

FFF Implementation Oversight Committee Meeting Meeting Notes

Wednesday, April 25, 2018
9:00am – 12:00pm, Duvall Visitor Center
15619 Main Street NE, Duvall, WA

1) Welcome

Meeting facilitator Tamie Kellogg called the meeting to order. Angela Donaldson, co-chair from Fall City, welcomed new member representing Flood, Stuart Lisk, who had been a council member and served as mayor of Carnation amongst other things.

People introduced themselves. Scott Powell announced this was his last meeting as he's retiring and moving to Bellingham. He introduced Denise Krownbell, a fisheries biologist, who will take his seat going forward.

Tamie went over the handouts and said telephone numbers for the oversight committee will be added to the handout for the next meeting.

Tamie asked if there were public comments; there were none.

2) Bundled Progress Updates

Regulatory Task Force – Eric Beach

(Presentation PowerPoint is available in Easy Projects under the Regulatory Task Force task.)

Assembled in February and there's a high level of engagement and expertise on the team. In February they brought in an attorney to get an overview of regulations in Snoqualmie Valley pertaining to agriculture.

In March, brought in Lou Beck, King County Stormwater Engineer and lead on the Agriculture Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP), a voluntary program that provides exemptions from KC code to facilitate more effective agriculture drainage work. Also, at suggestion of agriculture caucus, identified order in which to address work plan tasks.

In April, started issue analysis, and first topic was artificial channels and permitting requirements/constraints. Found multiple layers of regulatory interaction. Will meet again on May 7th with Stewart Reinbold for WDFW perspective. The Task Force is comprised of stakeholders and will be supported by technical experts and agency staff who will provide subject-specific expertise. Dept. of Ecology has designated Matt Kaufman for Task Force technical support.

In May will begin scoping mitigation issues and operational aspects. (Showed slide of Priority Issue Order). As issue papers are developed, will look for feedback from the Implementation

Committee. Would like to have two KC code revision packages, one at the end of this year and one by the end of 2019. They'll go through DPER and the legislative office.

Cindy asked if they discussed incorporating a fish biologist and Eric said it has been discussed internally as well as with stakeholders. John added that King County is currently putting together the 2019/20 budget and might hire an environmental scientist for either the Stormwater or Science group. One way or another King County will meet the need for additional fisheries technical support. In addition, Cynthia said the WID hired a part-time fish biologist, Andy Obst. She can be reached at andy@svwid.com and on the office landline at 425-549-0316. They are very excited to have Andy on the team and are eager for her to get acquainted with others in the Fish Caucus and local restoration community in general.

John asked Eric if the task force is looking at potential changes to state law as well and Eric said yes, they are looking for those opportunities.

People can contact Eric for more info and/or view progress in Easy Projects.

Riparian Buffers Task Force, Beth LeDoux

(Presentation PowerPoint is available in Easy Projects in the Riparian Buffers Task Force task.)

Beth introduced Jenna Shultz who will help as facilitator for the task force. She then summarized what the issue is. Current research indicates that we need 150-ft buffers on fish bearing waterways, but we know it's problematic in working agricultural landscapes, especially on small streams and creeks. We know the one-size-fits-all approach won't work in the Snoqualmie Valley and hope to find a way to have ecologically sound buffers that don't put pressure on agriculture. State funding is tied to 150-ft buffers, so funding would be limited unless we can provide sound alternatives that are accepted by the state and other salmon recover stakeholders.

King County received a grant of \$200k to implement the task force, so work will be tied to a timeline, deliverables, and reporting to state partners. The three primary deliverables are:

1. Buffer best available science document related to the Snoqualmie Valley. The technical team is comprised of King County staff (as well as Josh M. of the King Conservation District (KCD)) and it is due August 2018.
2. Agricultural issues paper will happen in tandem and will be led by the King County Agriculture team and Josh Monaghan to address benefits and challenges.
3. Buffer decision tool that will put everything together, including feedback from the Implementation Committee.

The technical team has been organized and invitations to the task force have been extended. Beth is also coordinating with the Regulatory Task Force. Next steps include writing a communications plan as well as a charter and holding their first meeting in May. The plan is to meet approximately every other month. Success will mean coming up with a strategy for ecologically sound buffers that minimizes agricultural impacts, which will allow salmon recovery partners to determine where best to establish buffers and will be supported by the local community.

Bobbi pointed out there is funding available for smaller buffers now, and wanted to know if the buffer decision tool will incorporate EMDS? Yes, it will.

Cynthia commented that what they're concerned about is protecting the agriculture resource on behalf of the public.

Agriculture Land Resource Strategic Plan, Patrice Barrentine

(PowerPoint presentation is available in Easy Projects in the Ag Land Resource Strategic Plan task as well as the Implementation Committee Document Sharing task.)

Patrice said this task force is starting out more slowly, in order to do the groundwork to delve in deeper next year. This quarter they met with KCD to discuss funding, but funding won't happen until late 2018. Also met with WSU Puyallup; they're working on a similar ag plan for Pierce County. Last summer an ag land mapping project was done and had great results. KC GIS staff are currently working on it. The map shows crops and farm infrastructure and should be live this spring through iMap. It will provide a foundation for the strategic plan. Also, found some budget to hire a temporary Project Program Manager I this summer to help Patrice; if funded, that position will extend through 2020.

There was a question regarding the scope of the plan; it just covers the Snoqualmie Valley. KCD is doing a county-wide plan.

Next quarter will hire the new position and go live with the ag land map layers and meet with partners to add more data layers to the foundational map. Patrice said the feedback she's looking for from the Committee is, should they fill out the advisory committee (i.e. task force team) this summer or wait until the end of the year? The advantage of assembling sooner would be they could help direct what data is collected. Cindy and Bobbi agreed that the advisory committee (task force team) should have input on what data are collected. Regarding partnerships, Bobbi said Snohomish is doing an agriculture resiliency plan based on what Pierce did, so someone should connect with the contact there.

Joan Lee Presentation on Large Capital Projects (Requested by the Fish Caucus)

(PowerPoint presentation is available in Easy Projects in the Implementation Committee Document Sharing task.)

Joan introduced herself (she's the manager of King County's Rural and Regional Services Section of the Water and Land Resources Division, Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks) and gave an overview of the projects being worked on, with a big picture look. If the Committee desires a deeper look at any of the projects, project managers can be brought in. Joan also reminded the Committee that this was part of the bundling agreed to in FFF 1.0: mutual support for regulatory change and habitat projects.

Some of the slides showed the Upper Carlson project and how the river has gotten wider providing more fish habitat. Another slide showed a graph depicting the arduous pathway for getting projects done. Typically projects come out of regional watershed forums, are discussed at open meetings, and refined by the stewards. Then the funding is obtained and land is acquired, but we can't talk publicly about the details since this part is with private landowners. Once the

land is acquired, can move into design and construction, and that involves third party reviews and community outreach (both of which were committed to in FFF 1.0). Once constructed, it's about being a good neighbor. After the Upper Carlson project, there were some problems so the County worked with the landowner to make necessary adjustments and address unanticipated problems. It's now operating how it was intended to.

John discussed a project in Fall City (a former RV park) that caught the community off-guard. The time from project conception to public outreach and permitting can be long, even as much as a decade. There had been a public process, but too much time had gone by. What KC is piloting in Fall City is to ask staff applying for grants to have community meetings every year to explain what projects and parcels KC is focusing on so it's transparent to the community.

Joan briefly described each project going on inside and outside the Agricultural Production District (see presentation slides for more details), and asked the Implementation Committee to think about how much they want to hear about these projects and what criteria should be considered. There will be issues but the Committee will be a sounding board. Public support will be really important.

Scott commented that projects have long lifespans and need to be prioritized, and KC and other groups are doing a great job of moving them forward. His wish is that there will be engagement with the fish caucus and/or Implementation Committee in the planning and sequencing of projects. Parallel to that, there should be a process for engaging with other sponsors in order to maximize resources. It feels like KC is a little off on their own; there should be more involvement with the community. John said he loves that idea, and Joan suggested that we could bring that conversation to the caucus.

Stuart commented that there's communication that can be done to the public because it's high on their radar in the Snoqualmie Valley (esp. flooding and ag impacts). He would like to see a communication plan for the public.

Bobbi commented that as agricultural acres go out of production, opportunities need to be found elsewhere (e.g. improving drainage). Regardless of how good communication is here, there will still be federal projects (e.g. NRCS Farm Bill) that are very sensitive and not publicly known. She's doesn't know how that can be addressed due to the restraints. Joan said the communications plan could include a larger snapshot of all the actions in a basin.

Meredith asked if there'll be data regarding how projects will impact flood behavior. Joan said it was identified in FFF 1.0, but it will take funding. John added that each individual project does get modeled (within a radius of about a mile at most). Cumulative impact modeling may best be funded by the King County Flood Control District (they've done other system-wide models) but it's not currently a part of their work plan.

Josh commented that mid-stream communication is really important, and John brought up a major project at the Twin Rivers Golf Course where they would keep the clubhouse and convert it to a community center. Also, SnoValley Tilth may want some acreage to expand their

Experience Farming project. Multiple objectives can be incorporated into a project, but community dialogue and engagement is key.

Easy Projects Demo – Andrea Plischke
(See Easy Projects Quick Guide)

Andrea gave a quick demonstration of the Easy Projects project tracking application. People will be invited to the tasks they are interested in, and can add or remove tasks as desired. Questions regarding Easy Projects should be directed to Andrea. She can be reached at 206-477-6515 or andrea.plischke@kingcounty.gov.

Richard noted that King County doesn't have funding for everything, but has initially been focusing on task forces and large capital projects. There was a question about start dates and Richard said they were taken from FFF 1.0 so they will be re-visited since a year elapsed between the agreement being drafted and approved. Dashboard reports will go out about a month before each quarterly meeting.

4) Update to Roles & Responsibilities (Angela Donaldson)

Co-chairs and staff met at the end of February to look at logistics, roles and goals and decided to change the name to the Oversight to make sure focus is on progress and deliverables. Tamie added that staff liaisons were named:

- Teresa Lewis for Flood
- Kollin Higgins for Fish
- Patrice for Farm

They will help coordinate meetings and support the caucus chairs. Caucus chairs meet about one month prior to quarterly meetings. They will get a preliminary overview of the projects and develop a draft of the quarterly meeting agenda.

Richard went over the initial version of the roles and responsibilities and highlighted three changes (on the handout, revised text is bold and underlined): Proxy can vote so keep them up to date; staff liaisons were added; and function of caucuses was added.

Cindy commented that there should be an internal communication process to keep KC staff in the loop.

Tamie asked if the task force needs to come to a consensus about things; Richard said the goal is consensus, but there's the opportunity for the co-chairs to bring a minority position to the IC for discussion. Task force coordinators and the large cap project coordinator will be responsible for bringing issues to the Caucus Chairs (they may be invited to the co-chair oversight meeting for more detailed discussions about their issues).

BREAK

5) Caucus Breakouts and Report Out

Fish Caucus (Cindy): Make sure to include groups that are involved in the Valley and were involved previously (e.g., Wild Fish Conservancy (WFC)). Encourage regular reports/updates or input from groups such as Department of Ecology, Mountains to Sound, Sound Salmon, WFC, etc. to help work on these issues and get needed information (i.e., create a feedback loop back to NGOs who do much of the implementation in Valley).

Also want more detailed information on large capital projects. For example, if they're being stalled, why? What exactly is the progress? When projects stall, have more projects in the queue that can jump forward and be completed on time. Increasing staff capacity seems to be a barrier (large cap and other). Comment: It would be helpful to know if staffing allocation requests have been placed, and where they are in the process.

Flood Caucus (Angela): Areas of concern include zero rise, tree plantings, large cap projects, impact studies, cultural reviews of river projects, and partnering more with the upper valley including the city and other non-county partners). They also want to keep a strong focus on bundling farm and fish so we collectively see progress. Regarding communication, Stuart is involved with public radio, Valley 104.9; it can be streamed (www.valley1049.org) or accessed using the mobile app. It provides information that affects the lower valley. Stuart co-hosts a show on Sunday called The Week the World the Valley from 7pm – 8pm. FFF representatives can be interviewed and/or the Committee can submit public service announcements online (or email to Stuart). Also want KC staff to have good internal communication and want to continue working with the Flood Control District.

Farm Caucus (Josh): If we have really good communication regarding task force work (esp. Regulatory), it could be applied to other areas. Regarding buffer projects, would like a way to track how we're making decisions collectively, and what land is being turned into buffers. Richard said there's a project review process to minimize impacts to agriculture...does it have applications elsewhere? We want to track the land being turned into buffers so we know where we're going and how we're doing. It's complicated so we'll need help; a lot of different entities are doing that work so we should encourage them to report in and create a database.

Cynthia summarized Agriculture Caucus concerns about farmland preservation in an email. They are anxious about tracking loss and protecting farmland (Farm 4) since it won't be addressed until later. (Please see attached email).

The Water Improvement District (WID) revised their flood storage assessment expectations to a smaller scale. They (WID) got an instream flow grant from Ecology and have a small amount of money to look at feasibility. Will meet with Ecology next month to determine exact scope (small-scale tributary storage feasibility investigation). The instream flow grant will focus on tributaries of most concern and look for micro-storage opportunities. Contact Cynthia for more info.

Bobbi reiterated the importance of a communication plan from task forces, coordination with all of it, and updates from all involved parties, including groups not on the Committee.

Beth announced that King County developed an app that shows where buffers are going in. Snoqualmie doesn't have a lot of data yet.

6) Wrap Up and Public Comments

Matt Baerwald will be a regular proxy to be added to the cc list and get Committee updates.

Elissa announced that returning adult salmon to the Snoqualmie basin are very low so buffers and protecting water quality are very important.

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 2nd. Let the Chairs know if there's something specific you'd like to discuss or hear about at the next session.

Meeting adjourned.

Cynthia Krass

From: Cynthia Krass
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 6:32 PM
To: Cynthia Krass
Subject: FW: Please review (short) comments I will make tomorrow re: Farm 4

From: Cynthia Krass

We at the ag caucus, and especially the SVPA, have been getting anxious about one of the recommendations which is scheduled to be tackled later in the FFF process, Farm 4 "Permanently protect a certain amount of ag land for farm use as well as ecological restoration." We want to share our current thinking and our concerns. We know that everyone at this table is passionate about their work otherwise we wouldn't be here, so we're not trying to imply that we're the only ones losing sleep over an issue. That being said, we are worried about a few things. We wish to reiterate that this issue is very important to us. We are seeing opportunistic projects large and small continue. One goal of limiting to a "certain amount" was to have a built-in incentive to encourage selection of the highest value projects. Pearson Eddy and the Flood Plain Easement just north of the county line is a great example – high value, productive farmland was replaced by relatively low-value habitat simply because there was a willing landowner. If there were some limit to ag land that could be converted, you can bet they'd have selected a different site. We are seeing projects proposed – a little here, a little there, meanwhile, this "certain amount of ag land" isn't scheduled to be addressed for a few years. We're worried about the loss of valuable farmland before then. We know that in many ways defining that "certain amount" might be the hardest, most ambitious work of the FFF, and we're willing to stay at the table and keep working on it. But we're nervous about waiting three years to start keeping track. We'd like to suggest that we need to do two things. One, track all projects that FFF signatories are either driving or partnering, and also, taking a look at the criteria for evaluating any project that results in ag land conversion. I know the county has some evaluation in place, but not all projects are county projects. We don't expect it to be solved right now, but we felt it was important to register this concern early (and often).

See you all tomorrow.

Cynthia

**Fish Farm Flood 2.0 Implementation Oversight Committee
Member Attendance List – April 25, 2018 Meeting
Duvall Community/Visitors' Center – Duvall, WA**

Gary Bahr, WA Department of Agriculture (*ex officio*)

Melissa Borsting, Sno Valley Tilth

Angela Donaldson, Fall City Community Association

Cynthia Krass, Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance

Bobbi Lindemulder, farmer

Stuart Lisk, City of Carnation

Meredith Molli, farmer/Agriculture Commission

Josh Monaghan, King Conservation District

Scott Powell, Snohomish Forum

Stewart Reinbold, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (*ex officio*)

Cindy Spiry, Snoqualmie Tribe

John Taylor, King County DNRP/WLRD (*ex officio*)

Jason Walker, Snoqualmie Forum