

SNOHOMISH BASIN SALMON RECOVERY FORUM
Meeting Summary
Thursday, August 2, 2018 • 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Waltz Building, Snohomish

On May 3, 2018 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:

Attendee	Organization
Alexa Ramos	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Colin Wahl	Tulalip Tribes
Perry Falcone	Snoqualmie Forum
Gretchen Glaub	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Jim Miller	City of Everett
Kirk Lakey	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Lindsey Desmul	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Monte Marti	Snohomish Conservation District
Keith Binkley	Snohomish PUD
Ralph Svrjck	Dept. of Ecology
Henry Sladek	Town of Skykomish
Heather Cole	The Nature Conservancy
Scott Moore	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Nick Bratton	Forterra
Terry Williams	Tulalip Tribes
Anita Marrero	City of Monroe
Allen Gibbs	Pilchuck Audubon Society
Elizabeth Butler	RCO
Geraldine Saw	Snohomish County
Gregg Farris	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Rodney Pond	Sound Salmon Solutions
CK Eidem	Ducks Unlimited
Denise Johns	City of Snohomish

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

Forum Business

- **Floodplains by Design:** There are 3 project proposals completing final applications by August 3rd.
 - Snoqualmie River Walk project

- North Bend Levee Setback
- SLS Lower Skykomish project

The Forum is submitting letters of support for these projects.

- **4 Year Work Plan:** There are 200+ projects on the list; capital and non-capital. There was a request from the region to reduce the size of the list. The PDC did not recommend shrinking the list as it would diminish the message that there is a significant and growing need. It was suggested that perhaps we group/package synergistic projects together so that the list is reduced without actually removing projects. It was suggested that we communicate our needs effectively to the Council on Environmental Quality. Others added that we need to identify the need, but also give hope of actually achieving restoration goals someday. In addition, others acknowledged that we don't want to overwhelm or paralyze with the gravity of the need in this area. The group recognized that a clear vision and strategy are needed.

It was noted that we will no longer have Paladin support for Habitat Work Schedule.

- **10-Year Status & Trends Report:** The draft will be out for review next week with a 7-10 day comment period. This is not a Plan update. It examines where we are and where we are going.
- **Lean Study:** RCO is looking for grant efficiencies. There is an opportunity to fill out a survey (by August 10th) on your experience with the grant round process.

Smith Island Update

- The breach is scheduled for the morning of the 9th. Only a small number of people will be attending. There will be drone footage captured to share with partners and a bigger celebration to follow.

SWM Budget and Update Presentation

- Gregg Farris presented an updated on the SWM Business Plan. Our rates are comparatively low relative to other jurisdictions in the area. We haven't raised our rates in 10 years and we're the only jurisdiction that hasn't raised rates in the last 2 years. SWM performed outreach to all rate payers with mailers, surveys, and open houses. The responses showed strong support for the work that SWM does and expanding that work too. However, if the proposed rate increase isn't approved then SWM will have to cut programs. SWM is already significantly scaling back work. See presentation for more details.

Updates and News

- **Snoqualmie Report:**
 - 40+ people attended the project tour of 3 project sites (Nintendo levee setback, River Walk Project, and Upper Valley knotweed control).
 - Final grant approval will be late this month.
 - The Implementation Committee met today.
 - King County is hiring staff to work on an Ag. Strategy.
 - The Buffer Task Force is up and running. They are requesting \$300 million for extra acquisitions to support the strategy over 30 years.

2018 SRFB/PSAR Grant Round Presentation

- Gretchen reviewed the timeline, all proposed projects still proceeding with applications, withdrawn projects, and funding scenario options to consider. There was much discussion. Staff recommended that we take a loan from another WRIA. The group approved the ranked list by consensus. The loan scenario was approved with the remainder funds going to the Confluence project. In the next Snohomish basin grant round, the Confluence project would be top ranked to receive remaining necessary funding for completion. See presentation for more details.

ESSB 6091

- The group reviewed the briefing document and discussed the upcoming planning processes. Ecology is planning to chair a committee with a similar make up as the Forum and LIO. Kirk showed interest in being the WDFW representative for the Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Committee. Lead staff that will be overseeing this process are very familiar with the salmon recovery world so is promising.

The LIO and LE are looking to hold a joint meeting on this topic in the fall. Others suggested including SLS as well and holding it before the September 27th LIO Exec. Comm. meeting.

Regional Updates and News

- PSSRC discussed the orca issue at length at their last meeting. This has become a front burner topic. The Hood Canal summer chum are showing a positive outlook so that's hopeful. The PSSRC is also working on a "SRC refresh". They hired Abby Hook to prepare recommendations for "bold" new direction/purpose and high level coordination/alignment on salmon recovery among organization. They're looking at expanding the 4Hs and are considering focusing funds on weak stocks to fulfill treaty rights. Forum members noted a lack of boldness with these actions though. Integrated ecosystem restoration and healthy soils were highlighted as a critical bold action by Forum members during the discussion.

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The next Forum meeting will be held on ___ at the Waltz Building in Snohomish.

Key Decisions

- Approved the ranked SRFB/PSAR list
- Approved taking a loan from WRIA 8 to be repaid next year; in turn, we will not run a grant round next year

Upcoming Meetings

- Technical Committee meeting: Sept. 6th
- PDC meeting: Sept. 20th