

**SNOHOMISH BASIN SALMON RECOVERY FORUM**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Thursday, August, 2017 • 9:00 a.m. - Noon**  
**Waltz Building, Snohomish**

On August 3, 2017, the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum (the Forum) met for a regularly scheduled meeting from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The following were in attendance:

<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Alexa Ramos	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Cheryl Dungan	City of Marysville
Colin Wahl	Tulalip Tribes
Dan Calvert	Puget Sound Partnership
Denise Johns	City of Snohomish
Elissa Ostergaard	Snoqualmie Forum
Erik Stockdale	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Heather Cole	The Nature Conservancy
Heather Khan	WA Dept. of Ecology
Hiedi Popochock	King County
Jamie Bails	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jessica Hamill	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Jim Miller	City of Everett
Lindsey Desmul	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Monte Marti	Snohomish Conservation District
Morgan Ruff	Tulalip Tribes
Paul Crane	City of Everett
Ralph Svrjcek	WA Dept. of Ecology
Scott Powell	Seattle City Light
Will Hall	Snohomish County Surface Water Management

**Meeting Summary**

**Introductions and Announcements**

- **Terry Williams called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.**
  - Attendees introduced themselves
  - The agenda was reviewed and approved
  - No public comment was made

**Basin Updates and Discussion**

- **Snoqualmie Forum Update**
  - Elissa announced a 2-hour project tour in the south fork Skykomish watershed will take place on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Dinner will be provided. The regular Forum meeting will follow at 6:15pm. If interested, please RSVP by Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> for the tour. Site visits will include:

- Proposed Maloney Creek Trail Network: Hear from Forterra about an effort to establish a network of trails near Maloney Creek to provide recreational and economic opportunities in the Town of Skykomish
  - Maloney Creek Interpretive Trail: Visit a Town of Skykomish interpretive trail and view a project that reduced flooding and improved habitat conditions in Maloney Creek.
  - Beckler River Confluence Large Wood Design Project: Learn how the Wild Fish Conservancy and the US Forest Service will install wood in the river to engage side channels, improving juvenile Chinook salmon habitat.
  - King County's Miller River Restoration Project: Visit a King County project site that restores floodplain habitat on the Miller River.
- **Committee Partner Updates**
    - Net pens: See briefing handout. Colin gave an overview of the emerging net pen issue. At the Technical Committee meeting in June, Cedar Bouta from Ecology gave a presentation on the process for developing their recommendations. Kurt Beardslee, with Wild Fish Conservancy, came to the Technical Committee in April and spoke about net pens as well. Dan commented that Cedar will be presenting on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> to the Watershed Leads and Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> to the Salmon Recovery Council.
    - Recreational dredging: See briefing handout. Scott gave an overview of the ongoing recreational dredging issue. Essentially there are various scales of dredging taking place all around the state. Motorized dredge machines suck up the gravel and process it looking for gold. There are regulations in place for this activity, but enforcement is difficult. There are potential impacts to fish and habitat. Oregon and California have banned it. The Washington Coalition is not aiming to have it banned but do seek reform.
  - **Federal Register Notices**
    - Streamlining Regulatory Processes and Reducing Regulatory Burden: See briefing handout. Morgan gave an overview of the notice which is examining the impacts of regulations to businesses. Comments are due August 21<sup>st</sup>.
    - Endangered and Threatened Species Listing and Recovery Priority Guidelines: See briefing handout. Morgan gave an overview of the notice which proposes revising the guidelines for listing/delisting ESA species. Comments are due August 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Lower Skykomish Reach Scale Plan**

- Erik gave a presentation on the Lower Sky reach scale plan. He welcomed feedback on ways to improve the web map and said he will send out the link. Erik explained the Johannsen ag land swap concept proposed by Linda Neunzig. Terry mentioned it may be prudent to look at fair/poor quality lands for use in land swaps before they're gone for housing development (high productivity soils). Terry commented that they are asking PSP to adopt a *net gain* policy; Tulalip Tribes, City of Everett, and others have similar policies in place.

#### **Regional Updates**

- **State and Federal Budget Update:** See briefing handout. Morgan informed the Forum that there is no capital budget yet. This affects PCSRF, PSAR, Fbd, etc. It also affects staffing at PSP and RCO among other agencies. One third of PSP staff is funded through the capital budget so they may have to stop working on salmon recovery (SRC, Watershed Leads, etc.). Many of the Lead Entities may have to shut down as well since they are funded by capital budget too. Thankfully, Snohomish County's Lead Entities and Tulalip Tribes will be able to keep their staff during this

period. The Hirst decision is largely responsible for the prolonged negotiations. Federally, EPA and PCSRF funds are looking good.

- **LIO:** See briefing handout. Jessica explained that having an ad hoc committee from the Snohomish LE review salmon related NTAs can provide for more integration between the LIO and LE. Monte commented that we should be on the lookout for crosscutting NTAs that may be being overlooked.
- **PSSRC:** Terry gave an overview of the Chinook priorities discussed at the last PSSRC meeting. The idea of a reduction in take is being considered. This reduction may be compensated by funds for restoration work instead. Terry posed the question of what areas would be most important to utilize these dollars.

Scott explained that this was a joint meeting with the ECB. The Tribal Management Conference gave a presentation on the bold actions they're proposing for inclusion in the Chinook Implementation Strategy. Also, Scott will be stepping down with his term ending in November. He will be retiring so he can't renew his term as vice-chair. The PDC is considering who to recommend for the role of representing the Snohomish on the PSSRC.

### Forum Business

- **SCD Letter of Support:** Monte explained the SCD's proposed rate change from an assessment structure to a rates and charges system. There will be an increase to \$10/parcel including the Stillaguamish now too. The Forum voted to approve the letter.
- **Meeting Schedule Revisions:** Gretchen has proposed that the October meeting include a potluck, to cancel the November meeting (conflicts with Focus on Farming event) and hold a December meeting instead. The Forum approved the changes. The Technical Committee has also rescheduled its next meeting to September 12<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday. Will suggested holding a joint LIO/Forum meeting in light of the ongoing restructure discussion. Lead Entity staff will find a time when a combined meeting makes the most sense.

### 2017 SRFB Ranked List

Morgan gave a presentation on the ranked project list as recommended to the Forum for approval by the Technical Committee. She gave a brief overview of each project. See handout. The Forum approved the ranked list.

The topic of acquisitions was discussed and Heather Cole mentioned that PCC Farmland is working on prioritization of urban acquisitions related to the ag resilience planning effort. The Forum requested an update on this at one of the upcoming meetings.

### Other Basin Updates

- **Active Project Update:** See handout. Morgan reviewed the handout with the group which provided very high level status updates on some of the active SRFB/PSAR projects in the basin. Lead Entity staff hope to provide similar updates on an annual/biannual basis to the Forum moving forward.

### Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next Forum meeting will be held on October 5, 2017 at the Waltz Building in Snohomish.

**Key Decisions**

- Approved letter of support for SCD rate change
- Approved meeting schedule changes
- Approved 2017 SRFB ranked project list

**Next Steps**

- Send letter of support for SCD rate change
- Send out the revised meeting schedule

**Resources and Upcoming Events**

- September 20<sup>th</sup> Skykomish watershed tour. RSVP to Maureen Dahlstrom at [Maureen.Dahlstrom@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Maureen.Dahlstrom@kingcounty.gov)

**Upcoming Meetings**

- Technical Committee meeting: September 12, 2017
- PDC meeting: October 19, 2017
- Forum meeting: October 5, 2017