

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 been 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 organization 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

- v. 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/space 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