

SUMMARY
SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) 3.8.12

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 10:00 – 12:30

Snohomish County Admin East 6th floor Conference Room 6A04
3000 Rockefeller Ave. Everett, WA 98201

PARTICIPANTS

Bernhard, Bob - Snohomish County SWM

Bookey, Brian - National Foods, EC Co-chair (Ag)

Carlstad, Cynthia - NW Hydraulic Consultants

Crump, Kit – Snohomish County SWM

Desmul, Lindsey – WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Eidem, CK - Ducks Unlimited, EC Fish rep

Evans, Dan - Dan Evans Consulting, facilitator

Fay, Robin - PCC Farmland Trust

Hamill, Jessica - Snohomish County SWM

Jones, Ingria – WA Dept. of Ecology

Kelly, Kristin - Pilchuck Audubon Society, EC Fish rep

Klesick, Tristan - Stillaguamish farmer, Co-chair (Ag)

Krienitz, Jay - WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Lakey, Kirk - WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Lee, Kevin - WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Marti, Monte - Snohomish Cons. District, EC Ag rep

Neunzig, Linda - Snohomish County

Pfundt, Adam – NOAA

Ruff, Morgan - Tulalip Tribes

Werkhoven, Andy - Werkhoven Dairy Inc., EC Ag rep

PURPOSE: The December SLS Executive Committee meeting has a countywide/Ag focus and includes: SLS strategic priorities; SLS Integration Team; housekeeping (Executive Committee, schedule); State funding priorities and support; SLS communications; and fish-farm-flood partner news and updates.

*The meeting summary must be downloaded to view the attachments.

1. Welcome, Introductions (10:00-10:10)

a. **Review purpose, agenda:** The Executive Committee was called to order. Dan Evans reviewed the agenda and purpose for today's meeting.

b. **Introductions:** In addition to self-introductions from the usual participants, two new participants were in attendance.

- Ingria Jones (ingria.jones@ecy.wa.gov) is a new employee in Department of Ecology's Water Resources program (NW Region). Ingria is the streamflow restoration lead for WRIA 7.
- Kevin Lee, formerly with Sound Salmon Solutions, accepted a position with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as a habitat biologist in the Snoqualmie watershed.

January is the annual meeting to plan the year ahead.

2. SLS Priorities for 2019 – Brief Review & Discussion (10:10-10:30)

a. Reach Plans:

- The reach scale plans, story map and interactive web map are available online at <https://www.farmfishflood.org/reachscale-planning>
- Brian Bookey suggested to present reach scale plans (and the Integrated Team) to the Ag board, flood control districts and the Farm Bureau. Presentations on the reach scale plans and Integration Team will also be presented to Stillaguamish Watershed Council and Snohomish Watershed Forum

b. Resource Lands protection: SVPI, flex easement, TDR/PDR

- Linda Neunzig: transfer of development rights (TDR) – The County Executive's office tasked Planning and Development Services to create legislation for a TDR bank, which should be ready by the end of July. Certification of development right fees will be incurred at the time of the sale (no sale = no fee). Snohomish County currently holds 49 development rights. The funds generated from the sales of the development rights will be used to help seed the bank for the creation of more TDRs.
- Robin Fay: flexible easements – The creation of farmland conservation easements have been flushed out through the [Johnson farm project](#) (multiple benefits within one project). PCC and Forterra developed legal language. The template developed during the Johnson farm project will be used for other conservation easements in the future. Easement will be flexible based on applicable land uses (e.g., if saltwater intrusion occurs the easement can shift from farmland to habitat). Currently five projects/easements (~500+acres) are being written up and should be completed by the end of the month. Five additional properties are committed but require additional work. Overall, the main constraint for flexible easements are funding.
- Tristan Klesick: [Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiative](#) – Brian Bookey, Jeff Ellingsen and Tristan met with Twin City Foods (TCF) who are in process of selling land assets (processing plant and ~1,000 acres) in the Stillaguamish Valley (Florence Island).
 1. TCF's Thurman property (~240 acres, located near mouth of Hatt Slough and adjacent The Nature Conservancy's Port Susan property) is unofficially for sale. Joe Christianson, who currently farms the property, wants to purchase it. The Stillaguamish Tribe will make an offer based on the appraisal – a fair price (with or without grant funds). TCF wants to work with the Stillaguamish Tribe, farm and flood advocates to see how the land can best be utilized. It was mentioned that SLS should host the TCF/Thurman property forum.
 2. Other portions of TCF's assets are being shopped around. A sports community is interested in building an indoor sports

complex. There are interests in cold storage area but not the processing plant. Linda met with a potential buyer of the processing plant whom would also like to grow as well

3. TCF wants any dike/infrastructure removal to be replaced with new dike/infrastructure setbacks where the land will not be inundated (family still lives in the area and would like them to be protected).
 4. Forterra and PCC have a memorandum of understanding so both entities are operating under the same cost structure. Forterra works east of I-5 and PCC works west of I-5.
 5. Jay Krienitz (WDFW) offered to present to those interested about the benefits of estuary restoration. Currently NOAA is in the final development stage of a density dependence project that studies the effect limited estuarine habitat has on Chinook salmon. The Stillaguamish estuary is limited.
- Linda Neunzig: Farm Bill – The bill will include full funding for the [agricultural conservation easement program](#).
 - Brian Bookey: Stillaguamish Ecosystems Services presentation – farmland not considered in the evaluation. Jay Krienitz mentioned this will be further examined in the January SLS mtg. NOAA wants to understand value benefits of land use from restoration projects. Jay would intake farmland perspective for the project design (this additional assessment would need funding though). Jay would like to set up a meeting with the project group to further discuss the Ag perspective.

3. Integration Team (10:30-11:00)

- Morgan Ruff: Integration Team (IT) –The IT will develop packages of multi-benefit projects, within defined reaches, that will be submitted for funding opportunities such as the Floodplains by Design (FbD) grant.
- The core IT members will include Cindy Dittbrenner (Snohomish Conservation District), Morgan Ruff (Tulalip Tribes), Kit Crump (Snohomish County Surface Water Management), Adam Pfundt (NOAA) and Heather Cole (The Nature Conservancy). Pat Stevenson (Stillaguamish Tribe) has expressed interest to work on projects within the Stillaguamish watershed.
- Additional representatives, such as those from agricultural and flood control interests, will be selected on a project by project basis.
- Until funding is made available from the Sultan reach FbD package (July 2019), NOAA and WDFW have allocated some funds for early actions by the IT.
- The IT has identified the Lower Stillaguamish (see attachment)* as a reach they'd like to begin working on. Many current and future activities

(Pollution Identification and Correction, and future acquisition interests, respectively) make the reach ideal for multi-benefit project development.

- Once funding is available from NOAA and WDFW, the IT will develop a scope of work and hire a neutral facilitator (short term contract, ~6 months) to help launch the IT process.

4. SLS Executive Committee Housekeeping (11:00-11:15)

- Retirement of Kristin Kelly – Kristin Kelly (Pilchuck Audubon Society, SLS EC secretary-treasurer) announced that she is retiring from the SLS EC to spend time with her new grandchild. Many kind words were said about Kristin and the work she has done with SLS. With Kristin's departure, Terry Williams (SLS EC co-chair, fish representative) will need to begin finding a replacement.
- Meeting schedule - In 2019, the SLS EC will meet on the second Thursday of the month, from 10 a.m. till 12:00 p.m. (see attachment)*.

5. Funding Priorities, Engagement (11:15-11:45)

- The budget forecast, out in January or February, will inform the Washington legislature how much money may be available to divvy up.
- WDFW has a budget shortfall of ~\$30 million.
- Conservation Commission budget (see attachment)*
- The next SLS letter of support for the budget should be sent when the Governor's budget is out.

6. Communications, Partner & Regional Collaboration (11:45-12:10)

- Lindsey Desmul (WDFW) will update the flyer and remove Kristin Kelly.

7. Partner News & Updates (12:10-12:30)

- Terry Williams (Tulalip Tribes) receives NOAA Fisheries 2018 Dr. Nancy Foster Award. Terry was recognized at the Coastal and Estuarine Restoration and Management conference held this week in Long Beach, CA. Read all about it here: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/two-habitat-conservation-leaders-earn-noaa-fisheries-2018-dr-nancy-foster-award>.
- Linda Neunzig: Cross laminated lumber now able to be used for construction up to 18 stories tall. COT to open potentially in Darrington (~150 employees, salary of ~\$70,000)
- C.K. Eidem (Ducks Unlimited): Snowwater project retools water control structures to improve drainage and water retention on ~160 acres of land in the Snohomish Estuary. The improvements allow better management of water levels for wetland functions and can pump off water when it's time for agriculture (learning from King County).

- Robin: 2019-2021 Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program projects (French Slough farm and Getchell ranch) in the current round and ranked highly on the list (see attachment)*.