

SNOHOMISH BASIN SALMON RECOVERY FORUM
Meeting Summary
Thursday, November 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
Rodney Pond	Sound Salmon Solutions
Kirk Lakey	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Lindsey Desmul	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kevin Lee	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Linda Lyshall	Snohomish Conservation District
Kate Engel	Seattle City Light
Janne Kaje	King County
Keith Binkley	Snohomish PUD
Allen Gibbs	Pilchuck Audubon
Denise Johns	City of Monroe
Heather Khan	Dept. of Ecology
Jessie Balbiani	City of Marysville
Terry Williams	Tulalip Tribes
Anita Marrero	City of Monroe
Doug Hennick	Wild Fish Conservancy
Erin Murray	Puget Sound Partnership
Cory Zyla	Snoqualmie Forum
Colin Wahl	Tulalip Tribes

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

- **Approve meeting summary:** The meeting summary from May was quickly reviewed. Terry asked about the status of the Pilchuck Dam removal. Colin confirmed that it construction is

planned for 2020. He added that the Tulalip Tribes Lochsloy Dam project received approval from the Fish Barrier Removal Board to proceed with an alternatives analysis. That dam was built in the 1930s by a farmer. It currently blocks fish passage to 10 miles of spawning and rearing habitat above it. The meeting summary was approved.

- **Salmon Recovery Council Representatives:** Gretchen suggested that the basin adds additional alternates for the SRC since Rodney and Keith are not always able to make the meetings. In order to ensure our voice is heard at the table, in an official capacity, it would be good to add Elissa and Gretchen as alternates too. At the last meeting, for example, neither Keith nor Rodney could attend and one agenda item was approval of the PSAR large cap. RFP. This approval might have been delayed if watersheds representatives had not been present to weigh in on the discussion. Thankfully, that was not the case though. The Forum supported adding Elissa and Gretchen as alternates.
- **Surface Water Management Rate Increase:** The Forum agreed to send a letter of support for the rate increase a year ago. But the initiative didn't go in front of council at that time so we held off from submitting the letter. Now the county council is deciding next week whether to approve the rate increase or not. Morgan explained the alternatives that were developed by the Business Committee in 2017. This rate increase proposal was ranked last out of the six alternatives. It will stop the continued financial loss, but will not enhance the division's capacity. Morgan reported that she provided public comment in support of the increase at the public hearing last week. Terry commented that this funding situation, coupled with increasing climate change concerns in the basin, is troubling and would impact the projects that are able to do. The Forum approved submitting a letter of support. Gretchen will send it out for review by email later today.
- **2020 SRFB/PSAR RFP:** Gretchen explained the changes in the grant program timeline. These changes came about in response to the RCO's lean study. Now applications will be due sooner and site visits will be conducted earlier as well. The shifted deadlines are reflected in the adjusted draft 2020-2021 meeting schedule. Gretchen noted that projects applying for the upcoming Floodplains by Design grant will need letters of support from the lead entity. So they will need to present to the Tech. Comm and then the Forum (likely in February).

Morgan and Cory are hosting a project work group conference call from 11am-12pm on Nov. 13th. All sponsors are welcome. The agenda items will include discussing the upcoming grant round changes and the 4-year work plan update.

The Forum approved the 2020 meeting schedule. The 2021 dates will remain draft for now. The Forum discussed other possible meeting locations, but decided to continue holding meetings at the Waltz Building.

- **Future Forum Meeting Topics:** Terry mentioned a desire for a hydrology-focused meeting and suggested a presentation on the SCD's Ag Resilience Plan. Jim suggested a culvert removal topical meeting. Elissa added the steelhead regional recovery plan. Rodney commented that a beaver presentation on beaver by Ben Dittbrenner and Tulalip Tribes would be good. Other topics offered were sponsor updates on projects and the DNR's salmon plan pilot in the Snohomish.
- **Revised Bylaws:** The group discussed the conflict of interest policy which is now required to be included by the lead entity contract. There were concerns with the draft language being too restrictive. Forum members made suggestions for revising the language. Gretchen will simplify the policy so that we can continue to operate as we have historically since that has not been problematic. The key takeaway is that individuals will recuse themselves from voting on their own projects.

Membership was also discussed. There was no opposition to state and federal agencies being voting members on the Forum. The group considered implications of removing seats that have been vacant for a long period of time. In light of the upcoming chapter update, there were comments that we should be strategic about how we engage with our ag. partners. Forming a subcommittee to discuss the broader topic of membership engagement was proposed. Linda, Rodney, and Elissa were interested in participating.

New Forum chairs were considered. Jim and Terry were reelected.

Adaptive Management

- **Chapter Update:** Puget Sound Partnership received funding to support some watersheds with their plan updates. Along with Snohomish, Whatcom and Deschutes are also receiving support funds. Snohomish basin will be awarded \$100K to help with technical work and coaching from Susan Oneil with ESA. Susan is familiar with our basin and facilitating the WREC process as well so there will be good consistency. The core team is currently working on scoping the project. The goal is to create a usable, succinct document that updates our strategies, incorporates new science and reevaluates our targets. The draft will be due in June 2021. The Forum can expect updates and decision items to be brought forward over the next 1.5 years. The next update is scheduled for February's meeting. This will also be a standing item for the Tech Comm's meetings during that time as well.

Regional Updates

- **Salmon Recovery Council:** the next meeting is coming up in a couple of weeks. They will be discussing the state of temperature impairments throughout the Puget Sound. Jason Hall will be presenting on the protocols for common indicators. Riparian habitat was a topic at yesterday's Centennial Accord meeting with the Governor so this may come up too. The 2020 legislative agenda will also be reviewed.
- **Mobilizing Funding Initiative:** the mobilizing funding report made by ESA Consulting was delivered to PSP for review. The consultants looked at alternative funding sources for Puget Sound recovery and included five in the report. The report will be made public after PSP finishes their review. It will also be a topic at the April 2020 Sno-Stilly LIO meeting.

Local Updates

- **Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee:** the WREC has been meeting for the past year. So far they have identified projected well growth for the next 20 years, and subbasin delineations for planning offset projects. The committee is currently developing a project list for inclusion in the plan. Consumptive use estimates are also being finalized. The Snohomish lead entity will be using the 4-year work plan update as a tool to solicit additional projects with a streamflow benefit for consideration. Terry commented on the rate of glacial melt, flood timing, and impacts to fish habitat. Elissa added that Bob Bibbly presented to the Snoqualmie Forum and said the work being done is the work that is needed; we just need more of it.

Around the Basin

- The Snohomish Conservation District is hosting a celebration for their recently completed Ag. Resilience Plan on December 5th.

- Sound Salmon Solutions has five projects in the works. Catherine Creek is scheduled for a culvert replacement next summer. This will open 4 miles of habitat to the headwaters at Lake Cassidy. Cherry Creek Phase 1 construction is done. There is still lots of planting to do. Cherry Creek Phase 2 & 3 are still figuring out soil disposal challenges. If this obstacle cannot be overcome then the project funds will be returned to the basin. Jones Creek project in Marysville received a grant for riparian planting from Ecology. Al Borlin Park is getting funds from a generous sponsor so there will be work getting done there and along Woods Creek soon. Langus Park is being proposed for a pocket estuary restoration project in partnership with City of Everett. Catherine Creek will be applying for SRFB to put wood in the creek. Woods Creek is another site of continued interest to do more work with Adopt a Stream using SRFB funds.
- Seattle City Light conducted a pit tag antenna array project on the Tolt nine years ago. Now there is enough data to examine for trends. The agency continues to support salmon survey spawner and snorkel work. They have installed temperature loggers and USGS gages and are looking to add additional loggers. SCL has been implementing a temperature management plan since 2004 at the dams. A 2018 scour study was conducted with USGS and Tulalip Tribes to reduce the risks to salmon. In 2005, LWD was added to the SF Tolt with FERC license mitigation dollars. Now they will be moving forward with a bigger wood installation project in the fall of 2020.
- King County has hired new basin stewards. Andrea Mojzak comes from Forterra. Denise DiSanto will be focusing on the SF Skykomish, above the falls, and Bear Creek. The Tolt San Soucci project is finally finished after 15 years. All of the homes have been bought and the illegal levee and old buildings were removed to restore connection to 50 acres of floodplain habitat. The Hafner-Barfuse reconnection project to restore 100 acres will hopefully go to construction in 2022. This will be a \$15M - \$16M project. The Executive's Clean Water and Healthy Habitat Initiative being led by Abby Hook encompasses the land conservation program, fish passage program, stormwater, and wastewater.
- Marysville is working with Sound Salmon Solutions on the Jones Creek project. They are also working on riparian restoration at Allen Creek and a stormwater treatment project downtown. The city also received grant funding for planning basin-wide around restoration and preservation of habitat.
- Everett is continuing to monitor the Smith Island project. Things are looking good. Long Live the Kings and WDFW are having talks with the city about the PBDE source and addressing the impacts to young salmon. New stormwater treatment in northeast Everett is using modular treatment methods at Jackson Park to separate stormwater. Another treatment facility off of E. Grand Ave is scheduled to be installed next year.
- Dept. of Ecology hired some new non-point source pollution field staff. The Pilchuck TMDL report is really close to being complete. Advisory group meetings will hopefully be held in 2020. They also received funds for a Snohomish tributaries fecal TMDL effectiveness monitoring study.
- WDFW is having internal discussions about Ebey Island planning. They recently discovered the island has a large bog in the middle and are navigating what that means for site planning. Sunset Falls rock is being cleared for the intake facility to open up.
- Pilchuck Audubon Society is using the Bird Visualizer to gather information on birds in your own backyard. They recently released a Survival by Degrees report. A new Executive Director was also hired.
- Snohomish PUD's Sultan hydro facility received a new 45-year term license in 2011. In 2012, eight ELJs were installed to enhance two miles of side channel. They removed a fish passage barrier too. In 2016, fish passage was restored at the diversion dam. That year a water

temperature conditioning project was also completed. For 2020, LWD was identified for airlift installation at the river. Right now they're evaluating and prioritizing actions in the Sultan and Skykomish rivers. Annual escapement surveys are still being conducted along with snorkel surveys. A sonar system to track fish in the reach is being explored. They will soon have two smolt traps in the Sultan. They're also installing a snow till site in the basin to monitor snow pack recession.

- Snoqualmie Watershed Forum has filled temporary vacancies left by Perry and Beth. Cory Zyla is backfilling Perry's position for the next two years. He has been onboard for two months now. Emily Davis will be backfilling for Beth for the next year. She starts on November 20th. The next meeting is November 20th and will include a fish, farm, flood update and DNR presentation on forest health.

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The next Forum meeting will be held on February 6, 2020.

Key Decisions

- Approved the May meeting summary.
- Approved adding alternate SRC representatives.
- Approved submitting a letter of support to Snohomish County Council for the SWM rate increase.
- Approved the 2020 meeting schedule.
- Approved the bylaws with revisions.
- Reelected Forum chairs.

Upcoming Meetings

- PDC meeting: December 19, 2020
- Technical Committee meeting: January 7, 2020