SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) PHASE 3.9 2019, ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday January 10, 2019 10:00am – 12:15pm
Snohomish County Campus, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett, WA 98201
East Building, 6th floor, Room 6A02 (Mt. Baker conference room), 425-262-2260

PARTICIPANTS:
Bails, Jamie - Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Bartelheimer, Dan - Snohomish Valley Farms
Bernhard, Bob - Snohomish County SWM
Bookey, Brian - National Foods, SLS EC Co-chair (Ag)
Brokaw, Loren - Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Cole, Heather - The Nature Conservancy
Desmul, Lindsey - Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Dittbrenner, Cindy - Snohomish Conservation District
Eidem, CK - Ducks Unlimited, EC Fish rep
Evans, Dan - Dan Evans Consulting, facilitator
Fajardo, Gabriela - NRCS
Hazleton, Chuck - Stillaguamish farmer
Krienitz, Jay - Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Lakey, Kirk - Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Marti, Monte - Snohomish Conservation District, EC Ag rep
Masterson, Ikuno - Snohomish County
Siliverstova, Karina - Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Stockdale, Erik - Snohomish County SWM
Warren, Brad - Global Ocean Health
Williams, Terry - Tulalip Tribe, Co-chair (Fish)
Wright, Emily - Cascadia Consulting

PURPOSE: Annual SLS organizational meeting to elect officers, lay out meeting schedule, and address structural issues, including the Integration Team (IT), Exec Cmte membership and role, and coordination with related initiatives and partners; discuss and outline 2019 SLS work plan and funding priorities / engagement; farm-fish-floods updates and upcoming events.

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION (10:00-10:10)
   a. Review purpose, agenda: The Executive Committee was called to order at 10:10am. Dan Evans reviewed the agenda and purpose for today’s meeting.
   b. Introductions: In addition to self-introductions from the usual participants, a new participant, Gabriela Fajardo, was in attendance. Gabriela is a soil conservationist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and is working out of the Lake Stevens NRCS field office. After the introductions, Erik Stockdale presented a commemorative plaque to Kristin Kelly and thanked her for all that she has done for SLS over the past decade. Kristin recently resigned from SLS (December 2018) to spend more time with family.

2. SLS ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ACTIONS (10:10-10:35)
   a. Election of Executive Committee officers:
      • EC has an open seat for the fish caucus (formerly held by Kristin Kelly). Terry Williams will oversee filling the seat. Recommendations should be forwarded to Terry or Dan.
      • Co-chairs (one each from fish and farm caucus)
         1. Monte Marti moved to elect Terry Williams as co-chair of the fish caucus, C.K. Eidem seconded the motion. All EC members voted in favor.
         2. Monte moved to elect Brian Bookey as co-chair of agriculture caucus, C.K. seconded the motion. All EC members voted in favor.
b. **Other organizational matters**: meeting schedule, by-laws

- There were no objections to the current 2019 SLS EC schedule (see attachments)

### 3. SLS PRIORITIES & WORK PLAN OUTLINE (10:35-11:45)

#### a. Review and discuss SLS 2019 Work Plan Priorities outline (see attachments)

- **Resource Lands Protection**

  1. Brian Bookey led a discussion about the future Twin City Food (TCF) land sale in the Stillaguamish Valley. Brian and Terry agreed that a comprehensive long range plan is needed for the TCF properties. Interested stakeholders (farmers, Stillaguamish Tribe) need to collaborate on the plan and determine who's interested and who's able to farm the land. Brian mentioned that currently TCF’s Thurman property is for sale because their [State Waste Discharge permit](#) to apply wastewater to the ground does not apply there. The land has been partitioned from their neighboring land to the north where the permit coverage does apply. The property is located east of The Nature Conservancy’s Port Susan property, along the north bank of Hatt Slough. Dan suggested that SLS provide the table for Stillaguamish Valley resident to participate in the planning and provide coordination with the SLS Integration Team, PCC and the Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiative. C.K. mentioned that the seed crops grown on the TCF land is foraged by many species of fowl and is therefore valuable to Ducks Unlimited. Specialty/woody crops (e.g., blueberry and hazelnuts) are not utilized by fowl. Cindy Dittbrenner noted that the Ag Resilience data could help steer the future use of the TCF land. Monte mentioned that Floodplain by Design funding is needed in the Stillaguamish Valley to retain agriculture. SLS needs to work on a funding package now so it can be submitted for the next Floodplains by Design application biennium.

  2. In addition to the potential loss of agricultural land by the sale of the TCF’s property, Brian mentioned that a dairy farmer currently leasing land in the Stillaguamish Valley will not be renewing their lease soon.

  3. As a result of the previous conversation, Monte initiated a conversation about the lack of funding for agricultural projects that occur alongside fish projects. Monte stated that we need to voice our opinion and say that we want agriculture alongside fish projects. Brian mentioned that we need to create financing opportunities. Kirk Lakey asked the group what type of federal funding is available for agriculture producers. Gabriela Fajardo replied that there are funds available for environmental incentives. Monte added that federal programs used to be more production focused. Overtime its been driven by environmental quality. Gabriela spoke of the [Conservation Stewardship Program](#) where recipients can receive up to $1,500/yr for 5 years. Dan asked the group what are the next steps if financial opportunities for agriculture are a high priority for us? What can we do? Through discussion Dan captured 6 points to explore for making Ag a priority.

      a. SLS provide the table for collaboration
      b. Capacity and support
      c. Flexible funding policies (engage policy makers)
      d. Climate change data available to support Ag resilience
      e. Reach-scale plans
f. Project development support (through the IT?)

Heather Cole stated that SLS needs to continue to support an integrative package approach for Floodplains by Design, focusing on fish, farm and flood. Perhaps SLS should explore the possibility of hiring an Ag representative to sit on the Integration Team? Heather then mentioned that within the next few months Department of Ecology will be updating their grant guidance manual for the next Floodplains by Design grant round. We must reach out to the Department of Ecology and let them know that Ag projects should be worth more than they are currently scored. February 12th is Floodplains by Design lobbying day.

Integration Team:

1. Loren Brokaw spoke about the Ebey Island and Snohomish Delta Planning project (PRISM #18-1995) which ranked high on the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program 2019-2021 Preliminary Investment Plan List (see attachments). Currently the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is working on scoping the details of the project.

2. Dan Bartelheimer mentioned that the Hofstra property in Skykomish sold at the end of the year to another farmer.

3. Erik Stockdale spoke about the channel migration easements that will be implemented along the Skykomish River. These are the first channel migration easements in the state of Washington. The easements are based on easements in Montana (Yellowstone).

Regulatory coordination/efficiency:

1. Terry spoke about the culvert replacement initiative and how the Tulalip Tribes are working on a comprehensive plan to prioritize culvert replacement. Terry also mentioned that we should ask the governor to ask for federal assistance for landowner used culvert replacements. Monte added that County councilmember want to make sure state money is spent on culverts that won’t be affected/impeded by undersized private culverts downstream.

2. A discussion was held about water management flexibility for net gain. Currently there is grant funding of $40,000,000 (statewide) for the Hirst mitigation. Some funds may come to Snohomish County and these funding opportunities will be discussed during the February SLS EC meeting.

Ag resilience

1. Cindy Dittbrenner gave a quick update on Ag resilience. The Snohomish Conservation District will be speaking to farmers about the modelling data over the next 6 months and the District plans to have an outreach event in spring (May).

Coordination with other resource mgt initiatives:

Snow Water Enhancement Project: C.K. spoke about Duck Unlimited’s Snow Water Enhancement Project in South Ebey Island (see attachments). The project will replace culverts and existing water control structures that connect Ag fields to ditches. Water can be pumped onto the land during the non-growing season (winter) for wetland function and to increase groundwater infiltration. During the growing season, water can be pumped into on-site ditches (non-fish bearing) for later use (irrigation). C.K. will distribute a letter requesting permit exemption, documenting planned and completed work.
• **Ecosystem Services Project (WDFW / ESRP):** Jay Krienitz and Tracy Rouleau gave a presentation on *Assessing the Benefits of Restoration in the Stillaguamish Estuary* (see attachments). Afterwards a group discussion was held, addressing various questions/comments from the group.

1. Brian Bookey asked about the economic benefits of agriculture resilience. Terry mentioned that a similar study is being conducted by the Tulalip Tribes over the next two years, perhaps data can be obtained from their study.

2. Dan Bartelheimer commented that duck hunting land, lost at Leque Island, will now be created upland, resulting in the loss of more Ag land.

3. Jay suggested that perhaps an add-on layer can be incorporated for Ag benefits, though it will cost around $50,000 and there is no source of funding.

4. **ADJOURN (12:15)**