

**DRAFT Snohomish Basin Policy Development Committee**  
**April 15, 2021 Meeting Summary**  
**Zoom 10:00 AM -12:00 PM**

**Attendees:**

Alexa Cummings, Snohomish County  
Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County  
Linda Lyshall, Snohomish Conservation District  
Elissa Ostergaard, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum  
Kate Engel, Seattle City Light  
Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes  
Paul Crane, City of Everett

**Introductions -**

Gretchen opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

**DNR Conversation –**

Gretchen said DNR hired Susan O’Neil to help align their strategy with current programs and partners. Susan has a good handle on the work happening in the basin so that will be helpful. But Stephanie is on vacation so haven’t had a chance to check in and we’re not sure where things are at right now. DNR did ask Rep. Larson for \$2M to support Snohomish estuary work to remove derelict boats, debris, invasive species, etc.

**Carbon Pricing –**

Gretchen reported DNR is also interested in pursuing forestry and carbon pricing. Stephanie asked for contacts in the basin engaged in this work. Linda mentioned the SCD is also having conversations about carbon pricing projects for farms. Pierce CD has a new program with agriculture carbon credits so SCD is looking at that. SCD has a new forester coming onboard that will be heading this up. WSU Extension also has a program all about healthy forests and stewardship that SCD contributes funds to as well.

Elissa added that King County just released a 30-year forest plan. Kathleen Wolf is heading it up. They want to focus on unincorporated parts of the county that are more urban.

**March Forum – DNR Presentation**

Linda said she was excited by the presentation but left with questions. It wasn’t clear how to engage. Elissa said it was inspiring but sounds like it’s still a work in progress and hinges on getting funding from the state legislature which they have been successful at. It will be interesting to see how much funding they get and how it shakes out. The interactive map for big corporations to fund salmon recovery work was interesting. Her approach of getting everyone to contribute to funding recovery was exciting.

Gretchen spoke to the importance of not duplicating efforts are creating another database that we do not have the capacity to maintain. Also, mapping projects isn’t always the best for capturing the nuance of project stories and challenges to implementation.

Morgan added that this effort seems focused on capital projects, but salmon recovery extends beyond that. This doesn’t capture the more programmatic actions. And we still have a bottleneck to implementation when it comes to capacity and willing landowners.

Elissa asked if we could have a conversation about capacity in the basin. At King County large teams are assembled for each project, but maybe that's unnecessary. Morgan said this is something she's been thinking about a lot for the capital program and her position. Maybe this looks like a workshop or meeting. Gretchen added that there are big asks of our project sponsors and push for integrated work. At Snohomish County, there is the opposite problem of trying to support engineers and habitat biologists working together on projects. And some of our sponsors, like SSS/RFEGs have had to pull back on large capital projects which has ramifications on progress in the basin.

DNR staff tried to compile answers to questions from the Forum meeting. Gretchen will send out after this meeting for feedback.

#### **SRFB 2021 –**

Gretchen informed the group that two out of the four projects were flagged as projects of concern (POC). She's not confident that they will be able to remove the POC status. This year was a light one. There were ~11 notices of intent received. The local scoring meeting is scheduled for 4/27. We may have enough funding to cover the projects that can be funded with more money than projects. So we may have the opportunity to loan funds to another basin and get that money back next year. Gretchen is processing deadline extensions for project sponsors and we have funds to be reallocated. We should have a much better idea of where things stand by the next PDC meeting.

#### **PSSRC Retreat –**

Gretchen, Elissa, and Keith attended. The big topic was: "Why aren't we seeing our salmon numbers increase? Are we doing the right projects in the right places? How could we use PSAR funds to make a bigger impact on recovery?" The outcome seems to be to maintain things the way they are for now, but in the future the distribution formula may change. Gretchen still has concerns that there are other implementation issues that need to be addressed besides funding – like sponsor capacity, landowner willingness, etc. Elissa added that funding is still a key issue because if we had greater, more consistent funding then partners could ramp up their capacity accordingly and landowner willingness is beginning to gain some traction from efforts like FFF and SLS.

Gretchen reminded the group that PSAR funds support Morgan's position and go towards our basin's projects every two years.

#### **WREC –**

The committee is meeting today to vote on the Plan. Snoqualmie Tribe will not vote to support the Plan. So that puts it back into Ecology's hands. Snoqualmie Tribe and Seattle City Light are submitting comment letters to Ecology. We could consider sending a letter too. It could be an opportunity to heighten the concerns around lack of enforcement and tracking for implementation of these offset projects.

Linda added that a lot of work went into this process and partners are disappointed that not everyone will be able to sign on to it.

Elissa added that Ingria said this vote isn't the end. There is still time for partners to work things out and reach a locally approved plan. Snoqualmie Forum hasn't drafted a comment letter at this time. Gretchen and Elissa will work together on preparing letters from the Forums.

### **Virtual Meetings –**

The group discussed what meeting format would be best going forward. There was support for a hybrid approach – some virtual, some in-person meetings.

### **Vice Chair –**

Gretchen asked if anyone had ideas about filling this position. Keith mentioned hesitation to take on the role due to his retirement plans for the near future. Gretchen spoke about having a representative from one of the cities and the benefits that could bring. She also hopes to speak to our new Snohomish County councilmember Jared Mead.

### **Tulalip Staffing –**

Elissa said with Colin Wahl's departure, Matt Pauley will be the new liaison/co-chair to the Tech Comm but half of his job will be implementing restoration projects. Brett Shattuck will be his supervisor. A new hire will be replacing Matt and taking over the work on the trap. Brett Shattuck is stepping in to help with the riparian target setting for the Plan update. Morgan added that it doesn't sound like Tulalip will be hiring on more technical staff for the time being. Staff and assignments are being shuffled around.

### **Plan Update –**

Gretchen noted that basin core team staff at the county are being pulled into project management assignments, so capacity is a bit constrained. She had hoped to have a big update for the Forum on progress by June, but not sure if that timeframe will still work. While county staff resources may be limited, Gretchen has been able to secure more funding so may be able to hire out some of the work to consultants whether that's for Plan update support or lead entity support, etc.

### **Culverts –**

Morgan spoke to the external pressure from SRFB to define our prioritization and a need to develop better messaging around culvert work happening in the watershed, how it relates to salmon recovery, and our culvert priorities. How do we better coordinate around these projects and sponsors? Tulalip is also working with Snohomish County and Snoqualmie to pilot EMDS which could inform how culverts relate to salmon.

### **Future Topics –**

The group brainstormed ideas for future meetings including project lifecycle/pipeline focus.

### **Seattle City Light Update –**

Sent a letter to licensed participants that blew up. Currently working on course correction. Brought in a legal team – Cascadia – with key advisors and a communications team. The city has had a vacant position for tribal affairs for a while but are prioritizing filling it now. SCL's position is to not just meet the legal obligations by FERC but focused on doing the right thing. Waiting for the FERC response now. Meeting adjourned at 11:30am