



MEETING NOTES
SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY MEETING
Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Zoom Videoconference

Participants: C.K. Eidem, Carol MacIlroy, Dan Calvert, Dani Driscoll, **Daryl Williams**, David Roberts, **Erik Stockdale**, Janet Wright, Jessica Hamill, Kari Quaas, Kirk Lakey, Kristin Marshall, Kurt Nelson, **Linda Lyshall**, **Linda Neunzig**, Lindsey Desmul, Lisa Nelson, Morgan Ruff, Nick Bratton, Paul Cereghino, Randi Shaw, **Robin Fay**, **Rodney Pond**, Spencer Easton. (Those in bold are steering committee members)

Guests: Erik Young (SFEG), Henry Lippek, Amalia Walton (Kulshan Services)

Facilitator: David Roberts, Kulshan Services and Allison Roberts (notetaker)

TASKS:

1. David Roberts: Share today's presentations on the website.
2. Spencer Easton (ESA): Coordinate a time for a presentation on the Snohomish IT in early 2021 with the IT and David.
3. All: Send them names of champions who will speak for ag to Lindsey Desmul and Kari Quaas.
4. David Roberts: Work with Mitchell to identify a path forward for SLS input to Comp Plan policy update.

1. PRE-MEETING

Several folks joined the videoconference early and had time to visit with friends and get settled.

2. WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

The once monthly SLS Newsletter updates are working for folks. People share any news with the team through this medium.

No agenda items were added.

3. BREAKOUT ROOM FOR NETWORKING

We participated in a five-minute 2-person breakout session with each person answering the question: "What are you doing to take care of yourself?" This team-building exercise was received well.

4. COMMUNITY COMMENT

No community comment came up at this meeting.

5. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION, ACTION

Stilly IT 2021 Workplan (Kristin Marshall, Robin Fay and Carol McIlroy)

Kristin Marshall and Robin Fay provided a presentation on the workplan the Stilly IT has developed for 2021. Further development of their working strategy document is put on hold while the SLS discussion of roles and responsibilities gets sorted out. However, they are fulfilling their grant requirements.

Staffing of the IT has been evolving with Carol's help. At this point in the development of the process, Kristin Marshall (Snohomish CD) and Robin Fay (WA Farmland Trust) are taking on more of the facilitation and overall strategic direction as they transition.

Next year's work will focus on both transparency between the IT and community in order to build trust and working relationships; coordination and collaboration in order to integrate the work and enhance mutual benefits; and a clarity regarding roles and responsibilities.

Kristin continued the presentation starting on Salmon Recovery updates and anticipated work for the next year with focus areas on Twin City Foods, Cicero acquisition, log jam installations, Gold Basin sediment reduction, and Port Susan Bay Phase 2.

In terms of agriculture work, they are employing a disappearing task group with a focus on fostering coordination and collaboration on the Jorgenson Slough tide gate and drainage design work by Bennett Lafond. They are engaged with the Stilly Valley Protection District regarding acquiring conservation easements. The team is working with the WA Farmland Trust and Snohomish CD to build upon and further define ag resilience in the Stilly with more cohesive messaging and suites of action. Another area of work is articulating a flood strategy with agriculture stakeholders. The IT will be working to build awareness of the strategy within the agricultural community.

Meeting frequency is likely to shift to a need-based schedule at least 1x quarterly and employing disappearing task groups as a proven strategy to focus efforts, build on existing work, and use resources efficiently and transparently. They are working to promote the 2021-23 grant with the Legislature and with the Snohomish CD.

Henry Lippek wondered if processes are moving too slowly and if there is a better system for promoting Chinook such as land-based fish farms using algae to feed the fish. Kurt Nelson (Tulalip Tribes) recognizes that changing marine conditions are a challenge. Orca recovery and salmon recovery are linked, and our efforts will evolve.

David Roberts thanked Robin and Kristin for stepping in on the IT work with this type of focus and strategic thinking. **David will share today's presentation on the website.** David suggested we hear a similarly focused presentation from those working on the Snohomish IT. **Spencer Easton (ESA) will coordinate with David for a presentation after the January Partner meeting.**

Regarding the Roles and Responsibilities draft document, David noted the task group will have a new draft for the Steering Committee in December and will present to the Partners group in January.

Communications Plan (Lindsey Desmul and Kari Quaas) – 30 min

Lindsey Desmul and Kari Quaas shared an update and the plans from the Communications Group. Lindsey spoke about the Near-Term Action funding received through the EPA National Estuary Program. The timing for coordinated and targeted communication and outreach is perfect. The funding, which must be spent by end of 2022, totals \$175K and is split between WDFW and Snohomish CD.

Deliverables include a multi-faceted outreach approach.

- A Farm to Table dinner is anticipated for September 2022. The focus will be on the Stillaguamish with an afternoon tour before a dinner. The goal of these processes is to show off projects and then finish with the Farm to Table meal.

- An SLS logo created by the Tulalip Tribes will be used on all branded materials for events such as markets, fairs, specific farm signage, and other public events. By featuring the logo, people see that this farmer supports the issues that SLS cares about.
- They are embarking on a virtual video storytelling strategy (similar to the PhotoVoice project) working with Creative Narrations to train participants how to tell their stories on video. Five two-hour long training sessions will be offered, and stipends will be provided to the nine participants who will tell their stories.
- A portion of the funding will be used to catalog videos and build a multi-media interactive website. Three videos include Lifeblood, Changes are Coming, and Story of the Floodplain.
- Additional efforts include creating a quarterly SLS newsletter and when COVID permits, natural resource-oriented movie nights for the community.
- They also want to create a survey (which isn't included in the grant) that would gather key information from the community to help attract more ag producers to participate in SLS and help with branding.
- Down the road, farm tours will be a great way to grow awareness and pride around area ag production.

Kari shared more information about their Ag Resilience Plan. The silver lining of COVID is that it has allowed them to improve outreach resources which is promoting broader community participation.

- The Farm to Table Dinner is a key component to engage ag producers. They envision a BBQ focused on the Snohomish Basin and the story of the floodplain with tours.
- In light of impacts from COVID, they are pivoting to promoting online events (see www.snohomishCD.org/events)
- They are working on creating legislative outreach materials to enhance elected officials' knowledge of SLS priorities and needs.
- They have revitalized support for www.BetterGround.org which Snohomish CD has maintained. This outstanding URL has such potential, but ongoing support is needed.
- They will also offer topic-specific presentations at future meetings of this group to allow a deeper dive and questions.
- **They asked the partners to help in this effort by sending them names of champions who will speak for ag, seek contributory funding to assist in furthering communication efforts in the SLS, and help them tell stories that engage our community.**
- **Finally, they want partners to share information early and often;** if there is farmland up for sale, a salmon project in the works, or photos/stories of flood damage, they want to know. SLS communication efforts will require everyone's continued support and contributions. Partners are also encouraged to reach out to Lindsey, Kari, and David with news, photos, events for David's monthly newsletter.

Questions about the Communications Plan:

Paul Cereghino asked a question about how to manage the scope and breadth of the information flow. He suggested that SLS provide the integration; for instance, the SLS website could post the various newsletters in one place. Lindsey agreed that users could access specific information this way and that we want to avoid telling the same thing and simply repurposing the same information.

David suggested a disappearing work group to address SLS funding and keep everyone in the loop on schedules and opportunities. Carol suggested we consider creating a separate IT to promote coordinate communication.

Dan Calver (PSP) stated that it is going to be a competitive funding cycle this year. PSP is working to create individual virtual tours for recipients of PSAR project money. They are reaching out to specific legislators to develop support. Kristin M said she would follow up on the Stilly Package and Jessica Hammill who is leading the development of the Snohomish package for legislative advocacy.

County Comp Planning (Mitchell Brouse, Snohomish Co PDS)

Mitchell Brouse provided an overview of the Comp Plan update process over the last 6-8 months. Several groups have already been working and many ideas have already been generated. SLS will still have an opportunity to weigh in although the process is very far along. Their deadline for the overall update is June 30, 2024.

In his presentation, Mitchell identified five key tasks, the compliance review process, the five CPPs, and the update process. David Roberts noted that Nick Bratton is leading a disappearing task group (DTG) to review the existing policies and provide ideas for the SLS Partners and Steering Committee to advocate for. David also noted that Amalia Walton with Kulshan Services is assisting the DTG to evaluate the policies and develop ideas.

Mitchell noted that [Vision 2050](#) was adopted by Puget Sound Regional Council on October 29, 2020 and just released on their website. The changes to the regional vision will inform Cities and Counties of process and the requirements to be consistent. Mitchell and the folks at Snohomish PDS are evaluating how this will affect local county-wide planning and policies. Social equity and health are themes requiring more attention.

Existing policies will need to align. Mitchell suggested to the types of policies and the conversations that are appropriate to SLS at a high-level focus or vision at a county level for what they want to see in their various local plans. He identified new policy topics as well: regional open space conservation, stormwater impact reduction, emphasis on climate change, pesticide use reduction, invasive species, and protecting our water systems for potable water.

While the input process on policies ends at year end, Mitchell said there is room for additional conversations about how SLS can be involved and provide feedback. Input from this group could be carried into conversations with the full Planning Advisory Committee. These will include elected officials and [Snohomish County Tomorrow](#) which will have recommendations for County Council. In 2021, they will be moving into the briefing and adoption process which will take until the end of December 2021. Target for completing a package of recommended changes is August 2021. For questions, feel free to contact Mitchell at Mitchell.brouse@snoco.org, 415-388-5127.

Regarding whether these planning policies are advisory or more enforcement oriented, Mitchell responded that local plans must be consistent with the CPPs and other policies and there is a review process and enforcement mechanism.

David mentioned that the SLS Comp Plan work group is integrating with this work. Nick noted that SLS Steering Committee will be reviewing and discussing the recommendations of the workgroup at their December 10th meeting. Mitchell offered to help with on this so David will coordinate. **Mitchell will contact David over the next week to determine how best to wrap in SLS Partners input.**

Organizational Changes at Snohomish County (Erik Stockdale)

We learned about organizational changes at Snohomish County proposed by the County Executive and how it will support SLS. A new department called Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is being formed. It moves Surface Water Management (SWM) from Public Works into the new program with Parks/Rec/Tourism along with the Agriculture Program (Linda Neunzig) and the

Office of Energy and Sustainability. This consolidates natural resource-related county functions to achieve more environmental sustainability goals of the county. Opportunities from this re-organization could improve coordination in parks and floodplain planning on parks property. Tom Teigen will be the new director of this department.

Shortfalls created by COVID is a big concern. They are waiting on decisions for COVID relief and stimulus from the federal government. There is a \$27 million shortfall for 2020, and they don't know what 2021 will bring. Stimulus funds are very specific to things that apply to COVID and the county's response efforts. Additionally, the council's elimination of an incremental rate increase to the fee that supports SWM could significantly impact their budget. The County Executive may exercise his veto ability on this funding issue. These changes will not affect their support of the SLS. Linda and Erik will keep us posted as things move forward.

David shared a quote at the close of the meeting acknowledging the effort and heavy lift of 2020.

FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDAS

- Next SLS Partners meeting: January 14, 2021 at 10 am.
- Next Steering Committee meeting: December 10, 2020 at 10 am.
Their agenda will include the Roles and Responsibilities document, the Communications Plan, and the recommendations on the Comp Plan policy changes.
- The Partner meeting schedule 2021 was in David's most recent email. He will send more info on this shortly.

6. ADJOURN (11:52)