

DRAFT Snohomish Basin Policy Development Committee
May 21, 2020 Meeting Summary
Zoom 10:00 -12:00

1. Agenda Overview and Introductions

- The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.
- Introductions were made; in attendance were:
 - Elissa Ostergaard, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
 - Cory Zyla, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
 - Alexa Ramos, Snohomish County
 - Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County
 - Linda Lyshall, Snohomish Conservation District
 - Jim Miller, City of Everett
 - Rodney Pond, Sound Salmon Solutions
 - Keith Binkley, SnoPUD
 - Dave Beedle, Seattle City Light
 - Eli Tome, Forterra
 - Paul Crane, City of Everett

2. Covid-19 Updates: Gretchen informed the group that Snohomish County will be implementing furloughs, but the details are still being negotiated. Salmon recovery funding has been frozen which impacts the basin's work being done for the salmon plan update. Coordinators have also been asked to cut their LE budgets by 15%.

At Tulalip, Morgan is still currently furloughed. Matt Pooley is also furloughed so they cannot run the smolt trap this year.

Elissa reported at King County there will be a lower ILA budget for the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum. King County staff will also be working remotely through September 7th. There are complicated staffing implications because of the term-limited positions backfilling Beth and Perry's roles. The 2020 CWM grant round (\$1.98 M) was able to fund 20 projects. The tentatively approved list is available to view on their website.

Rodney reported that SSS received a loan so staff continues to work fulltime. They are working on grants for SRFB: LWD project proposals (partnership with AASF), 2 more habitat projects, and an education project. He noted that Covid has made landowner outreach more difficult.

Keith informed the group that SnoPUD is running the Sultan smolt trap and conducting escapement surveys with a skeleton crew, but are still able to collect some data.

Dave reported that Seattle City Light has heard rumors that they will be proceeding similarly to King County. A lot of field work is not happening, but staff are doing steelhead spawning surveys in the Tolt.

Linda reported that staff at SCD are teleworking. The WCC crews are not at full capacity. Cindy is transitioning out of her position, but her moving plans shifted to mid-June so she is still around to help out for now.

Jim informed the group that City of Everett has instituted Tier 1 layoffs (20), early outs, and furloughs (60) with more cuts to come for Tier 2. Staff capacity is extremely limited and the budget has been impacted. They will not be moving forward on anything except grant projects. Most remaining staff are teleworking. A restart plan is being developed based on the governor's phasing.

3. SRFB 2020: Gretchen updated the group on this year's unique grant round which included virtual site visits. So far, only 2 projects have been cleared by the technical reviewers, 9 projects are "needs more information" status, and 1 is a "project of concern" (Monroe acquisition). Local reviewers have not been able to complete the local ranking because they feel they need more information as well. Also, we don't want to approve a ranked list until we know for sure which projects will remain POC. The basin won't know until the SRFB technical reviewers meet again in early July. So Gretchen won't be bringing list for approval to the Forum in June. Instead a special meeting in July will be needed.

There hasn't been word yet about state agency funding for SRFB, PSAR, FbD, etc. For now, we just have to wait and see.

4. DNR Salmon Strategy: Gretchen and Alexa are still working with Stephanie at DNR. We have provided them with a map of our 4-year work plan projects. Now their GIS team is working on developing a map portal. There was hope that Commissioner Hillary would highlight the Snohomish and accelerate a media push for the salmon strategy, but that is uncertain now. Work still continues behind the scenes. LE staff has concerns about capacity to support this portal on a yearly basis in the future.
5. Plan Update: The funding for this work has been impacted by Covid. A lot of work is occurring behind the scenes on the water quality white paper. The team is trying to figure out how to fund NOAA for an estuary synthesis. Elissa and Mike are pulling the monitoring plan together. The Tech Comm has been kept very up to date on the status, but Tolt knowledge experts seem to not be attending Tech Comm so will be reaching out to them for their review.
6. LIO EC meeting: The LIO met on 4/30. The agenda included a presentation from PSP on their mobilizing funding initiative. Gretchen wants to bring the topic to the Forum as well because salmon recovery partners haven't been as informed, but it is interesting. This would be a great topic for the Forum.
7. June Forum: At the June meeting there will be a discussion of the Tulalip Tribes Snohomish acquisition strategy. Brett has made many presentations to the Tech Comm. We will also be approving Fbd letters of support. Three of the sponsors have already presented to the Tech Comm and received support. Snohomish County is scheduled to present at the next Tech Comm meeting in June. See Tech Comm notes for details on the projects. The Fall City levee setback project is moving forward in the PSAR large cap process. We will likely be asked to speak to

legislators in support of these funding sources. Colin Wahl will give the fish in/fish out presentation as well.

8. Roundtable Updates: Rodney shared that final designs for Catherine Creek are being completed. Then permit applications will be submitted. Preparations should be ready by July for construction next summer. The construction phase will need \$150K in match. SSS is uncertain where that will come from. This will continue to be a challenge going forward.

Eli reported that Forterra is working on a way to sell carbon credits from the riparian restoration work they've been doing with hopes to bring to Snohomish County. The project is conceptual right now, but they will be putting in a grant proposal to look at feasibility. They would want to coordinate about where to place large riparian projects in the basin.

Adjourned at 12pm.