

SNOHOMISH BASIN SALMON RECOVERY FORUM
Meeting Summary
Thursday, February 7, 2019 • 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
Morgan Ruff	Tulalip Tribes
Elissa Ostergaard	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
Loren Brokaw	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Monte Marti	Snohomish Conservation District
Larry Lowe	Snohomish PUD
CK Eidem	Ducks Unlimited
Denise Krownbell	Seattle City Light
Matt Baerwalde	Snoqualmie Tribe
Heather Khan	Dept. of Ecology
Ralph Svrjcek	Dept. of Ecology
Lisa Tario	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Kirt Hanson	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Brett Gaddis	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Mike Rustay	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Jessica Hamill	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Mary Hurner	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Janell Majewski	Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Terry Williams	Tulalip Tribes
Daryl Williams	Tulalip Tribes
Anita Marrero	City of Monroe
Cheryl Dungan	City of Marysville
Doug Hennick	Wild Fish Conservancy
Erin Murray	Puget Sound Partnership
Erik Gerking	Port of Everett
Chrys Bertolotto	WSU Extension
Paul Crane	City of Everett
Dana Zlateff	City of Everett
Heather Griffin	City of Everett
Jim Shannon	Hart Crowser

Meeting Summary

Introductions and Announcements

- **Terry called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.**
 - Attendees introduced themselves.
 - The agenda was reviewed and approved.
 - No public comment was made.

Forum Business

- **Puget Sound Steelhead Recovery Plan:** Gretchen explained that the comment period was extended to March 28th. Mike is working to compile comments from the Tech Comm. The Forum agreed to defer to the Tech Comm in submitting comments. Mike noted that this plan largely draws from our recovery plans so there is good alignment with our strategies. The only adjustment that we'd like to see is more direction and support for the work proposed.
- **Puget Sound Action Agenda:** The 2018 – 2022 Action Agenda was adopted on December 5th, but final approval has been delayed due to the federal government shutdown. Now that things are up and running again, it should be processed soon. The National Estuary Program funding will become available soon as well and the Strategic Initiative Advisory Teams will publish their funding recommendations shortly too.
- **Orca Recovery Task Force:** The task force released their final recommendations and they have been incorporated into the Governor's budget. Gretchen reviewed the budget with the group. The final version will be released in June/July. There is \$1.1 billion in funding for recovery, however, once you take a closer look it isn't as groundbreaking as it seems. There hasn't been a large increase for most capital programs aside from the fish barrier removal. See handout for details.
- **2019 Legislative Session**
 - **Draft Legislative Priorities:** Salmon Day by the Washington Salmon Coalition took place in Olympia. Elissa and others attended to educate five legislators from District 5 and 45. They had some great conversations advocating for various orca recovery bills (vessel noise, shoreline armoring permits, etc.). There will be an upcoming day to support Floodplains by Design.

Gretchen reviewed the Snohomish Basin legislative priorities document and highlighted the Pilchuck Dam Removal project. See handouts for details.
 - **Letter to Legislators:** Gretchen reviewed the draft letter to legislators. Perry suggested listing the specific Floodplains by Design projects that we support in the basin. The Forum approved the letter.

Focus Topic – Water Quality: Gretchen and Jessica opened by presenting the context for exploring this topic at the Forum. They presented on the water quality strategy elements in the Snohomish River Basin Salmon Recovery Plan and the Five-Year Ecosystem Recovery Plan.

Partner Actions

- **TMDL Work in the Snohomish:** Heather Khan, with Dept. of Ecology, presented on the TMDL work occurring in the basin. Ecology performs a water quality assessment every two years. Currently, there are five TMDLs approved by the EPA in the basin relating to fecal coliform in the tributaries, dissolved oxygen in the estuary, dioxin from the paper mill and temperature and multi-parameter in the Snoqualmie. There is also a TMDL alternatives program being applied to the Pilchuck and French Creek areas. Heather also highlighted the various Ecology grant programs for water quality projects.

- **County Programs:** Janell Majewski, with Surface Water Management, explained the division is a stormwater utility and much of the water quality work SWM does is driven by the NPDES permit. Some of the main focuses of work are to remove pollutants and not cause flooding or erosion. It costs around \$5 million to implement annually.
- **Rain Gardens:** Paul Crane, with the City of Everett, updated the group on efforts to install LID stormwater infrastructure in private and public partnerships. The 52nd Street & Interurban infiltration cells are working well and have had no overflow issues. This region has good soils for this type of installation.
- **Modular Wetland System:** Erik Gerking, with the Port of Everett, spoke about the modular wetland system that was installed in Fisherman's Harbor. These systems can be integrated into urban landscapes and are effective at treating suspended solids in a cost effective manner. You can find the video he shared here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpeQVI9REeM>
- **Tulalip Tribes Programs:** Val Streeter, with the Tulalip Tribes, spoke about some of their water quality programs. A lot of retrofitting work is being completed. They have been considering the modular wetland systems too for Tulalip Bay. The new Gathering Hall is being built with LID features. The marina redevelopment has increased stormwater treatment so they're looking into bilge pumps. The casino parking lot will use permeable pavement. Septic systems are another area of focus. They've repaired 30-40 so far. They're also doing public service announcements around pharmaceuticals, stormwater, dog waste, and cigarette butts. There is temperature monitoring work being conducted with USGS. And a Quilceda water quality study is in progress as well.

Emerging Science

- **Marine Survival Project:** Susan O'Neil, with Long Live the Kings, presented briefly on the marine survival project. Researchers have observed a 10x decline in early marine survival. There are other studies examining the system as a whole, looking at top-down predator relationships as well as the food web from the bottom-up.
- **Toxics in Juveniles:** Sandi O'Neill, with WDFW, presented on the Toxics-focused Biological Observing System (T-BIOS) work. She explained how they identify problems with persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Exposure to these pollutants can make fish susceptible to disease. Findings indicate higher levels in origin fish rather than hatchery for PBDEs. This is likely due to their longer residence time and therefore prolonged exposure. Studies suggest that the sources of pollution could be tied to waste water treatment plants and combined sewer overflows.

Will Hobbs will be conducting a study looking at "scum" for PBDE presence. He may be able to present on his work in the spring at the LIO meeting.

Next Steps: There was much discussion about next steps in addressing water quality work through further pollutant studies, the Governor's task force, Dept. of Ecology's programs, and the waste water treatment plant.

Water Quality Near-Term Actions: The group reviewed the list of water quality related NTAs. There was desire to take a closer look for alignment with LIO and LE priorities as well as the Governor's task force. There was talk of needing more information on temperature work. There was also discussion of utilizing salmon funding for water quality and other monitoring activities.

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The next Forum meeting will be held on May 2, 2019.

Key Decisions

- Approved having the Technical Committee submit comments on the Steelhead Plan.
- Approved the letter to legislators.

Upcoming Meetings

- Technical Committee meeting: March 5, 2019
- PDC meeting: March 21, 2019

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