

31/DRAFT Snohomish Basin Policy Development Committee
June 20, 2019 Meeting Summary
Willis Tucker Park, Weikel Room, 10:00am -12:00pm

1. Agenda Overview and Introductions
 - The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.
 - Introductions were made; in attendance were:
 - Gretchen Glaub (Snohomish County)
 - Alexa Ramos (Snohomish County)
 - Elissa Ostergaard (Snoqualmie Forum)
 - Keith Binkley (Snohomish PUD)
 - Kate Engel (City of Seattle)
 - Morgan Ruff (Tulalip Tribes)
 - Paul Crane (City of Everett)
 - Rodney Pond (Sound Salmon Solutions)
2. King 5 features – Tulalip staff (Morgan, Kurt, and Brett) went out with King 5 last week to talk about the Qwuloolt project and efforts to recover salmon. Snohomish County staff (Mike, Gretchen, Kathleen) also went out with King 5 reporters for their story on the Smith Island project which aired last night. There was also a more in depth interview feature in their podcast. Basin staff are exploring other potential stories to share with the news station to help spread awareness on salmon recovery. Morgan added that the reporter, Alison Morrow, also offers media branding/communication training. This could be a good learning opportunity for our project sponsors.
3. Restore Americas Estuaries – Gretchen went on a kayak tour of Qwuloolt with staff from Restore Americas Estuaries last week. It went well and they were interested in having someone participate in their speaking circuit to present on the work in the Snohomish.
4. Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board – Gretchen and Morgan gave a presentation on Tuesday. They highlighted ways that our basin has leveraged our work. They also talked about the Pilchuck as a priority area. There was also discussion about the need for transparency on their processes and the connection to lead entities. Overall, the presentation went well. Gretchen and Morgan can share the meeting summary and PowerPoint once they're posted.
5. Floodplains by Design Field Tour – Gretchen and other Snohomish County staff led a tour along the Sultan reach and discussed salmon and agriculture resilience in the basin with the FbD grant manager.
6. Pocket Estuary Project – The City of Everett and Sound Salmon Solutions are exploring a potential wetland reconnection project at Langus Riverfront Park. The property is

owned by City of Everett Parks Dept. Forterra may be interested in partnering as well. The project would restore 9 acres of habitat. The current phase is looking at feasibility and preliminary design. The project would likely require a back dike so the team would need to get WSDOT onboard early on.

7. Tulalip Tribes NTA Award – The Tulalip Tribes were awarded \$150K towards their \$600K project proposal to look at multibenefit project implementation. Questions to be explored include: how do habitat restoration actions relate to salmon populations? They're also considering re-running EDT (ecosystem diagnosis tool). SHIRAZ is a similar tool which was developed by NOAA. NOAA has been working in the Chehalis basin to develop SHIRAZ as an EDT analog on a public platform. EDT is privatized and therefore their methods are proprietary. This has instilled a sense of distrust for the model since the model is not transparent. It's also expensive. So now Tulalip is wondering if this higher level, coarse analysis model could be used in the Snohomish basin too. If so, it could help us with our Plan update. It could enable us to examine the past 10-15 years in order to model predicted results of restoration actions. This work could begin with a more detailed focus on the Skykomish.
8. Cherry Creek – The project will break ground on July 8th. This could be another good story feature for King 5. There will hopefully be a celebration in September to commemorate the project's success.
9. Salmon Plan Update – There is potential for regional funding to support the work to update our plan. Gretchen added our basin to the list for consideration. Others suggested perhaps there could be funding for the NOAA lifecycle model to inform our update.
10. Status & Trends Report – Since the draft was released for review, the team is still working to resolve the concerns around introductory language around the topic of tribal treaty rights. A lot of QA/QC work also went into updating the funding table in order to demonstrate how much our lead entity has invested and leveraged SRFB funds in our projects.
11. Member Engagement – Gretchen proposed using the Status & Trends Report to kick start conversations around engagement with our committee members. Hopefully, this summer we can develop a strategic engagement strategy since we're not running a grant round.
12. Snoqualmie Watershed Forum – The annual tour is coming up. This year there will be a focus on forest management. Dinner will be provided. All are invited and welcome to attend.
13. Snohomish Forum – Gretchen asked the committee for feedback on plans for the upcoming August meeting. There was discussion of having a potluck and site visit. Some location ideas included McCormick Park and Tolt MacDonald Park which are close to the Cherry Creek site. Others suggest Al Borlin Park which is close to where Adopt a Stream

is removing the trestle and Sound Salmon Solutions is doing riparian planting along the Skykomish. Woods Creek was a suggested area too.

It was noted that there is no decision point scheduled for the August meeting so that may affect attendance. Some suggested that the meeting be cancelled and Forum members be encouraged to attend other events happening in the basin e.g.) the August 31st PUD celebration, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum tour, etc.

14. Floodplains by Design – Jessica Hamill is leading the project right now. But the county will be hiring a position to oversee the grant and Sustainable Lands Strategy as well. SLS also just hired a new facilitator, David Roberts, to replace Dan.
15. Outreach Opportunities – Rodney mentioned that the Salmon Homecoming event is coming up in late September. SSS and Snohomish PUD will be attending. It is usually held at Osprey Park. Also, SSS does outreach and education work in the Sultan reach with an elementary school program so that could be another avenue.
16. Rivers Coalition – Gretchen and Morgan have been in contact with Snohomish County Parks Dept. The project seems to have stalled out a bit. There isn't a lot of funding for the effort and there are still tribal concerns about attracting more visitors to sacred spaces along the river.
17. Snohomish-King County ILA – There have been conversations about renewing the ILA between the counties to contribute towards WRIA 8 lead entity work.
18. Snohomish PUD Celebration – PUD will be celebrating their water temperature work on August 31 at the dam site. There will be speakers, tours, and a free lunch.
19. Salmon Recovery Council Update – at the last meeting there was a presentation on a proposed “salmon benefit index”. There will also be a webinar on the topic next week. At the SRC meeting, many people expressed that this proposed new criteria seems unnecessary and redundant. Gretchen will forward the comment letter from Kollin Higgins which outlines many stakeholder concerns with the SBI. Gretchen noted that at the next LIO Exec. Comm. meeting, Laura Blackmore and others will be speaking about funding too. This could be a worthwhile meeting for Forum members to attend.
20. Jet Ski Use in the Snoqualmie – At their last Forum meeting, recreationalists and farmers expressed their concerns about jet ski wakes being dangerous and causing bank erosion. Councilmembers chose not to pursue further action in response to the complaints at that time. Elissa will keep the group updated.
21. Bambooland – Bambooland has come back to the table to discuss the potential restoration project which would include noxious weed removal and planting.
22. Review Next Steps and Adjourn
 - o Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.