SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY MEETING
Thursday September 9, 2021 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Zoom Videoconference

Attendance: Bennett LaFonde, Carol McElroy, Spencer Easton, Todd Eastman, Dani Driscoll, Kristin Marshall, Lindsey Desmul, Valerie Normand, Janet Wright, Jessica Hammill, Molly Bogeberg, CK Eidem, Daryl Williams, Kari Quaas, Darcy Hughes, Heather Cole, Heather Kahn, Kirk Lakey, Joe Sambataro, Joycelyn Blue, Linda Lyshall, Robin Fay, David Roberts (facilitation), Allison Roberts (note-taking), and Sarah Parker (Zoom support)

1) Welcome and agenda review

2) Group exercise
We were assigned to two small breakout groups and asked to share – “What are you looking forward to this fall?”

3) Building Understanding and Collaboration
David Roberts introduced the meeting exercise as an opportunity to build understanding of how others benefit and contribute to SLS. In addition, we explored ideas for high level priorities for the year ahead.
We met in breakout rooms of 3-4 people and shared our ideas around the following three themes. Each person was asked to share their ideas. Where multiple representatives from organizations participated in the discussions, these have been combined for clarity of reading. (Duplicate ideas from individual organizations have not be removed to ensure that all comments are included.)

How does your organization contribute to SLS?
Shared insights: Really fun to hear details of what others are working on. Each organizations brings perspectives and values. Meeting each other was nice – some of us had never met! Lots of talent and firepower in the group to get things done!

Organization contributions:

- **Org**: Ecology:
  i. Technical Assistance
  ii. Grant/Loan Funding Assistance
  iii. Permitting
  iv. Water Quality sampling as needed
  v. Water Cleanup plans, partner coordination

- **Org**: Ducks Unlimited
  i. Different perspective(s)
  ii. Project delivery
  iii. Engineering capacity
  iv. Passionate constituency, nonprofit
focus on water management

- **Org:** Forterra
  - i. TDR programs, coordination, and transaction
  - ii. Conservation Planning
  - iii. Acquisition project implementation of agriculture, habitat, and multi-benefit properties
  - iv. Landowner knowledge and relationships
  - v. Access to grant programs and funding tools

- **Org:** Snohomish Conservation District
  - i. Multi-benefit perspectives
  - ii. Project development
  - iii. Connection to local stakeholders
  - iv. Strategic planning
  - v. Meeting facilitation (Stilly IT)
  - vi. Outreach and communications
  - vii. Project development
  - viii. Advocacy
  - ix. Multi-benefit monitoring (in the works)
  - x. Communications
  - xi. Website mgmt.
  - xii. Newsletter
  - xiii. Project implementation (ag, ag resilience, salmon recovery, and some flood risk benefits)
  - xiv. Communications: SLS comms, ITs, and landowner communications and connections
  - xv. Broad natural resource/multi-benefit perspective with a strong focus on supporting working lands

- **Org:** Snohomish County SWM
  - i. Updating County & external SLS webpages
  - ii. Collaborating SLS related outreach
  - iii. Convening SLS
  - iv. Records retention
  - v. Coordinating within County and external partners around shared goals
  - vi. Reach-scale Plans, flood hazard studies and other technical support
  - vii. Coordination between various groups working towards the same goals
  - viii. Flood Hazard/Geomorphic Assessment information and historical records for the county
  - ix. Contacts with various landowners (possibly different from other organization contacts)
  - x. Ability to disperse information on a county wide scale
  - xi. Help coordinate on the ground projects
  - xii. Contribute towards SLS Communications strategy
  - xiii. Try to bring more of the flood perspective
  - xiv. Help with funding of projects through grant applications.
  - xv. Fund SLS facilitation role
  - xvi. Convene stakeholder groups
  - xvii. Steering committee representatives
  - xviii. Give voice to fish, flood, farm interests
  - xix. Implement vision and mission of SLS (via CFS program)

- **Org:** Snohomish County Planning & Development Services
  - i. Policy updates and opportunities for input
ii. Communications and technical support
iii. Opportunities for education & coordination, esp. regarding flood management

- **Org**: Snohomish IT
  i. Provide a forum for staff-level coordination and collaboration
  ii. Collaborative integrated project development
  iii. Development of broadly supported FbD grant applications
  iv. Input on policy issues that SLS could advance
  v. Increasing pace and magnitude of on-the-ground results

- **Org**: Stilly IT (part of SLS structure)
  i. Not vetted by Stilly IT members
  ii. Integrated/coordinated project ideas
  iii. On-the-ground project implementation by partner project leads
  iv. Tracking and reporting on progress
  v. Identification of policy, political and funding needs to move project work forward
  vi. Highly localized connections to landowners in the Stilly
  vii. Coordination/tracking/implementation of grant applications
  viii. Structured forum and collaborative process directly related to project development to identify and work to resolve or understand conflicts
  ix. Forum for trust building and relationship development amongst project proponents

- **Org**: The Nature Conservancy
  i. SLS is a forum to share and communicate what we our working on the land management side.
  ii. Supports IFM locally and provides a model of what integrated floodplain management looks like locally.
  iii. Provides a connection to what is working local and what is not and forum to resolve those issues regionally.
  iv. Funding advocacy for FbD
  v. Providing updates on our restoration project at Port Susan Bay
  vi. Floodplains by Design connections and coordination

- **Org**: Tulalip Tribes
  i. Co-Chair
  ii. Represent Fish Interest
  iii. Steering committee representatives

- **Org**: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
  i. Technical Support
  ii. Assist with Public Education and Outreach – Newsletter
  iii. Grant Application assistance and review
  iv. HPA Issuance when necessary
  v. Lindsey Desmul’s staff time to create outreach products for SLS
  vi. Bring the salmon recovery perspective
  vii. Potentially help with regulatory issues related to land use
  viii. Answer funding questions related to salmon recovery and multi-benefit projects
  ix. Participate in the ITs as needed
  x. Incorporate different perspectives in project development
  xi. NTA funding for SLS communication strategy

- **Org**: WA Farmland Trust
i. One of the partner organizations that focus on ag easements and have contributed to ag mapping priorities.
ii. Represent ag but not from one basin or sector, helping to maintain a bigger picture for ag, rather than a producer centric view. Helping to represent ag at the SLS table.
iii. Have helped the thinking of IT and bring in funding to support on-the-ground conservation tools (ie holding the ag portion of grants and project proposals)
iv. Understanding of local watersheds/landscapes/ecology
v. IT organization/facilitation

How does your organization benefit from SLS?
Shared insights: Funding and prioritization of projects. Together we make the dollars go farther. Legislative outreach very effective with good process and outcomes. Shared advocacy makes us stronger. Working toward shared goals. Integration and pulling together different interests. We can put aside any differences and do things together. Sharing diverse interests (public, private, and nonprofit) on multi-benefit projects and perspectives talking with each other. Separate and together structures work well. Work our disagreements between caucuses before we get to the final stages of a project and permit phase. Early and often engagement for stakeholders.

Organization contributions:

- **Org: Ecology**
  i. Meeting and connecting with new people.
  ii. Active listening towards differing perspectives/concerns. Makes us think about how to improve or assist.

- **Org: Duck Unlimited**
  i. Connection to partners
  ii. Shape/contribute policy discussions
  iii. Project leads
  iv. Articulate and advance DU interests and priorities
  v. represent waterfowlers and other consumptive recreation interests

- **Org: Forterra**
  i. Project support from partners
  ii. Landscape/landowner knowledge base
  iii. Access to grants and partners

- **Org: Snohomish Conservation District**
  i. Connection to higher level/policy level thinking and advocacy
  ii. Input across interest groups to better understand regional importance of district projects/priorities
  iii. A chance to participate in a larger initiative across partner groups that align with org goals
  iv. Continue to build our network of people who voluntarily support natural resources
  v. Help our ag community get funding for projects
  vi. Help our waterways and fish habitat projects
  vii. Dedicated time/framework for coordination and communication on project implementation (ITs)
  viii. Strengthened partnerships on funding proposals
  ix. Funding leverage (match!)
  x. Opportunity coordinated voice for policy change
xi. Bring together diverse perspectives and missions to improve multi-benefit coordination and collaboration
xii. Collaboration on large-scale projects
xiii. Strategic planning
xiv. Shared advocacy, stronger voice together
xv. Legislative outreach
xvi. Resources, knowledge, expertise

• Org: Snohomish County SWM
  i. We benefit from collaborating with internal and external partners in the community around shared goals
  ii. SLS offers such a talented cadre of professionals to learn from
  iii. The mix of public, private and non-profit members allows for more diverse interactions and work than the County could do on our own
  iv. Find common ground versus more adversarial relationships around FFF issues
  v. Perspective on capital projects
  vi. Helps our projects get vetted in the community
  vii. Collaborative partnership with organizations
  viii. Coordination so the community can see these different agencies are on the same page
  ix. Make funding go further through partnerships
  x. Project/funding support
  xi. Comp Plan support
  xii. Networking - understanding impacts of projects (positive or negative) on other stakeholders
  xiii. Partnering
  xiv. Getting a big picture view of the priorities for everyone
  xv. Finding potential project collaboration areas
  xvi. Different individuals with expertise
  xvii. A connections “web” (each person knows different contacts)

• Org: Snohomish County DCNR-SWM/PDS
  i. Project support for funding
  ii. Project support for permits
  iii. Engagement in the Comp Plan
  iv. Varied viewpoints (multi-stakeholder interests)
  v. Opportunity to become more aware of projects and programs

• Org: Snohomish IT (list written by Spencer, not IT members)
  i. SLS is positioned to address broader policy issues - the “enabling conditions” for the project-level work the IT is focused on
  ii. SLS is a mechanism for getting broad support for actions (helpful for grant apps among other things) - coalition building
  iii. SLS Partners and caucuses provide structures for soliciting input on projects and actions from a diverse group of perspectives

• Org: Stilly IT (not vetted by Stilly IT partners) Carol only
  i. Stilly IT partners benefit from regular, structured interactions and time to discuss, plan and collaborate on projects and grant applications
  ii. SLS SC and partners are positioned to provide advocacy (policy and political), support for project development and advancement, fundraising advocacy
  iii. Structure to connect Stilly and Snohomish
• **Org: The Nature Conservancy**
  i. Forum to share updates about projects
  ii. A neutral place to hold conversations and share information
  iii. A collaborative space to come up with projects for FbD that address farm, fish, and flood interests and needs.
  iv. A place to hear about concerns and to understand what other interests are thinking about. …and come together to help solve those issues.
  v. SLS is a forum to share and communicate what we our working on on the lands mngt side.
  vi. SLS provides a model of what integrated floodplain management looks like locally and can share with the larger region.
  vii. Provides a connection to what is working locally and what is not and a forum to resolve those issues regionally or broader.

• **Org: Tulalip Tribes**
  i. Permitting and funding process
  ii. Support from various parties (ag, fish, and more)
  iii. Fish habitat (and ag) further up in the priority list for funding
  iv. Work with other organizations on which projects are funded first (prioritization)

• **Org: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**
  i. Learning more about other perspectives, we are incorporating other perspectives into project design
  ii. We never get the agricultural perspective outside of SLS - much appreciated!
  iii. A chance to talk to non-salmon recovery folks
  iv. Learn about what changes WDFW can make to facilitate easier land use actions
  v. Gives us a chance to contribute to projects that we might otherwise not be a part of
  vi. Hearing about the concerns, struggles and issues from the Stakeholders and figuring out how WDFW can provide assistance.

• **Org: WA Farmland Trust**
  i. Sounding board for ag conservation strategy and prioritization.
  ii. Collaboration on large scale grants (FbD).
  iii. Opportunity to integrate work on the ground with habitat/flood interests through the IT process.
  iv. Letters of support for projects and grants.
  v. Historical perspective of farm/fish/flood work that has come before.

What do you think are the priorities for SLS in the coming year?
Shared insights: Additional legislative outreach and more partnering. Accelerating the pace of protection of resource lands. Engagement in the Comp Plan. Get the website done and explore lots of communication efforts to achieve our goals. Enhance the Ag community engagement in SLS. Infrastructure package funding will create a need for staffing and get the money on the ground as quickly as possible. Share resources to work together to fill holes and work as a team to put the money to use on the ground.

David will include a review and update of the Work Plan for the November meeting. In spite of the pandemic, there has been a lot completed and done. The broad goals are great. We need specific goals...
to track how we are doing and hopefully complete this fall and early winter. Some will come from the multi-benefit monitoring program.

**Organization contributions:**

- **Org**: Ecology
  i. Ensure we have continued Agriculture representation
  ii. Continue fostering partnerships across salmon recovery, flood and agriculture lines to achieve planning towards developing projects that are multi-benefit.
- **Org**: Ducks Unlimited
  i. ITs - Integration and Strategy for conceptualizing projects at the Reach-scale
  ii. Communications about our projects should follow that
  iii. Facilitating process so projects can happen at the partner level (EX: Leque Island, Smith Island, funding for farm projects)
- **Org**: Forterra
  i. Second everything on green list!
  ii. Implementation of acquisitions per Lower Skykomish and Stillaguamish priorities/mapping
  iii. Act faster with other tools like TDR, buy and hold transactions
  iv. Incentivize landowners with long term leases, life estates
- **Org**: Snohomish Conservation District
  i. Collaborate in funding development and project planning
  ii. Identify shared goals/mission and key working points
  iii. Increase awareness of SLS in broader community
  iv. Support ongoing IT/partner org projects through advocacy and higher level/regional planning
  v. Legislative outreach with strategic focus
  vi. Advocacy
  vii. Multi-benefit monitoring project (weighted decision matrix development)
  viii. Voices of SLS being shared
  ix. General public recognition of our partner work
  x. New website
  xi. Floodplain video
  xii. funding and project coordination and stakeholder engagement as proposals come together
  xiii. advocacy: state budget as well as advocacy with funders and policy makers to reduce barriers to implementation (permitting, funding program barriers, land use)
  xiv. continue to increase the agriculture voice and presence at SLS
- **Org**: Snohomish County SWM
  i. Getting a big picture view of the priorities for everyone
  ii. Finding potential project collaboration areas
  iii. Different individuals with expertise
  iv. A connections “web” (each person knows different contacts)
  v. Support & Implement the County & external SLS websites to better tell the story of SLS work and better engage the community in our work
  vi. Better information sharing among partners
  vii. More project and initiative coordination (ensure we are meeting the needs of multiple stakeholder groups as much as possible)
  viii. More project support and funding support for stakeholders and partners
  ix. Tool for funding opportunities/timing to provide more visibility for SWM and SLS partners
  x. Building PM capacity
xi. Ag engagement to reach farmers
xii. Accelerate funding aspect -> streamline the funding
xiii. Comp plan engagement in update
xiv. Conserve resource lands.
xv. Incorporate a flood perspective - finding the voice that represents that (diking districts, risk reduction, etc.)
xvi. Emphasize and accelerate resource land conservation/protection

- **Org:** Snohomish County PDS
  i. Advocacy for projects
  ii. Increased awareness to other organizations re SLS mission and goals
  iii. Input into county planning for GMA update

- **Org:** Snohomish IT
  i. Securing funding
  ii. Policy work and advocacy to support enabling conditions for project

- **Org:** Stilly IT (not vetted by Stilly IT members)
  i. Advocacy and support for a variety of funding packages
  ii. Advocacy on a variety of policy issues?
  iii. Support IT work to continue to develop and advance projects and project pipeline work
  iv. Snohomish County Comp plan

- **Org:** The Nature Conservancy
  i. Think Big on funding needs
  ii. What projects are moving forward and not- how can we fund the whole package of projects-ag, salmon and flood.
  iii. Project management support to get the funding on the ground quickly.
  iv. Figuring out how to engage the agriculture community and what they need to be involved in the SLS.
  v. Brainstorming a project or policy that brings ag, flood, and fish interests together
  vi. Continue to hold meetings where people can share their concerns, information, or spark dialog.

- **Org:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
  i. Recruit new individuals and organizations to participate
  ii. Advocacy!!
  iii. Collaborative legislative outreach
  iv. Implement coordination on new multi-benefit projects
  v. Make the SLS logo and name more familiar in the community

- **Org:** Tulalip Tribes
  i. Support IT processes
  ii. Complete update to SLS workplan
  iii. Continue Comp Plan reviews as the process moves forward.
  iv. Move forward caucus priorities

- **Org:** WA Farmland Trust
  i. Advocate for natural resource priorities in comp plan update process.
  ii. Provide advocacy/support to ITs on funding initiatives/grant applications
  iii. Continue work on detailed goals to accompany vision/mission statement

4) **Announcements**

- **Special Topic Session:** Molly Bogeberg from TNC announced that the Port Susan Bay Restoration Team will make a presentation and answer questions regarding their restoration efforts at the TNC
Port Susan Bay property in a SLS Special Topic Session on September 22 at 10:00AM - 11:30AM. Participants are encouraged to review the presentation given to the Stillaguamish IT and to send questions to molly.bogeberg@tnc.org ahead of the meeting. The team will give a short overview of the project and the blasting method and then answer questions.

- **Agroforestry tour** – The Snohomish Conservation District is hosting an Agroforestry Farm Tour on Monday, September 27 in Snohomish at Raising Cane Ranch. The District wants producers to join us who are interested in alley cropping (aka growing hay and apples concurrently) to see how it may benefit producers who want to grow food and build a forest canopy in a streamside buffer area. This and other webinars being held this fall are included on the SLS Events page. Contact Kari Quaas for more information.

- **Partnership Breakfast** is September 17 at 8 am at Craven Farm sponsored by the Snohomish Conservation District. Let Kari Quaas or Linda Lyshall know ASAP if you wish to attend the Partnership Breakfast - https://forms.gle/8eYu51YhK2Dqam1v9 They are limiting attendance to this outside event which is attending to all COVID protocols.

- **Water Quality Combined Financial Assistance grant cycle** (Centennial, Section 319, State Revolving Fund, Stormwater Financial Assistance) opened last month for applications. The application period ends on October 12 at 5 pm sharp. (Heather Kahn, DOE) She noted South Skagit Bay is addressing bacteria and shellfish beds. Continuing in the subbasin approach to various creeks.

- **The SLS Communications Team is sending out a consumer survey** starting tomorrow to see what consumers want and what they know and appreciate about local farm products. Hopefully useful to the ag community. It goes out tomorrow. Contact Kari Quaas or Lindsey Desmul.

- **Job opportunity**: State Conservation Commission Executive Director is retiring October 16. Taking applications now and will need to appoint an interim.

- **SLS News Update**: David Roberts reminded folks that they send these announcements to him so they get in the SLS News update every month.

- **Next Partner Meeting** is November 3 at 10 am. Send agenda topic ideas to David Roberts.

Closing