

DRAFT Snohomish Basin Policy Development Committee
September 20, 2018 Meeting Summary
Willis Tucker Park, Weikel Room, 9:30-12:00

1. Agenda Overview and Introductions

- The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.
- Introductions were made; in attendance were:
 - Alexa Ramos (Snohomish County)
 - Elissa Ostergaard (Snoqualmie Forum)
 - Rodney Pond (Sound Salmon Solutions)
 - Keith Binkley (Snohomish PUD)
 - Morgan Ruff (Tulalip Tribes)
 - Paul Crane (City of Everett)
 - Kate Engel (Seattle City Light)

2. Ongoing Business

Morgan reviewed the agenda.

3. Updates and Announcements

- Orca Task Force: The group discussed what our interests are in this issue. The Snoqualmie Forum is discussing this as well. Elissa shared their briefing document. The draft recommendations from the Task Force will be released on Sept. 25th and comments will be due by Nov. 1st. There are only 74 whales left and they require 750 fish per day to sustain the population. The SRC has a significant interest in making sure there is alignment with their priorities and strategies and these new recommendations. The Wallace Hatchery is discussing doubling its outputs to help, but there are other issues like carrying capacity of the juvenile habitat to take into consideration. We also don't know how that would impact the wild populations.
- LIO Meeting: Laura Blackmore with PSP and Peter Murchie with EPA will be speaking at the upcoming LIO EC meeting on Sept. 27th. Topics for discussion will include the re-organization implications and vision going forward.
- Smith Island Celebration: The first breach is complete. A limited number of people were in attendance at the event, but drone footage of the breach was captured. There is an upcoming bigger celebration with partners scheduled for October 2nd.
- SLS Integration: There was an FFF "Come Together" on the 18th. The event included small group discussions and allowed for interaction with landowners. A project integration team element was included in the FbD application. We

should hear back on the rankings soon. The goal is to figure out how to move the needle on the restoration targets that are lagging behind. We want to figure out how to implement the reach scale plans on the ground. Some group members voiced concern about not knowing exactly what the ag. community's operating constraints are in order to remain functioning and viable. There is also a notable lack of funding for ag. BMP projects as well as a lack of flexibility on buffer requirements to be eligible for some grants. Cindy and Morgan will continue to work on this and keep the committee updated.

- Snohomish River and Estuary reach Scale Plan: the draft was released on the 21st for review and comment.
- Legislative Priorities: PSP works with the state agencies to put together priorities for the Puget Sound Day on the Hill where they advocate for Puget Sound restoration funding as well as educate our representatives and work on coalition building. So this could be an opportunity for our forum to think about what we want our representatives to know we need for funding. Putting together a priorities document helps everyone get on the same page about what we want to lobby for. The group agreed that we could build off of the WRIA 8 priorities and include a line item for the Pilchuck Dam tied to orca recovery.
- ESA Comments: In response to the suggested NOAA changes, King Co. is putting together a comment letter specifically highlighting the changes in definition of 'foreseeable future', consideration of economics, and reducing the protections for newly listed threatened species. Comments are due Sept. 24th. Elissa will send the draft to Morgan and Alexa in case we would also like to submit similar comments.

4. November Forum Agenda Topics

- Riparian Roundtable: We are on track to meet our riparian restoration targets, but there have been concessions made on size, etc. Kevin Lee and Cindy have been working to talk about the realities of buffer implementation through NMFS 150' buffer demanded by the tribes. They have created a presentation to tell our story and how beneficial flexibility on buffers is. There will be a panel discussion, hopefully at the Nov. meeting. The committee discussed if this was a feasible timeframe, what the desired outcomes would be and who should be invited to participate. The group agreed that staff from the King Co. buffer task force, WDFW manual staff, tribal staff, and the ag. community should be represented. The group discussed how the purpose of a buffer can determine the optimal buffer size. Others advocated that social science, political science, and economics should be considerations in determining buffer widths too. Some members noted that the timing around the CAO and SMP updates could be key for this discussion.

5. Review Next Steps and Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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