

Meeting Summary

Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Technical Committee
WDFW Office, Mill Creek
9:00 am – 12:00 pm, January 7, 2020

In attendance:

1. Alexa Ramos, Snohomish County
2. Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes
3. Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County
4. Elissa Ostergaard, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
5. Emily Davis, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
6. Denise Krownbell, City of Seattle
7. Kyle Koch, Adopt-a-Stream Foundation
8. Keith Binkley, SnoPUD
9. Cory Zyla, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
10. Mike Rustay, Snohomish County
11. Jim Shannon, Hart Crowser
12. Micah Wait, WFC
13. Doug Hennick, WFC
14. Ryan Bartelheimer, SCD
15. Kathleen Pozarycki, Snohomish County
16. Jessica Hamill, Snohomish County
17. Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Tribe
18. Paul Crane, City of Everett

Meeting Summary:

Introductions

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

Updates – Basin, Regional, State

Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee – Alexa reported that the WREC project subgroup met last week. Consultants with Geoengineers are working on a literature review to quantify net ecological benefit. They plan to present their findings at the February WREC meeting. The WREC is also focusing on prioritizing project types. Elissa and Cory commented that they will be working to overlay the project types with our priority subbasin strategies to see where certain actions should be implemented. WFC is working on an assessment of water storage through restoration of incised channels. Micah can share links to the salmon conference presentation.

Matt noted that the Raging River had a high consumptive use average. When he looked into it more he found that it was due to an outlier irrigating 4 acres. Dept. of Ecology has authority to meet with landowners if the irrigation limit is not being followed. Overall, enforcement of the 950 gallons per day limit is questionable.

SRFB/PSAR – The Forum approved the reallocation decision by email. There was more funding than could be reallocated to existing projects so the 2020 grant round will be around \$2.9 M. Some of those funds will need to be spent more quickly though. The PRISM portal is now open and ready. Gretchen will send an email with key dates and feedback for sponsors on the Notices of Intent. Full applications will be due Feb. 28th and site visits will be March 17th and 18th.

NEP Funding: Snohomish County has a few projects selected for funding through the regional Strategic Initiative Leads process. Frank Leonetti, with Snohomish County, has a proposal that aligns with Tim Beechie's model work. Morgan will coordinate with them to make sure the funding goes to support the work being done and does not duplicate efforts. The Tech Comm noted that they would be interested in receiving an update on the progress of all NTAs underway in the Snohomish basin.

Other

Skagit is hiring a new fulltime noxious weed coordinator.

The Cooperative Watershed Management solicitation opens next week. Pre-applications will be due February 10th.

The Status & Trends report is finished and will be shared soon.

Floodplains by Design Pre-proposal Project Review

Pre-proposals are due January 31st and lead entity coordination is a requirement. There are four projects in our basin seeking funding this round. Today's presentations are intended to meet the coordination requirements.

Community Floodplain Solutions Sky Valley – Jessica Hamill, with Snohomish County, presented on their project being submitted at the pre-proposal stage. Phase 1 is currently underway and received \$4.8M in grant funding to support concept development and acquisition work; up to 200 acres of high risk (repetitive loss, channel migration zone, etc.) property will be targeted for acquisition. This proposal, Phase 2, will seek \$9M in funding to carry out the concepts developed in Phase 1 mainly for subreach 1, 4, and 5. The proposal will require 20% match and the sponsor plans to use a culvert replacement in subreach 5 to meet that requirement.

Tech Comm members had some questions and concerns about the project and the presenter addressed them by explaining that the pre-application for Phase 2 requires only high level information. Since Phase 1 is only in the early stages, it is hard to be very detailed regarding Phase 2 at this time. However, abstaining from submitting an application for the upcoming funding cycle would force the project team to stop all work due to the lag time in funding awards and contracting. Interested landowners do not have time to wait.

Cherry Valley – Micah, with Wild Fish Conservancy, presented on their project being submitted at the pre-proposal stage. He reminded the group that Phase 2 and Phase 3 of this multi-phase project have been funded already. This next step will seek to replace five culverts at 300th Street (two with bridges). The project has fish and ag. benefits. Drainage District #7 has a levee on the left bank that frequently gets overtopped resulting in fish stranding in the fields. The goal is to reinforce the levee cross-section to avoid that breaching or move it back and open up those 100 acres to the creek.

South Fork Snoqualmie Levee Setback – Cory Zyla, with Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, presented on the City of North Bend's project being submitted at the pre-proposal stage. The sponsors previously applied to fund this project through the basin's SRFB/PSAR grant round so most of the group is familiar with the proposal. The levee often overtops and cuts off SR22 and residents are forced to evacuate the area. The project is above the falls and seeks to increase water storage on 25-35 acres, reconnect approximately 25 acres of floodplain and restore 12 acres of riparian habitat. The proposal includes a request for \$4.2M.

FbD project sponsors will come back to the Tech Comm. in May with more refined proposals.

Chapter Update

The committee reviewed the list of founding technical documents to incorporate into the update. Emily will email the list out for feedback from members.

DNR Salmon Strategy

Stephanie Celt, with DNR, is part of a team working to identify current basin work and draft objectives, both long and short term, for partnership opportunities. DNR is looking for ways to complement the current work underway and not duplicate efforts. There is a press event planned for the spring.

Draft Workplan

The draft work plan was reviewed and revised.

The regular meeting adjourned at 11:30am and a chapter update work group convened for the remaining time.