

## Meeting Notes

### SLS Steering Committee

April 6, 2022 10:00AM – 12:00PM

**Attendance:** Carol MacIlroy, Kristin Marshall, Daryl Williams, Summer Daugherty, Erik Stockdale, Kirk Lakey, Linda Lyshall, Lindsey Desmul, Terry Williams, Spencer Easton, Kari Quaas, Beth Liddell, Robin Fay, Terri Strandberg

David Roberts, Facilitator  
Sarah Parker, Notetaker



### Notes:

Meeting started at 10:00 AM.

### Roundtable Sharing

- Lindsey Desmul and Kari Quaas will make a presentation and participate in a panel discussion at the Salish Sea Conference on Collaborative Floodplain Management during the week of April 26th. David Roberts will moderate the session.
- Kari will post the digital storytelling videos on the [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages each Friday until early June. On June 9<sup>th</sup>, the Communications Group will host an in-person showing of all the digital storytelling films. They will invite legislator to attend. This event will be partly funded by the NTA. More information will be forthcoming.
- On April 28<sup>th</sup>, SLS will have a table at an in-person Snohomish County event. David will send out a draft flyer to be distributed at this event. He requested Steering Committee approval by April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Terry Williams shared that Monte Marte is travelling on the East Coast and has volunteered to meet with tribes to discuss what types of restoration work they are engaging in. Monte supports a tribal workgroup that is focused on restoration.
- Terry also noted that he is putting together a book on climate change and the changes we'll need to see in watershed.

### Review and approval of FbD letters of support

- Spencer shared that the Snohomish IT has not made any major changes to the Snohomish Watershed Floodplains by Design (FbD) package since the Partners meeting in March. The Snohomish IT is working on the final details now.
  - All attending Steering Committee members were in favor of moving forward with the package. David will add signatures to the SLS letter of support and send it to Spencer.
- Kristin and Carol shared that the Stilly IT has made a couple changes to the Stillaquamish Watershed FbD package since January. The overarching goal is to keep people and infrastructure out of harm's way.

- The two elements that were removed from the package include flood modeling and the Jorgenson Slough Tide Gate. Kristin sent out a summary of changes to the package, the updated SLS attributes table, and the updated project list. The updated proposal requests \$7.7 million from FbD and a \$4.93 million match.
  - FEMA is currently in the process of updating data, so the flood modeling project is not necessary at this time. Erik noted that 25% of flood damage claims in state are outside of FEMA 100-year flood plain.
  - The Snohomish Conservation District and several of its partners are pursuing other funding for the Jorgenson Slough Tide Gate.
- Kristin will draft a SLS letter of support for the Stillaguamish package. David will send it out to the Steering Committee and request approval by April 22.

### Comprehensive Plan update recommendations

David provided an overview of the work the Comp Plan Workgroup has had going and their draft recommendations regarding the update to the Comprehensive Plan. The Workgroup has been meeting and developing ideas over the last two years, developing a framework of themes, input to the County's visioning process, ideas for the SEPA scoping, and for the last three months, working on recommended changes to the General Planning Policies (GPPs).

Key themes include:

- Expand conservation of resource lands by strengthening land use and natural environment policies to create more opportunities for implementing existing tools;
- Clarify policies to direct more growth into existing urban footprint, including partnering with cities;
- Support regional growth targets by reducing conversion pressure on rural and resource lands;
- Improve viability of farming and the agricultural economy;
- Reduce climate change impacts and flood hazard risks by supporting land uses that improve natural watershed function and limit adverse impacts;
- Move from study to implementation wherever possible. Feedback should drive policy.
- Address issues of social justice.

David shared two documents that highlight the recommendations: A summary document with the themes and general recommendations, and a spreadsheet with details of each recommendation which will be the tool to share with County PDS. Linda Lyshall suggested one edit to the summary document: "Require coordination" to "To increase coordination"

David is seeking input from the Steering Committee and Partners on the recommendations. He will host a Special Topic Session on April 20<sup>th</sup> to gather input from the Partners and anyone else who is interested. He will also share the updates at the April 11<sup>th</sup> Ag Board meeting.

The goal is to deliver recommendations to PDS around the first week of May. That way, the recommendations are most likely to be considered in the updates that are undergo SEPA analysis and public review.

The Comp Plan Task Group is meant to be a disappearing task group. After they deliver recommendations to PDS, the group will have a clear schedule for a while. They will re-convene to comment on draft policies when they come out in a year and participate in the SEPA review process.

Terri Strandberg of Planning & Development Services (PDS) has been instrumental in helping to compile ideas for the update. Terri shared that SLS input has been helpful for the natural environment section of the Comp Plan, which she is leading. She will forward land use and housing recommendations to the people in charge of those chapters.

Moving forward, land use alternatives will be developed by June to go to consultants for SEPA review. The general policy plan will be taken to Planning Commission beginning in the first quarter of 2023. Final adoption has been pushed back to December of 2024. Snohomish County will include a Climate Change Element as part of 2024 Comp Plan update.

#### Funding Updates

- The legislature awarded funds to the Conservation Commission for restoration work. Snohomish CD will see these funds come through July 1.
- Additional funding has been awarded by the Recreation and Conservation Office for salmon restoration work.
- American Rivers and BEF are the new “backbone” of the FbD program. Brandon Parsons from American Rivers is pulling together a group of people to work on increased coordination for federal infrastructure bill spending. Brandon scheduled a meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Email [bparsons@americanrivers.org](mailto:bparsons@americanrivers.org) if you would like to be involved or learn more.
- Terry Williams noted the need to look far ahead when planning restoration work and to consider climate impacts. He also suggested talking to Executive Dave Summers about integrating SLS funds with those of other agencies to address long-range challenges and opportunities.

#### SLS News Updates

The group discussed the role and effectiveness of the monthly SLS News Update, and the distinction between the Update and the Quarterly Newsletter.

- *Role of Monthly Partners News Update:* The monthly news update provides an opportunity for the Partners to share regular updates outside of meeting times. The intended audience includes SLS Partners only. By providing this space for updates, the Partners and Steering Committee can have more productive conversations during meeting times.
- *Role of Quarterly Newsletter:* The quarterly newsletter put together by the Communications Group fulfills a grant requirement. The intended audience includes anyone who is interested in SLS—it is an externally facing newsletter. Partners should send public facing stories, news of successes, and other relevant SLS news to Lindsey and Kari to include in the newsletter.

#### Upcoming SLS meetings – plans for in-person or virtual

The group discussed shifting to in-person Partner meetings and keeping smaller meetings virtual. So far, the County has provided only limited access for meetings in their facilities. Linda Lyshall shared that the

Snohomish CD bought property with a greenhouse and barn (located at the intersection of HWY 9 and 20<sup>th</sup> by Lake Stevens). Linda offered host the May Partners meeting in the greenhouse.

The Steering Committee members approved of in-person Partner meetings.

Erik shared this picture of a meeting at Linda N.'s farm before the pandemic began.



#### Agenda Items for June Steering Committee meeting

- David will share progress on the workplan.
- Linda L. will provide an update on multi-benefit monitoring.
- Terry suggested that the group discuss transportation rules and regulations for agricultural products. Specifically, he mentioned discussing how to deliver products that ease the cost of transportation for producers. Linda Neunzig might have valuable input on this.
- The group might also discuss fertilizer availability and cost issues. Russia was a major exporter of fertilizer. With the sanctions against Russian exports, countries are scrambling to find other sources, but global food supplies are likely to be reduced this year due to the lack of fertilizer availability. What can be done locally to support Snohomish County producers?

#### Agenda Items for future Partner meetings

- Linda L. will lead discussion on multi-benefit monitoring at the July 6 meeting.
- The Communications Group can discuss planning a SLS farm to table dinner this summer.
- Brainstorm around SLS prioritization. Terry noted the need to look for future economic development opportunities in a more aggressive way.
- Discussion around the lack of interaction between SLS, forestry, and construction. How can this be improved?

The group also discussed doing an in-person special topic session at the Qualco Digester.

Meeting adjourned at 11:57 PM.