

Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood 2.0 Implementation Oversight Committee

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 (IOC Fall 2021 Retreat #2 of 3)
8:00 am to 10:30 am (scheduled)
Video Conference Call via King County Zoom Account

Committee Members Present (Y/N) <i>* = denotes caucus co-chair</i>					
Fish Caucus		Farm Caucus		Flood Caucus	
Cindy Spiry, Snoqualmie Tribe* <i>(proxy: Matt Baerwalde - Y)</i>	Y	Marie Shimada, Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance*	Y	Angela Donaldson, Fall City Community Association*	Y
Denise Krownbell, Snohomish Forum	Y	Bobbi Lindemulder, farmer	Y	Lara Thomas, City of Duvall	Y
Mike Remington, Snoqualmie Forum	Y	Meredith Molli, Agriculture Commission	Y		
Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy	Y	Dave Glenn, Sno Valley Tilth	Y		
Daryl Williams, Tulalip Tribes <i>(proxy: Kurt Nelson - N)</i>	Y	Liz Stockton, King Conservation District	Y		
Ex Officio Members Present (Y/N)					
Gary Bahr, WSDA	Y	Tom Buroker, WDOE <i>(proxy: Joe Burcar - N)</i>	N		
Josh Baldi, KC DNRP	Y	Kirk Lakey, WDFW	Y		

I) Call to Order / Chairs Welcome

Facilitator Tamie Kellogg began the meeting at 8:06 am. Caucus co-chairs and IOC members introduced themselves verbally, and County staff did so via the Zoom chat function.

Kellogg reviewed the agenda and set the context for today’s breakout sessions, to define FFF top priorities for the 2022-2024 timeframe and needed resources to accomplish them. It was noted the breakout sessions were not to rank action items by importance, but to clarify for the County and other implementers what items or milestones need to be completed first to move other action items forward. The breakout sessions were also intended to identify other potential non-County collaborative entities to achieve these milestones, with the County evaluating for any gaps and clarifying additional questions for the caucuses. Each caucus and co-chair used a template for their discussion results, to be compiled and shared with the full IOC. The intent is that potential pathways to priorities will be discussed at the IOC’s November or December meeting.

II) Caucus Priorities – Breakout Groups

All IOC members were sent into caucus breakout groups for 75 minutes to discuss 2022-2024 priorities.

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III) Priority Focus Areas – Group Discussion of Collective Priorities

While breakout discussion results were compiled, caucus chairs quickly reviewed top priorities for each group:

- **Fish:**
 - #1: Item 3.4, ensure staff capacity for two feasibility studies each year, and each year one construction and design study, to ensure there’s a project pipeline. Snoqualmie-focused capital project staff working in the APD are needed for this.
 - #2: Item 3.3, for detailed reporting out on County ERES/Rivers staff allocated to the Snoqualmie watershed, including hours, budget, staff numbers, and schedule.
 - #3: Item 3.2, to hire another half-time Snoqualmie basin steward, and maintain full-time FFF project manager, in the County’s 2022-2024 budget.
- **Farm:**
 - Reliable funding is needed, instead of just year-to-year; this applies to measures 1 and 3.
 - Progress is needed on Items 6.1 and especially 6.2; there are new proposed solutions from the caucus to be discussed soon. 6.1 involves County staff exploring what comprehensive drainage assistance looks like;

- 6.2 involves showing, in a public facing format, steps and resources available for agricultural drainage, and obtaining policy sign-offs from DLS and WDFW.
- Progress is needed on measure 4, addressing alluvial fan management.
- **Flood:**
 - New #1 priority is to conduct lower Snoqualmie Valley 2D modeling to identify and advance road safety and flood storage capacity projects.
 - New #2: Continue improving road safety in flood-prone areas.
 - New #3: Recruit new caucus members to improve caucus creativity, sustainability, technical expertise, diversity, etc.
 - Other priorities include home elevations and farm worker housing (these two are near completion); the hope is to move up the resilience strategy for multi-objective projects in 2022.
- **Ex Officio:**
 - There is pending legislation at state and county levels, including the County’s 2020 Comprehensive Plan (“comp plan”) and upcoming DNR/DLS work program, that may boost or slow FFF work. It was suggested to coordinate with Snohomish County Forum’s Sustainable Land Strategy (SLS) which has some similarities and differences with FFF that can present learning opportunities. Completion of the agriculture strategic plan, riparian guidance work, new state legislation addressing soil health and sustainable farms, and a new USDA “climate smart” agriculture/forestry program are also considered key.
 - Is there something you wish the IOC would ask you on how to get the best out of ex officio members? Discussion covered subjects surrounding ex officio members supporting different communities on what is legislatively/politically happening at various government levels.
 - Is there something ex officio members could collaborate on to work with FFF/IOC? One item is the DNR/DLS joint strategy. Generally the County collaborates well internally, but there is also a need to collaborate well and advocate with state and federal policymakers.

Follow-up discussion raised concern on a need to determine specific response timelines for these priorities, to assure accountability in the responses. Progress should be easily observable and not just talked about, and the importance of all caucus list items should be reiterated.

It was noted Snohomish County’s SLS has a subcommittee tracking updates to their county’s comprehensive plan, and perhaps FFF could do something similar. King County’s comp plan affects all FFF work and the IOC should be allowed to provide input as it progresses. It was suggested to discuss this at tomorrow’s meeting and in the meantime, IOC members should review today’s compiled breakout discussion results for follow-up tomorrow.

IV) Next Steps & Follow-Up: ID needed follow-up actions, agenda review/preparation.

Tamie Kellogg noted tomorrow’s meeting time has been shortened to two hours, with an option to possibly go to two and a half hours. The agenda is being reworked; Kellogg and Beth leDoux will touch base with co-chairs.

DNRP-WLRD director Josh Baldi spoke on what the County wants to accomplish for FFF programmatically and financially, and assured the County hears the priorities the IOC is voicing today. It is important the IOC continues to articulate these, as the County continuously strives to improve. Baldi reviewed workings at the county, state, and federal level that could impact FFF proceedings.

County:

- DNRP is working with DLS on a joint work program to address many issues that span both departments.
- DNRP Director Christie True and DLS Director John Taylor will review this month a vast scope of legislative developments that may impact the County and FFF.
- The County is working on major updates to its floodplain plan and comp plan. The Executive will transmit these updates to King County Council in 2023. An IOC briefing on the floodplain plan is expected by end of this year or early next year. The floodplain plan is a functional element of the comp plan and both will affect the work of FFF. The update process is an opportunity to capture some of the IOC’s ideas on how to prioritize and work that is important, which the County wants before sending these updates to the Executive.
- The County is starting to think on the 2023-2024 budget, due to the Executive mid-2022. Some factors could be changed by the coming November 2021 elections. The budget’s primary rate driver is the Surface Water Management (SWM) fee, increases to which in 2017 and 2019 funded many programs. There was no SWM increase in 2021 due to the pandemic and it is uncertain where the County will stand next year on this issue.

- Three major touchstones faced by County Executive agencies are: Equity & Social Justice (ESJ), Clean Water Healthy Habitat (CWHH), and the Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP). Many FFF items fall within CWHH.
- The County intends to bring more Rivers section staff expertise to the FFF space.
- The County is getting better at multi-benefit floodplain projects but still needs work to improve multi-benefit drainage projects. There may be a chance to make changes in the next few years with Executive orders, plan updates, budget, and policy interpretations.
- Baldi noted while new funding is key to moving priorities forward, policy interpretations may also be crucial.

State/Federal:

- State and federal legislation has a heavy imprint on FFF's work. The County is monitoring several potential items at the state level that could amplify, contradict, or accelerate this work.
- Baldi suggested it would be good to get an ex officio members "caucus" update on the Governor's proposed actions in the coming legislative session that may impact FFF work and need to be factored into the way FFF moves forward.

Tamie Kellogg adjourned the meeting at 10:29 am.