

# SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY MEETING

Thursday May 13, 2020 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Zoom Videoconference



## 1. WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

- Lindsey asked that people send news to her by next Friday for her to publish in the next newsletter.
- 33 people attended the meeting! During the breakout sessions at the beginning of the meeting, David queued up several questions to get people talking.

## 2. COMMUNITY COMMENT

- We had no community comment.

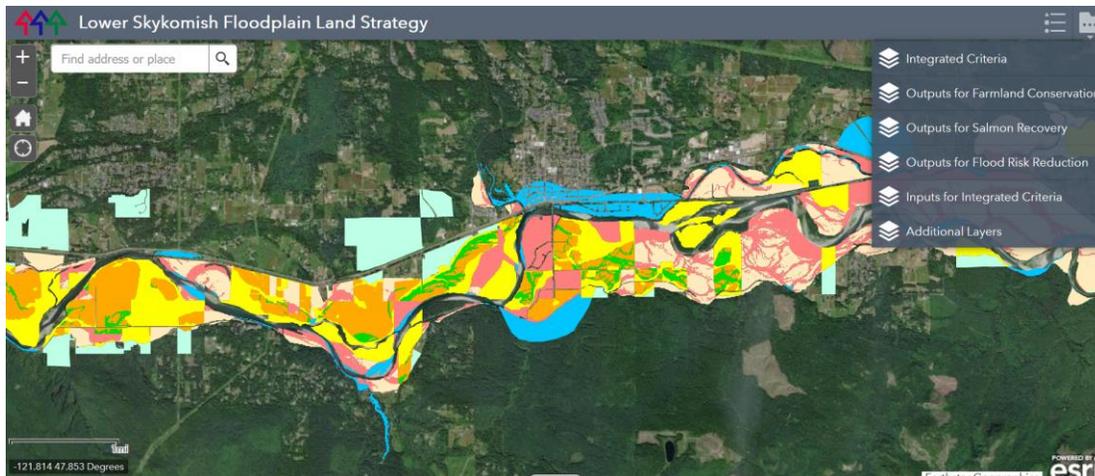
## 3. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION, ACTION (10:20 – 11:35)

Floodplains Land Strategy presentation (Spencer Easton - ESA Associates)

Goal: Partners review and provide final feedback

Spencer provided the last formal presentation of the Floodplains Land Strategy to the Partners. The workgroup for this project is seeking review and final feedback today. The tool guides acquisitions and ag land protection on the Lower Skykomish River. Earlier drafts have been shared with the SLS Partners, the Ag Caucus, and the Integration Teams. Helpful comments were provided by each.

The Strategy has 5 chapters: Intro, criteria, decision support tool, implementation pathways, appendices. A GIS mapping tool identifies land focusing on four primary criteria: farmland, salmon, flood risk reduction, integrated criteria. Where there are overlapping or competing priorities, it suggests which conversations are needed and which tools should apply. Spencer showed how the [interactive webapp](#) works and showed examples of the detail one can obtain using the app.



Spencer discussed the types of tools that can be utilized to implement the strategy. These include farmland easements, acquisitions, subdivision options, alternative farmland, channel migration easements, CREP, voluntary projects on privately owned land. He finished up by showing an example of one of the seven implementation pathways.

The team is developing a way for the county to update the data and analysis with Geospatial Methodologies Report. Finally, they are working on a StoryMap that will be a public face of the strategy.

The final document will be wrapped up by end of June 2021. Comments will be accepted until Thursday, May 27. Comments can be sent to: [seaston@esassoc.com](mailto:seaston@esassoc.com)

Questions submitted in the chat:

*Is the flood risk assessment current flood risk or does it take into account any potential increases/decreases in future flood risk?*

Spencer - They were focused on the geomorphic hazards, future erosion risk, but they weren't looking at future inundation, but they could revisit it.

*Acquisitions and easements are a major tool. Does the plan suggest any innovative land valuation strategies?*

Spencer - There is a limit to how innovative you can be with the ECY guidelines.

David Roberts - Amalia and Jessica Hamill are working on new easements for channel migration zones and flood prone areas.

Spencer – We can incorporate this information before finalizing the document.

Jessica Hamill - The valuation mechanisms are varied and we are exploring some new approaches that can be applied to parcels based on unique aspects of those parcels. This is part of the "next steps" with strategy implementation.

*The pathway approach is nuanced and lovely. How does this strategy work toward landscape function, meaning functions that are only achieved at a landscape scale over many parcels?*

Spencer – There are a variety of data layers – potentially accessible floodplain habitat, highest priority flood hazard areas, also potential ag land in the vicinity. Also, you can turn on the Farmland Conservation Priorities to see WSDA data for a picture of farming at the landscape scale.

*How were those 'project vicinity' parcels selected?*

Spencer - The Reach Scale plan shows how they were chosen.

Kit Crump - The Flood Hazard Mapping Link includes Hydraulic/Hydrologic Modeling, Channel Migration, Geomorphic and Infrastructure Assessments. See:

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/5763/Flood-Hazard-Mapping>

## Draft Vision and Goals (SLS Visioning Team)

Goal: Partners review and provide feedback

David Roberts provided some background and context to the need to develop a vision and goals for SLS. The collaborative started in 2011 and lots has happened since then. More recently we had a retreat in 2019. At the present time, we are implementing a Work Plan and developing a SLS handbook that will document the processes and agreements of the collaborative. David has been working with the Steering Committee, a visioning committee to gather ideas for a new vision, a revised mission and new goals to be reviewed today. SLS needs these defined to guide the future work of the SLS Multi-Benefit Monitoring and Comp Plan workgroups.

David thanked the 10 visioning volunteers who reviewed a stack of historical SLS documents and met to generate the ideas about week ago. The group was asked to consider where SLS was at the beginning, where we are now, and where we want to be in the future. Linda Lyshall, Paul Cereghino, and David pulled the essence of visioning input together into the ideas review today.

Following this introduction, the group moved into a working session that lasted about 45 minutes. There were three sets of breakout rooms, one dedicated to each topic: vision, mission, and goals. Members were randomly organized for each breakout room into groups of 3-4 to discuss the draft language provided. One person from each group was asked to be a scribe. At the conclusion of each 10-minute session their notes were entered into the chat. David provided a very quick review of each as it was shared. The information gathered will be provided to the visioning group for review and incorporation into a new set of drafts. Once this information has been processed and new drafts prepared, they will be provided to the Steering Committee for their meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Generally, the group found the first drafts were a good start. The process generated a large quantity of excellent input and shared perspectives. Clearly, additional work is needed on the proposed language.

*Input on each of the three topics has been assembled for additional consideration. Please see the input in document titled: Draft SLS Vision Mission & Goals 5-13-21 Partner input*

One concern was raised about the process. Several people wondered if we had adequate input from our agricultural friends. Some suggested we should wait until fall or winter to complete this effort to ensure adequate opportunity for input. This will need to be addressed by the Steering Committee.

#### **4. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDAS (11:35-11:40)**

Next meeting is July 8. Additional meetings are planned for September 9 and November 11. The Steering Committee will be developing topics, so please let David know if you want to add a topic to the agenda. David also noted that these Partner meetings are meant to be working meetings.

## **5. EVALUATE THE MEETING (11:40-11:45)**

- Darrell asked Linda if we can get enough ag input. She shared that we doing a lot of active outreach with the ag community right now. She's fine to wait to finalize. We have had a lot of ag input. Six people from the farm community are here today and we'll continue to do outreach. We can have more formal process in the fall with more farmers. The seasonality issue is important to acknowledge.
- David asked how did this working session feel to everyone? The consensus seemed to be that it went well. Some shared that they are anxious to see everyone in person again. More time would be nice for discussions. There was general agreement that the breakout sessions were a good use of time and effective way to generate input. The size of groups worked well.

## **6. ADJOURN (11:45)**

### **Attachments:**

*Draft SLS Vision Mission & Goals 5-13-21 Partner input*