalize the proposed updates.
- Nick noted that the Comp Plan Workgroup has outlined opportunities for SLS partners to participate. Themes are emerging that reflect collective interests of the SLS taking into account how to best to reach the agricultural community. They hope to provide a policy platform to Snohomish County Tomorrow. The group is developing an approach to evaluating the Comp Plan documents and wants to make sure the SLS input is provided in a timely way. Stay tuned for a Special Topics conversation. The work group includes Jessica Hamill, Nick, David Roberts, Amalia Walton, Robin Fay, and Rebecca.

5. Future Meetings and Agendas

- Next meeting: Special Topic with Spencer Easton on the SLS Land Acquisition Strategy March 24 at 10 AM. See the calendar invite that has already gone out.
- Steering Committee – April 8
- Partners Meeting – May 15

6. Adjourn (11:45)