

## Meeting Summary

Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Technical Committee  
WDFW Office, Mill Creek  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Sept. 6, 2018

### In attendance:

1. Doug Hennick, WFC
2. Alexa Ramos, Snohomish County
3. Beth leDoux, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum/King County
4. Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes
5. Elissa Ostergaard, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
6. Mike Rustay, Snohomish County
7. Andrew McDonnell, SnoCo PUD
8. Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County
9. Kirk Lakey, WDFW
10. Kevin Lee, WDFW
11. Lindsey Desmul, WDFW
12. Julie Lewis, Snoqualmie Tribe
13. Josh Kubo, King County
14. Colin Wahl, Tulalip Tribes
15. Heather Khan, Dept. of Ecology
16. Elizabeth Butler, RCO
17. Jason Hall, Cramer Fish Sciences

### Meeting Summary:

#### **Introductions**

Mike opened the meeting with introductions.

#### **Updates – Basin, Regional, State**

#### **Additional Agenda Item**

Mike opened updates with information about a letter of support that didn't go through the usual committee process. The Snohomish Conservation District submitted an application for Ecology's Streamflow Grant Program. They requested letters of support from the Tulalip Tribes and Washington Water Trust. For policy reasons, the Tribes made a last minute decision not to provide one, although they were supportive of the technical merit of the project. Mike and Beth submitted a letter of support for the project on behalf of the Technical Committee co-chairs. Since it was short notice, and the proposal was clearly in alignment with our Protection Plan, with no technical concerns found by the Tulalip staff in their review, they felt it would be acceptable to submit the letter. Mike stressed that co-chairs prefer full technical committee review prior, but on rare occasions asked the committee if it approved of co-chairs making a judgment call. Mike and Beth asked the committee if there were any opposed to the committee supporting the project and the co-chairs submission of the letter of support. No one voiced concerns on the issue. Mike welcomed feedback via email if anyone found that preferable to speaking up at the meeting.

Cindy also provided a brief overview of the project in question. This project is focused on water storage. The project team looked at the watershed characterization from the SBPP to see where storage and discharge priority restoration areas are located (Pilchuck, French Creek, Woods Creek, and Lower Skykomish). So they dialed in on a wetland restoration project which could be carried out on farms with suitable sites.

### **ESSB 6091 (Hirst Fix) Ecological Net Benefit**

The WRIA 7 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement (WRE) Committee met for the first time on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The plan is for the committee to meet monthly at the start and then transition to every other month meetings.

Ecology staff attended the Forum meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup>. They were interested to hear about how the Forum would like to engage with the WRE committee. There was discussion of utilizing our existing technical committee to review project proposals and planning documents. Beth is interested in the Tech Comm. engaging in some way. Ecology staff are also preparing training binders for committee members to get everyone up to speed before diving into the planning process. Today's basin updates email will have a link to subscribe to email updates from the WRE committee. Gretchen will work with Ecology to coordinate a meeting with the Tech Comm. co-chairs. The Ecology WRE committee coordinator posed several questions to the Forum, but there wasn't time for a full discussion so they will be sent out to the Forum and the feedback will be compiled and sent back.

The deadline to comment on the Net Ecological Benefit guidance is November 9<sup>th</sup>. Snohomish and King Counties are submitting comments. There had also been discussions at the Forum meeting during the riparian buffer panel about submitting a letter regarding buffer width flexibility in their funding guidance.

### **Orca Recovery Task Force**

The draft recommendations report has been revised and the Task Force is meeting to determine the final recommendation decisions today. More to come on that later.

### **Floodplains by Design**

The ranked project list was released yesterday. The committee reviewed the list. Ecology has requested \$70 million. There are two basin projects that made the list and, based on historic allocation levels, they will likely receive funding.

### **Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program**

The ESRP ranked list was released as well. The committee reviewed it. Gretchen sent a letter to the Governor from the Forum yesterday to support PSAR, ESRP, and other critical funding programs.

### **Snoqualmie Update**

The CWM grants funded the Tolt San Soucci project. The illegal revetment is now gone. There is ongoing adaptive management of the side channels and photos are forthcoming.

The updated 10-year project list is complete and will be shared after finishing touches are done. Their Forum will be holding their year-end celebration at the November meeting to share the accomplishments of the past year. It will be at Snoqualmie City Hall at 6:30pm. There will be cider and cheese – all are welcome to attend.

FFF 2.0 effort is ongoing. Beth gave a presentation at the Forum meeting for the riparian buffer panel. The buffer task force is pulling together the best available science to apply to the Snoqualmie Valley. Their work includes a large literature review and a landowner survey. A summary of the BAS report and ag. issues paper should be ready to send around in December.

### **Project Working Group**

The group convened a couple of weeks ago. The big takeaway was that even if we are able to secure funding the capacity constraints is still a big challenge.

Jason Hall briefly spoke about his status and trends work with NOAA and distributed copies of the recent paper. This could be a useful tool for watershed planning. The link to the electronic version will also be made available.

### **Project Changes**

There are cost increases associated with Cherry Creek Ph. 1 and Mid-Spencer projects. The changes will be communicated to the Technical Committee at a future meeting or via email.

### **Blue Carbon Finance Feasibility**

Steve Emmett-Mattox presented on the potential feasibility of blue carbon finance projects in the Pacific Northwest. He gave an overview of the Blue Carbon Initiative and introduced a NOAA funded effort to assess the feasibility of carbon offset funding in the Snohomish estuary. He presented on the requirements for a blue carbon offset program. There needs to be market, technical, financial, legal, and organizational analyses done when considering projects.

There is an upcoming initial workshop to understand landowner priorities and regional management discussions, decisions and context, and community expectations for the future. Let Mike and Beth know if you are interested in participating in this initial workshop. There will then be end user workshops to review the draft product.

### **Habitat Conditions in the Lower Snoqualmie, Tolt, and Raging Rivers**

Josh Kubo presented on the habitat conditions work that King County led using CWM funding. The report is based on 2017 habitat surveys in the Lower Snoqualmie, Tolt, and Raging Rivers which produce the majority of Chinook. Josh gave an overview of the streambank conditions, large woody debris, instream habitat, channel and floodplain modification, and riparian conditions. He also discussed the real life applications of FishViews versus field surveys. Overall, they're relatively similar in their abilities to accurately capture data on habitat conditions. This could also be a more cost-effective alternative to traditional surveying.

### **Snohomish PUD Escapement Update**

Andrew McDonnell reported that Chinook spawners in the Sultan River are above the average levels of recent years. Elsewhere though they aren't doing as well.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.**