



Meeting Notes

SLS Steering Committee Meeting

December 1, 2021, 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Present: Linda Lyshall, CK Eidem, Kristin Marshall, Spencer Easton, Kirk Lakey, Morgan Ruff, Kari Quaas, Robin Fay

David Roberts, Facilitator
Sarah Parker, Notetaker

Action Items:

ITs: Update workplan; Add link to IT project lists to workplan

Daryl: Review Comprehensive Plan edits

All: Let Kristin Marshall know if you would like to help develop Floodplain Health Index strategy

Notes:

The meeting began at 10:05 AM.

The group shared their biggest challenges at the moment. Responses included: Not enough time to do everything, prioritizing tasks, limited staff capacity to engage in all the moving pieces, so much time on video-meetings, missing transition time of in-person meetings, increased collaborative work is good but takes more time.

Steering Committee Updates

- Kari sent out the communications newsletter this morning.
- The Communications Group is seeking people with a connection to the Stillaguamish and Snohomish River Basins to apply to the digital storytelling project. Forward the details and [application](#) to anyone who might be interested. The application is due on December 15.
- Ducks Unlimited hired a Washington policy staff member. This should increase CK's capacity.
- Snohomish CD announced the [Ag Project Management position](#).
- The full Snohomish IT will have their first meeting next week.
- A Community Floodplain Solutions Special Topic Session is scheduled for January 19.
- David is collecting final input on the Comprehensive Plan edits.

Working together – SC, ITs, and workgroups

The Steering Committee reviewed the Working Together document (included in the meeting packet sent by David on November 19). This document came out of a conversation during the July Snohomish IT meeting. The IT leads, Linda L., Daryl, and David developed it further this fall.

Highlights of the conversation included:

- The Steering Committee will gather input from the ITs and add this to the workplan. The ITs will add policy needs to the workplan.
- Steering Committee meetings will include twenty minutes for participant updates. The rest of each meeting will focus on working efforts. Updates will also be included in [monthly news updates](#).
- One partner meeting each year will focus on a progress report and presentation from each IT.
- The Steering Committee needs to identify a process for considering letters of support and policy advocacy. This should be noted in the document (e.g. “Steering committee will coordinate with partners on advocacy questions”). Morgan noted that the Snohomish Forum has a policy and process for people to follow when they want a letter of support from the Forum. We might look at a similar process.

SLS Workplan Update for 2022

The group reviewed the restructured [workplan](#) and outlined the update process.

Highlights of the conversation included:

- We can add an expected completion date for some items.
- Other items are ongoing and will never be ‘completed’. A metric for ongoing tasks will be helpful.
- The workplan will link to the IT project lists. The Stilly and Snohomish project lists are similarly structured.
- The Stilly IT has separated items by capacity and pipeline work on their project list. The list includes a 4-5 year outlook on where projects may be headed.

The group decided to move forward with the new workplan format. The workplan will be updated with dates, updated tasks, and support needed by the week before the February 2nd Steering Committee meeting.

Process for Floodplains by Design package review

Considering the tight timing (FbD app process reduced by 3 months), the timing of the holidays and the similarity of proposals supported by SLS and other partners during the FbD 2021-2023 round, the ITs introduced the following process for SC/SLS involvement:

- January 14th: Submitted pre-application provided to SLS partners and SC members at time of submission.
- January 31st: SLS partners and SC members provide concerns/highlight questions or information needs on the pre-app in prep for February presentations.
- February 14-18th: Project applicant with IT and broader SLS support present to Ecology. Synthesis of Ecology comments provided to SLS.
- IT members and the project proponent will work individually or in small groups with those who have expressed concern, have questions or need additional information in order to support an application.
- March 2nd: ITs attend SLS meeting and present package to SLS partners and SC for any final feedback or discussion and to provide any insights provided by Ecology as a result of the presentations in February.

- March 30th: IT members and ultimately the project proponent will make final decisions about any remaining issues.
- April 6th: The ITs will seek a letter of support at the April 6th SLS Steering Committee meeting.
- April 15th: SLS and other partner's letters of support for final submittal (if supported).
- April 27th: Submittal of application (early given technology and other challenges)

The role of the Steering Committee is to:

- Encourage timely and respectful review and input on FbD application.
- Encourage all Steering Committee members to be prepared for and attend the March SLS (Partner) meeting.
- Provide input to the IT on the integrated package of projects from agriculture, salmon recovery, and flood risk reduction perspectives.
- Provide time at a March SLS Partners meeting to solicit broader input on the project package.
- Provide a letter of support for the grant application on behalf of SLS.
- Coordinate a powerful advocacy approach with partners and leadership to help secure funding for the FbD program and specifically the Snohomish and Stillaguamish packages with the Legislature.

CK requested that updates are provided for all Steering Committee members, including those who do not attend the IT meetings.

The group discussed holding a work session/Special Topic Session, if needed, between February 18 and March 2. The ITs are not expecting any projects to be controversial. However, the controversial piece for the Stilly projects might be about how much support goes to farm, fish, and flood. Snohomish County and the Stillaguamish Tribe will make the final decisions, regardless of SLS support.

The ITs will present projects (~45 minutes per IT) at the March 2nd Partners meeting. They will bring results to the Steering Committee meeting.

It will be most helpful for the ITS to have two Steering Committee members involved in the process during the next couple of months. Linda L. or Andy can help cover the farm perspective.

There will be a considerable advocacy push after submission.

Next steps for the Index of Floodplain Health

Linda L. reviewed the focus and next steps for the Index of Floodplain Health process (formerly called Multi-benefit Monitoring program). She shared highlights from the [Special Topic Session](#).

Goal clarification for Developing the Index:

- We are reviewing work that has been accomplished in other watersheds and learning from their approach.
- We are not trying to duplicate other approaches but rather borrow what we think makes sense for developing an SLS index.
- Some SLS folks have worked on these projects in other watersheds. Snohomish CD wants to learn from these people.

- Snohomish CD encourages all SLS partners to help develop the tool.

Goals include:

- Collaboratively develop an Index that is useful for partners
- Build trust among partners
- Identify and work towards shared goals

Challenges include:

- Competing land uses and goals for future land use (we can't solve this with this tool)
- Need for more communication and transparency (this tool might help)

The process will include identifying goals and objectives, designing monitoring approach, monitoring, and reporting out.

The Snohomish CD will work on strategy with a small group. Reach out to Kristin Marshall if you would like to be part of the strategy process.

Future meetings

The next Partner meeting is on January 5. Steering Committee members suggested the following agenda items: A review of the recent flooding and related impacts (e.g. impacts on salmon runs and farms); Review workplan and address any items that are not yet underway; Review the calendar for the FbD process (Spencer).

Future Steering Committee Meeting Dates (All meetings will be 10:00-12:00 unless otherwise notified):

February 2

April 6

June 1

August 3

October 5

December 7

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.