

Meeting Summary

Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Technical Committee
WDFW Office, Mill Creek
9:00 am – 12:00 pm, March 5, 2019

In attendance:

1. Alexa Ramos, Snohomish County
2. Beth leDoux, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum/King County
3. Elissa Ostergaard, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
4. Mike Rustay, Snohomish County
5. Carson Moscoso, SCD
6. Kevin Lee, WDFW
7. Kirk Lakey, WDFW
8. Lindsey Desmul, WDFW
9. Colin Wahl, Tulalip Tribes
10. Karina Siliverstova, WDFW
11. Andrew McDonnell, Snohomish PUD
12. Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Tribe
13. Julie Lewis, Snoqualmie Tribe
14. Doug Hennick, Wild Fish Conservancy
15. Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County
16. Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes

Meeting Summary:

Introductions

Mike opened the meeting with introductions and then reviewed the agenda.

Business

April had been slated as a small working group meeting, but since February's regular meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather we may want to hold reinstate April to catch up.

Updates – Basin, Regional, State

Project cost increases

Gretchen reminded the group that \$80K is being given to Mid-Spencer and \$50K is going towards Cherry Creek. The transactions are nearly finalized. Cherry Creek's check is in the mail.

10-Year Status & Trends Report

Gretchen explained that the team is very close to having a draft ready for review within the next couple of weeks. It is a very long and dense document, but work is being done to create a briefer, more accessible communication piece. The review period for the full document will be about a week via email. The report should be finished this month and the communications pieces should be done by the end of April. Mike suggested it might be prudent to send specific sections for review by specific individuals.

Snoqualmie Update

Beth reported the next meeting of the Snoqualmie Forum will be March 20th. There will be a river projects focus with a presentation on Hafner-Barfuse. The Cooperative Watershed Management grant program received \$2.6 million in requests, but has \$1 million to allocate. There were some large project requests as well as knotweed control and riparian plantings. The project review team will surely have a difficult time deciding how to allocate funding. The large request demonstrates the outstanding need though.

The Million Trees by 2020 project is allocating \$175K through a one-time grant program. There was \$220K in applications (4 sponsors, 7 projects). Matt mentioned there have been comments about the plantings being installed too densely. He suggested that partners should be approached to assist with the plantings.

The FFF buffer task force is meeting 3/6/19 at the Issaquah library. An update on the effort could be on the Sept Tech Comm agenda.

Elissa spoke about her trip with Perry down to Olympia to meet with legislators and advocate for the Floodplains by Design program and other funding programs. It was interesting to hear their thoughts on the budget priorities. Schools, affordable housing. And behavioral health are competing for funds. Legislators stated that we need to do better at communicating and educating on salmon recovery because they're not hearing about it from citizens. The public is bringing forth conversations on tent cities and other issues, not salmon. It would be good to speak with legislators again during the reconciliation process in March. The Salmon Recovery Council is meeting 3/28/19 and it could be good to bring this topic there to see if the non-profits could advocate for these priorities.

Other

The Pilchuck Working Group meeting last month was rescheduled due to snow too. It will be held 3/12/19 at the Snohomish County public meeting room from 9:30am – 12pm.

The Pilchuck Dam Project is hosting an open house. See email for details.

Steelhead Recovery Plan comments are being incorporated and should be sent for review early next week.

Watershed Enhancement and Restoration Committee (WREC)

Ingria Jones with Dept. of Ecology presented on the WRIA 7 WREC. She presented background on streamflow law (Hirst, ESSB 6091, RCW 90.94) and then the ESSB 6091 requirements. There will be \$300 million in grant funds statewide over 15 years. 15 basins are required to participate in the planning process. WREC members are designated in RCW 90.94. The committee has approved adding two ex officio seats for the Snoqualmie Forum and City of Seattle.

The Plan will include projections for rural growth, new wells and their water usage, project suggestions to offset projected water use to meet Net Ecological Benefit (NEB). There is interim NEB guidance and finalized guidance should be finalized this summer. Full committee consensus is required to approve the plan.

Ingria presented some ideas for opportunities to coordinate between the WREC and Snohomish salmon recovery groups. There is overlap in the groups' mission, goals, and interests. She presented some specific ideas on plan elements on project identification. Gretchen will coordinate with both sets of committee members to develop more ideas on ways to collaborate between the groups.

Hafner-Barfuse Update

The project team presented an update on the project. So far they have gotten through the preliminary phases of design. Hydro modelling still needs to be completed. The team presented project alternatives: no action, backwater connection focus, shallow connection focus, and deep floodplain connection focus. Alternative #3 (deep floodplain connection) scored the highest on their habitat benefit assessment. The timeline is to apply for construction funding in 2020 so design will need to be complete by that time.

There was discussion about considerations of instream wood installations, the formation of gravel bars, the potential longevity of created side channels, neighboring landowners support, channel armoring, project scalability, and funding sources that would be the best fit. The committee supported exploring Alternative #3 further.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.