

**SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY (SLS)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)
DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**

Thursday July 11, 2019 10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Tulalip Tribes - Training Room 162, 6406 Marine Drive, Tulalip, WA

PARTICIPANTS (EC members in bold):

Bartelheimer, Dan - Snohomish Valley Farms

Bernhard, Bob - Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM)

Cole, Heather - The Nature Conservancy

Desmul, Lindsey - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Dittbrenner, Cindy - Snohomish Conservation District (SCD)

Eidem, CK - Ducks Unlimited, EC Fish rep

Fay, Robin - PCC Farmland Trust

Hamill, Jessica - SWM

Lahey, Kirk – WDFW

Lee, Larissa - NOAA - Restoration Center

Marti, Monte - SCD, EC Ag rep

Nelson, Lisa - Washington Department of Ecology - Floodplains by Design (FbD)

Roberts, David - Kulshan Services (SLS facilitator)

Ruff, Morgan - Tulalip Tribes

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

Williams, Terry - Tulalip Tribe, EC Co-Chair (Fish)

PURPOSE: The July SLS Executive Committee meeting will include a presentation on the recommendations from the Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force. We will also hear about progress on the Leque Island project and some new findings from Ebey Island.

PRIMARY PRESENTATION

Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) Task Force Recommendations

Kirk Lahey provided a great overview of the recommendations of the SRKW Task Force. He shared the four priorities for Task force:

- More prey (habitat, harvest and hatchery)
- Fewer contaminants
- Less noise and disturbance (e.g., increased viewing distance from vessels and regulations on charter boats)
- Increased funding

Kirk had several take home thoughts for us to consider:

- WDFW policy changes will result in immediate improvements for SRKW
- Prey, noise/disturbance and contaminants are being funded but more habitat is needed
- Fishing restrictions from both US and Canada should result in more fish accessible for SRKW

See Kirk's presentation materials on website

The discussion that followed Kirk's presentation raised some questions and a number of ideas:

- In addition to revisions of WDFW's Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA), what other rule-making is being undertaken by other agencies to help protect SRKW?
- Will revisions to WDFW's HPA have implications on Paul Cereghino's harmonization process of hydraulic permitting?
 - Tulalip Tribes are shifting efforts to Tim Beechie for their harmonization efforts
 - Kirk suggested the development of a user's guide for permitting across the local, state and federal levels. Meeting participants asked if SLS could help facilitate the development of the user's guide? Is there a funding need we can help out with?
- Salmon populations are struggling in Puget Sound, one reason is due to a shift in prey communities and their respective diets (shift in plankton communities) caused by increased nutrients.
 - Department of Ecology hosts a Nutrient Reduction Project, next [webinar is July 17th](#)¹
 - The West Point Treatment Plant's (City of Seattle) wastewater effluent is the third largest source of freshwater discharge to Puget Sound. What technologies are wastewater treatment plants implementing to reduce nutrient content in wastewater?
- What nutrient management technologies are available for farmers?
 - Are there funding/cost-share opportunities that can be explored to help commercial agriculture implement nutrient management best management practices (BMP)?
 - Are there demonstration projects/pilot studies SLS could support/promote?
 - SCD is changing its cost-share from 90% to 100% funding (maximum of \$50,000) for the implementation of BMPs at commercial agricultural facilities.
 - WSU used to conduct research on agricultural BMPs, could they resume research?
 - The funding of agricultural BMPs from state and federal monies often requires riparian buffers in place that comply with NMFS buffer table. Could this be further explored?

¹ <https://www.ezview.wa.gov/DesktopDefault.aspx?alias=1962&pageid=37106>

- Permit streamlining could improve the implementation of BMPs, should the SCD consider assisting with the application of permits.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

EC Membership

Monte Marti is reconsidering staying on the EC after his retirement. He doesn't want to interfere with the new direction the SCD is taking with its new director.

A meeting participant pointed out that we are in need of an environmental representative on the EC.

Sultan Reach

Stakeholder prioritization for the Sultan reach package is currently underway. Jessica Hamill is working on a press release for the FbD award and work in Sultan reach. Jessica will contact the SLS with comments prior to the press release.

Ag Resilience

Cindy Dittbrenner is currently writing up reach summaries which will be delivered to the farmers in August. The Ag Resilience Steering Committee will meet in September to discuss region-wide plans based on the individual reach recommendations/needs. The Steering Committee results will be presented to SLS in November. [Ag resilience](#)²

PROJECT UPDATES

WDFW's Leque Island Project

Lindsey Desmul provided the latest update on the Leque Island project. Permits are in hand and WDFW's contractor is ready to go. Leque will be closed to the public starting July 22nd through completion of project in October. A wave protection berm (~0.7 miles) will be added to the NE corner of the island to protect the city of Stanwood. Fill from channel excavations will be used to build the berm.

There will be opportunities for public viewing during the breaching of the dikes in September. Zis-a-ba was suggested as a good viewpoint of the breach. It will be important to stress long-term benefits of the project for salmon and other fauna. WDFW will reach out to news media for coverage. It will be an excellent opportunity to promote SLS as well.

Ebey Island

Lindsey also spoke about Ebey Island. WDFW owns 1,285 acres of land south of US 2. They are currently not sure what to do with the land. Loren Brokaw is working on a plan which is expected to be completed by 2021. She will be looking for input from SLS partners.

² <https://snohomishcd.org/ag-resilience>

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently discovered that the eastern portion of WDFW's land on Ebey Island (688 acres) is a raised bog, possibly the largest raised bog in the United States. She can't say what implications this will have for the Ebey Island plans. DNR may want to restore the land by filling the ditches and removing some trees.

Based on recent revelations from DNR, WDFW doesn't know where the Ebey Island Project is headed. Perhaps SLS can have DNR present their findings to the SLS.

See presentation materials for Leque and Ebey Island on website

French Slough Farm

Robin Fay shared that the PCC Farmland Trust recently completed agreements for preservation of 570 acres of farmland at the [French Slough Farm](#)³

Edgecombe Creek

Phillip North and Tim Beechie are working on sediment and sea level rise in the Quilceda Creek. This information may be helpful in the determination of appropriate solutions to issues in Edgecombe Creek.

As an aside, Terry noted that the federal government has restored some funding to Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and that there may be opportunities to collaborate.

DECISIONS, NEXT STEPS AND FUTURE AGENDAS (12:00-12:10 min)

We also talked about delaying the SLS EC retreat until fall. The event would be approximately 4 – 5 hours and include a look back at what SLS has accomplished and establishing some objectives for the next two years. All agreed that we should wait until the beginning of November, but make sure we do not conflict with Focus on Farming event. There will be new agency representatives/leadership changes in November, so they could be included. David is looking for 2-3 people to help plan the meeting.

Upcoming meetings and proposed topics:

August Meeting

- Inclusion of ag benefits to WDFW's "Assessing the Benefits of Restoration in the Stillaguamish Estuary" (Jay K)
- Edgecombe Creek report discussion and SLS sample letter (Paul Cereghino)
- David's SLS interview report

September Meeting

- Economic viability of agriculture (Linda N) (Note this has been moved to late fall)
- Grants and their process - What does integrated funding look like? (Jay, Paul, Dan)
- Integration Team Report (Carol MacIlroy)

Additional Fall Meeting

- Manure digesters: different types and products

³ <https://wildliferecreation.org/projects/french-slough-farm-snohomish-county/>