

Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood 2.0 Implementation Committee

MEETING NOTES

Friday, January 12th, 2018
Chamber of Commerce, Duvall Visitor and Community Center
15619 Main St. NE, Duvall, WA, 98019

8:30 - 9:00 am: Continental Breakfast and Catch Up!

9:00 am - 12:00 pm: Meeting

1) Continental Breakfast

2) Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review, and Updates (*Josh Baldi, Tamie Kellogg*)

- a) **Welcome:** Meeting facilitator Tamie Kellogg called the meeting to order at 9:11 am, then turned the floor over to Josh Baldi, DNRP-WLR Division Director. Mr. Baldi introduced himself and emphasized his, DNRP Director Christie True's, and County Executive Dow Constantine's enthusiasm and priority for FFF 2.0. He praised the collaborative effort of FFF and said it is the model that should be used for other APDs/areas. Ms. Kellogg then reviewed today's agenda, stating the most important outcome today is to elect caucus chairs. These chairs will coordinate future meeting agendas.
- b) **Organizing Principles:** Ms. Kellogg overviewed FFF's organizing principles, available for review in each attendee's meeting binder.
- c) **Public Comment:** Larry Pickering asked if there is room for another flood caucus member, saying he wouldn't mind serving as one. Ms. Kellogg promised someone would follow up with him.

3) Where We Left Off (*Janne Kaje, Richard Martin*)

- a) **FFF 1.0 Signing Event Highlights:** Janne Kaje introduced himself as former DNRP "point" person for FFF 1.0. Due to technical difficulties, he was unable to present a video of the overview and signing of the initial FFF process, but said he would send out a link to it. He then passed a literal and symbolic baton to Richard Martin as the new DNRP point person for FFF 2.0.
- b) **FFF Activities Since Agreement:**
 - Mr. Martin reviewed some activities that have occurred since the signing and mentioned that he would provide Committee members with a more complete update in the near future. He introduced Eric Beach as DNRP's new agriculture regulatory specialist and regulatory task force lead. He noted agriculture and fish staff at DNRP are collaborating on large projects.
 - Cynthia Krass of the Snoqualmie Valley WID reported on the status of the Citizens' Science Monitoring program, to predict flood rise levels on the Snoqualmie River. It is an extension of the program known as "Floodzilla," and is still in beta testing. She agreed to send out a link to the live project data. She said there is need for this program due to the problem of a 32-mile stretch of the river downstream from Carnation with no gauge, which makes it difficult to predict when a flood crest will arrive in certain downstream areas. Lara Thomas of the City of Duvall suggested the WID work with Carnation and Duvall to facilitate installation of additional flood monitoring devices.
 - Ms. Krass also reported the WID has received funding from the county Flood Control District (FCD) for drainage analysis. The goals are to understand drainage issues in the Valley downstream from Fall City and to develop a process to prioritize sub-basins in terms of greatest need for drainage improvements.
 - Josh Monaghan of King Conservation District (KCD) said KCD is working with FCD funding to continue agriculture drainage work on several farms. KCD is also involved in several specially-funded projects. One is to overhaul agriculture drainage management. He said the key question here is how to tie it in with regulatory work and other goals. John Taylor, King County, noted that over 14,000 feet of agricultural drainage channels were improved through ADAP assistance in 2017, which was a significant increase over past years.
 - A second project highlighted by Mr. Monaghan was "Discovery Farms," which is a program that will research agriculture buffer effectiveness. He said there will be a stakeholder meeting on this for interested parties on February 1st.
 - A third project mentioned by Mr. Monaghan was a partnership with Snohomish Conservation District to work with farmers on beaver management. Amy Windrope of WDFW said she would like to engage with Mr. Monaghan on this project. Daryl Williams of the Tulalip Tribes said the tribes have been working successfully to improve opportunities to relocate problem beavers in western Washington and they have

wildlife staff experienced in beaver management and relocation. He suggested Mr. Monaghan reach out to them to collaborate.

- c) **Collective Action Spreadsheet:** Mr. Martin referred to the recommendations spreadsheet in the meeting binder. The spreadsheet includes 44 distinct actions that were identified during the initial FFF process. The goal is to complete or make substantial progress on all those actions by the end of 2020. He reviewed the actions list and elaborated on selected items. The table will be modified to more clearly link the listed actions with the detailed recommendations and actions listed in the FFF transmittal package in June 2017. Mr. Kaje explained the categorizing of the tasks and actions in the table. Ms. Kellogg advised anyone to contact the coordination team if they notice missing items. Mr. Martin is responsible for updating the table with progress on items, and eventually the County will use “EasyProjects” software, which will provide all Committee members and partners an opportunity to track progress on individual actions.

4) **Implementation Committee Overview (Tamie Kellogg)**

a) **Roles and Responsibilities:**

- Ms. Kellogg reviewed the committee’s roles and responsibilities. She said the most important things to do today were: feel organized, know what we would like to discuss at next meeting, and elect caucus chairs. She said the committee’s main goal is to coordinate implementation of the FFF agreement. The intent is to have the same balance of fish and farm, but maybe not flood. She explained the “ex officio” committee members, while being unable to vote, can still sit at the table as well as with the caucuses. In terms of responsibilities, she said the goal is for unanimous decision, though minority opinions can be shared. Members are expected to communicate the needs and concerns of their community. She noted it was preferred that the work plans get endorsed today.
- She also noted the importance of “bundling” caucus priorities, so all caucuses are moving forward in some degree of balance. John Taylor of DNRP stressed the significance of this as well. He said there is a provision that any caucus who believes other caucuses are not moving priorities forward together can relay concerns to DNRP’s director, though he hoped it would not reach that point.
- Mr. Taylor went on to say he sees this committee as more about monitoring than coordinating or implementation. They will ensure tasks are completed adequately, that task forces are delivering product respectfully to all involved, and that progress is being made. He thanked ex officio members for their presence, noting their invitation was due to a desire for them to monitor progress and if need be to bring resources to bear on these action recommendations.

b) **Org Chart:** This item is available for review in the meeting binder.

- 5) **Task Force Workplans:** Ms. Kellogg said it is the task forces’ responsibility to work on items in the action plan, as well as report progress to this committee and, if need be, request a major deviation from the work plan.

- a) **Regulatory Barriers (Eric Beach):** Eric Beach of DNRP, lead for the Regulatory Barriers task force, said this task force’s job is to identify priorities to relieve regulatory burden and maintain resource protection for the agriculture community while supporting salmon recovery efforts. The three main focuses/components are: drainage, flood, and mitigation. Drainage will be the initial focus, to see if there is any flexibility in mitigation efforts for farmers, and to create permit “pathways” beyond the current ADAP program. The flood portion will focus on evaluating county flood management. Teresa Lewis of DNRP noted the state of Washington tracks the County’s compliance with the federal flood program. Mr. Beach continued that the overall task force process will be to develop a common understanding of regulatory structure, permitting processes, and pathways to achievable outcomes. Kickoff is expected in February.

- b) **Agriculture Strategic Plan (Patrice Barrentine):** Patrice Barrentine of DNRP, lead for the Agriculture Strategic Plan task force, said the prior FFF process had strategic plans for salmon and flood, but none for farming. It was agreed at the first FFF that an agriculture plan is needed for the Snoqualmie Valley. The purpose of the plan is to improve long-term farmland productivity, bring more acres into production, and add opportunities for farmers to develop needed infrastructure. The method will be to assess specific farmland needs and assets in the Snoqualmie APD, and create an implementation plan for improvements to water/land access. The task force scope includes six tasks, such as: designating a management team and advisory committee; compiling existing map data; developing and implementing landowner outreach; and assembling landowner information into data categories, among others. The projected timeline is: 2016 – apply for funding; 2017 – receive funding; 2018-2021 – start implementing. Bobbi Lindemulder asked how this may affect the bundling/implementation timeline for other caucuses. John Taylor replied while there is money in the current County budget for much of this work, more funding is still needed; Ms. Barrentine said the need would be about \$250K per year. Richard Martin said that even if full funding was not secured, progress will be made on the most

important items identified in the work plan. Ms. Kellogg advised this could be a topic of discussion at this committee's next meeting.

- c) **Riparian Buffers (Joan Lee):** Joan Lee, section manager for DNRP's Rural and Regional Services section, spoke briefly on the buffers task force. The goal of this task force is to provide foundation for a credible buffer implementation strategy to deliver positive outcomes for fish and farms. DNRP received funding from an NEP grant last year, which included funds for studying "farmability" and riparian issues. While currently there is no officially designated lead person for the Buffers Task Force, a contractor has been identified to serve as task force coordinator and WLRD staff have been assigned as technical support; she hoped to provide a more in-depth discussion on this issue next committee meeting. She advised anyone with suggestions for this task force to contact Richard Martin. She said there is also a review underway of buffers' impacts on farmland. It was suggested that KCD assist in this review.
- d) **Work Plan Vote:** Ms. Kellogg asked for "thumbs-up" votes from members if they approved of the current work plans. The majority approved.

****BREAK****

- 6) **Break Into Caucus Groups:** The committee divided into their caucus groups for roughly 45 minutes of discussion. The primary goals of the caucus meetings were to 1) elect a co-chair for the Implementation Committee who can best represent the concerns of caucus members, 2) review the composite actions spreadsheet and discuss any immediate needs for revision and 3) review the roles and responsibilities of Committee members and the caucus groups.

7) **Wrap Up (Tamie Kellogg, caucuses)**

a) **Report from Group Discussions:**

- **Farm:** Josh Monaghan was elected caucus chair. The Farm Caucus recommended that the individual Fish, Farm and Flood recommendation references be removed from the actions spreadsheet to better reflect that the actions are an agreed upon body of work. He asked for clarification on if there will be committee meetings outside regular quarterly meetings, and also suggested conference calls prior to each quarterly meeting to confirm agenda items. He said an important question is determining how the committee can work together to move the agriculture strategic plan forward sooner. Richard Martin said there would be a general discussion about the implementation date, with some focus on revising dates to reflect current conditions. He advised that bundling should not be lost in implementing Josh's suggestion. Hannah Cavendish-Palmer of Sno-Valley Tilth added their caucus would like to have one member on each task force, and a dedicated County staffer for each caucus.
- **Fish:** Cindy Spiry of the Snoqualmie Tribe, though absent today, was nominated as caucus chair. Jason Walker of the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum said their caucus wishes for a communication link between task forces, and agreed with the farm caucus about having dedicated County support staff could help with this and keep things organized within the caucus. They brainstormed how to get USACE and EPA involved in this effort, and suggested consulting with someone in EPA (Peter Murchie?). One month prior to the quarterly Implementation Committee meetings, the Fish Caucus would like to have a phone conference with their caucus to help the co-chair develop items for the Committee agenda. One member of the Fish Caucus should sit on each of the three task forces. The caucus also wishes for a way to organizing and track progress around large capital habitat projects, to better integrate with other task force work and FFF recommendations.
- **Flood:** Angela Donaldson of the Fall City Community Organization was elected caucus chair. Their discussion focused on recruiting more community partners and deciding if more caucus members are needed, as there are currently just two. Ms. Donaldson said she is willing to sit on the regulatory task force as well as others if needed. John Taylor said he would reach out to Larry Pickering and various cities to identify additional potential Implementation Committee members who can represent flood interests. Ms. Donaldson and Lara Thomas said they will also reach out to possible new members.
- **Review:** Mr. Martin discussed the idea of removing the "farm," "fish," and "flood" tags in the actions table, organizationally. He said another table can be created to "crosswalk" those references together. Because Implementation Committee members are all functioning as part of a single committee, Cynthia Krass concurred that it made sense to not classify actions as the recommendation of a specific caucus group. Ms. Kellogg reviewed a number of issues that were raised during the meeting. It was agreed that alternates were welcomed in place of standing Implementation Committee/caucus members should there be scheduling conflicts. It was recommended that at least one Implementation Committee member be represented on each Task Force. There needs to be a clear communications processes to ensure that Task Force discussions and

actions are shared with the caucus groups in addition to quarterly updates during the full Implementation Committee meetings. All caucus groups agreed that they wanted dedicated county staff support.

- b) **Discuss Next Steps:** Mr. Martin said the action tables will be revised to add in progress details. In the next few weeks the “Easy Projects” tracking software will go live; Mr. Martin will send out the access information. In terms of general meeting feedback, it was suggested that each meeting’s handouts be hole-punched for easy binder insertion, and also shared in both PDF and Word formats. John Taylor reiterated Josh Baldi’s thanks to all on the committee.
- c) **Review Proposed 2018 Meeting Schedule:** It was suggested committee meetings be held roughly in an April/July/October timeframe. Due to farmers’ schedules it was asked if the summer meeting would need to be moved or skipped. Meredith Molli said she might prefer early August instead of July, and Bobbi Lindemulder said she could make any time work but preferred to finish by noon. Committee members voted on their preferred day/time for future meetings and although there was no one day/time that worked best for everyone, there was a clear preference for morning meetings and most people preferred Fridays. Ms. Kellogg agreed to stick to a quarterly schedule and follow up on final dates after consulting with co-chairs. General consensus also favored keeping meetings in/near Duvall.
- d) **Parking Lot Items:** The possibility of expanding representation on the Flood Caucus was identified as needing additional attention/consideration.
- e) **Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 11:56 am.

Next Meeting Date: To Be Determined (April?)

Attendees:

| Committee Members | DNRP Staff and Others |
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| Jason Walker, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum | Josh Baldi |
| Scott Powell, Snohomish Forum | Richard Martin |
| John Taylor, King County DNRP | Janne Kaje |
| Daryl Williams, Tulalip Tribes | Joan Lee |
| Bobbi Lindemulder, Snoqualmie Valley Farmer | Patrice Barrentine |
| Meredith Molli, Agriculture Commission | Rick Reinlasoder |
| Hannah Cavendish Palmer (Alternate), Sno-Valley Tilth | Teresa Lewis |
| Cynthia Krass, Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance | Elissa Ostergaard |
| Josh Monaghan, King Conservation District | Eric Beach |
| Lara Thomas, City of Duvall | Kollin Higgins |
| Angela Donaldson, Fall City Community Association | Megan Moore |
| Amy Windrope, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife | Tamie Kellogg, facilitator |
| Tom Buroker, WA Dept. of Ecology | Larry Pickering, Agriculture Commission |
| Gary Bahr, WA Dept. of Agriculture | Dylan Brown, Councilmember Lambert’s Office |
| | Bea Covington, King Conservation District |