

**Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood 2.0
Implementation Oversight Committee
DRAFT MEETING NOTES**

**Tuesday, April 27, 2021
9:00 am to 11:00 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	Cynthia Krass, Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance*	Y	Angela Donaldson, Fall City Community Association*	Y
Denise Krownbell, Snohomish Forum	Y	Bobbi Lindemulder, farmer	Y	Stuart Lisk, City of Carnation	N
Mike Remington, Snoqualmie Forum	Y	Meredith Molli, Agriculture Commission	Y	Lara Thomas, City of Duvall	Y
Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy	Y	Dave Glenn, Sno Valley Tilth	N		
Daryl Williams, Tulalip Tribes <i>(proxy: Kurt Nelson - N)</i>	Y				
Ex Officio Members Present (Y/N)					
Gary Bahr, WSDA	Y	Brendan Brokes, WDFW <i>(proxy: Stewart Reinbold - N)</i>	N		
Josh Baldi, KC DNRP	Y	Tom Buroker, WDOE <i>(proxy: Joe Burcar - N)</i>	N		

1) Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review (Tamie Kellogg, Cindy Spiry)

- **Call to Order:** Meeting facilitator Tamie Kellogg called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.
- **Native Lands Acknowledgement:** Tamie Kellogg led the IOC in acknowledging native lands they reside on.
- **Welcome:** Cindy Spiry welcomed all present, reading a quote from Albert Einstein.
- **Rotating Check-In – Fish Caucus:**
 - Cindy Spiry said more capacity is needed for progress on large capital projects, as well as to accelerate restoration on projects (one per year) outside the Snoqualmie APD.
 - No progress is apparent yet on action item Fish 3, which involves conducting a low flow assessment to address fish irrigation needs.
 - There is no apparent progress on action item Fish 4 either, involving combined waterways.
 - For action item Fish 5, funding for a fish biologist, there has been some progress but some work remains. A water quality specialist has been added, but this specialist doesn't have the ability to make changes to help projects be more fish-friendly.
 - Action item Fish 6, involving the buffers task force, is on track but not done yet. Guidelines are finished, but with no set minimums yet.
- **Mingle/Check-In:** IOC members were sent into random breakout rooms to chat for five minutes.

2) Capital Project Consideration of Agricultural Land (Janne Kaje, Cynthia Krass)

[IOC Decision Point: Articulate path forward for further discussion.]

Several weeks ago, Cynthia Krass brought to Beth leDoux and Tamie Kellogg SVPA's concerns about possible agricultural land loss as a result of capital projects. Krass assured the IOC this does not mean SVPA is walking away from FFF or from supporting the Fall City restoration project. While the farm caucus has not developed a formal position on this issue, there is consensus among its members that this needs the IOC's attention.

Krass said delving into more detail on this matter would be informative for future large capital projects in a way all would agree with, to seek areas that may cause disagreement. There is desire to remove ambiguity on this topic in County code; one way would be to convene the Agriculture Procedures Committee (APC) earlier in the project process. SVPA has asked about consideration of agricultural land loss but has not gotten a specific answer.

SVPA's interpretation of the code is that project components are to minimize or mitigate loss of agricultural land. But, the County's project team said this process is adjudicated by the APC, which meets in the first half of 2021.

The source of confusion appears to center on if agricultural land is supposed to be considered on a project by project basis. SVPA believes the APC review is too late in the project planning process to fulfill the code's provision to minimize agricultural land loss on a project by project basis. The IOC is being asked to answer this to avoid future conflicts, to ensure all parties can agree on a project. The IOC is also being asked to help remove code ambiguity and help implement something akin to the APC earlier in the project planning process to ensure agriculture land loss is being addressed.

Josh Baldi advised that the County's Comprehensive Plan update was the best chance for broad support on this issue. Baldi agreed the APC review needs to come earlier in the project planning process, and while WLRD is already doing this informally, perhaps the process could be formalized. There was discussion on if to try to submit comment on the Comprehensive Plan update in the short time remaining in the open comment period. Cynthia Krass said their question is not whether to change County code, but find agreement on what the Code means and ensure the project planning process follows that. Janne Kaje, Regional Partnerships Unit supervisor for DNRP, clarified that the comment period open now is for the countywide planning policies, which serve as umbrella policies, and then the County will launch its comprehensive plan updates.

There was agreement on the IOC looking further into this topic, and that this is a good time to track progress or lack thereof in the FFF process and ensure all groups are moving forward together. Tamie Kellogg and Beth leDoux agreed to work with caucus co-chairs to compile an outline/timeline for the IOC to dive into this issue.

3) **FFF Snoqualmie Valley Project Symposium (*Beth leDoux, Tamie Kellogg*)**

[IOC Decision Point: Agree on general symposium details.]

Beth leDoux has been working with several others on the idea of a symposium to bring together groups who work on salmon recovery, flood safety, and agriculture projects in the Snoqualmie Valley and facilitate collaboration. This refers mostly to capital projects, but may include others as well. It would be intended as a space for people to share progress as well as determine how to bring multiple benefits to projects. One thing to determine is how to bring this event to the public in a meaningful way. It was suggested that King County's online Virtual Hub could house presentations for people to view on their own time.

IOC members were then sent into breakout rooms for 20 minutes to discuss the following:

- Can an IOC meeting be replaced by the Project Symposium workshop and its time extended to three hours?
- How to ensure highest comfort level with those sharing at the workshop.
- How to minimize effort needed by presenters.
- How to best share this project information with the public.
- Should operating the workshop be a way to learn if additional meetings would be helpful?
- Should the County's virtual engagement hub be used to publicly share information? Does this type of activity work for the public?

In the breakout groups' report back to the main IOC group, the following suggestions and concerns were noted:

- Transparency to the public is key, and allowing them to ask questions. However, boundaries should be clear: deciding the target audience, stressing these sessions are not the official County public comment period for these projects, and that not all presenters will be from the County.
- Note any sensitivities first, to get ahead of potential questions.
- Decide ahead of time what questions need to be answered with the presentations: why, possible impacts to others, impediments, unintended consequences, and advantages.
- Record the symposium, as well as videos of other project proponents, to view later if wanted.
- Representatives from all Fs should be present to support each other and ensure each presenter doesn't need to field all questions.
- Focus on projects from smaller groups that might not be heard about otherwise but still are key for progress.
- A poll will be sent out after this meeting to determine answers to timing concerns: when to hold the event, and giving people time and space to do their presentations.

4) **Agriculture Strategic Plan (*Patrice Barrentine*)**

[IOC Decision Point: Gauge interest in being a SME, and if an organization wants to give feedback.]

Patrice Barrentine updated the IOC on the task force's progress and overviewed a proposed timeline for its work:

- **Quarter 1:** Adopted new plan structure.

- **Quarter 2:** Drafting of plan and completing charter to designate roles and duties for the process. The draft is expected to be completed by the end of June.
- **Quarter 3:** Conduct outreach and review with stakeholders – agriculture organizations, landowners, and IOC representative organizations. IOC will be able to add comments in this period.
- **Quarter 4:** Adoption of task force plan by all different entities in December.

Barrentine then reviewed the new twofold focus of the plan:

- **Improve farmland productivity:** This will address concerns on drainage, transport, irrigation, high ground elevation, and climate change. A drainage sub-goal is for all farmable land in the Snoqualmie APD to be routinely improved to be productively farmed for the full growing season.
- **Improve farmland protections:** This will address concerns on flood safety, development and population growth, wildlife, farmland preservation, and proposed acreage needs for long-term farming viability.

Key values and themes of this plan include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Responsible stewardship and sustainable farming;
- Flood and climate change preparation;
- Equity and Social Justice;
- Multi-benefit projects;
- Innovative thinking; and
- Regulatory certainty.

Many of these elements are outlined in other strategic plans and programs, and this plan will align with those. Organizations represented on the force have mission statements that align with the force's recommended strategies.

Barrentine asked anyone interested in being a Subject Matter Expert (SME) for the plan to reach out as soon as possible, and advise of plans/programs to incorporate by May 11. Drainage concerns should be sent to Barrentine by tomorrow. It was asked that anyone with sub-goals or issues to address in the plan contact Barrentine.

5) **Regulatory Task Force (*Eric Beach*)**

Last week the task force got a reply to a letter sent to Executive Constantine, acknowledging the work of the task force. The Executive also pledged to direct DNRP and Department of Local Services (DLS)'s work program implementation. The intent is for DNRP and DLS to collaborate on this, have it be a part of the County's Clean Water Healthy Habitat (CWHH) initiative, and ensure things are also addressed at the federal level. A memo of concurrence on understanding of mitigation requirements for agricultural activities was also sent and approved.

The first recommendation being picked up by the task force is offsite mitigation. This is contingent on funding, with a plan to start in 2022. Other updates included new chapters of the *Farm Practices Illustrated* compendium, the first of which is on farmworker housing; and ongoing integrated drainage program work by DNRP-WLRD's Stormwater, Agriculture, and FFF teams.

6) **Integrated Drainage Progress (*Beth leDoux*)**

Work on this continues internally at the County, to address drainage concerns from the FFF 1.0 agreement. Eric Beach is working on the regulatory hurdles, and Lou Beck in DNRP-WLRD's Stormwater Services is working on capital projects. The Agricultural Drainage and Assistance Program (ADAP) is not really being changed; spaces are sought in the Snoqualmie Valley where there can be a quick permit path forward, and are not strictly salmon or flood related projects. Policy and guidelines continue to be refined and adapted, and will be brought back to the IOC. Any questions should be directed to Beth leDoux or Eric Beach.

7) **Housekeeping/Public Comment (*Tamie Kellogg*)**

- **Housekeeping [IOC Decision Point: Select regular meeting time]:** While a poll indicated Tuesday and Thursday mornings were preferred by a majority of votes, several members asked if it were possible to hold afternoon meetings instead. Beth leDoux agreed to send a follow-up poll to clarify the results.
- **Public Comment:** There was no public comment given during this period.

8) **Wrap-Up/Adjourn (*Tamie Kellogg*)**

It was noted the next IOC meeting will potentially be longer.

Tamie Kellogg adjourned the meeting at 10:59 am.

Next IOC Meeting: July 2021 TBD (Zoom video conference call)