

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

Thursday, November 7th, 2018
Chamber of Commerce, Duvall Visitor and Community Center
15619 Main St. NE, Duvall, WA, 98019

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

9:30 - 12:30 pm: Meeting

1) **Introductions, Welcome by Co-Chair (*Tamie Kellogg, Cindy Spiry*)**

- Cindy Spiry, fish caucus co-chair, welcomed all present. She relayed a quote encouraging people to work together if they want to go far.
- Ms. Spiry reported that caucus co-chairs, tasked at last IOC meeting to draft a letter to the County Executive about Flood Control District participation in FFF, have re-sent this letter to the appropriate County individuals and it should be on its way to Councilmember Reagan Dunn.
- She also reported that at the last co-chairs meeting, there was discussion on how to move priorities forward, to assure all participants are on the same page. It was suggested each caucus determine “milestones” to facilitate progress on the action items.
- Libby Reed, the new IOC representative from Sno-Valley Tilth, was welcomed.
- Joan Lee, section manager for KC DNRP’s Rural and Regional Services, noted Josh Baldi, DNRP-WLRD director, was unable to attend today and she would give the County budget update in his stead. She relayed Mr. Baldi’s assurance there is no lapse in the County’s intents to follow FFF and that he plans to stay engaged in the process.
- Ms. Kellogg reviewed today’s agenda, noting Josh Kubo is now the fish caucus’ County staff liaison.

2) **Public Comment I**

There was no public comment during this period.

3) **King County Budget Update and Anticipated Support for FFF Priorities (*Joan Lee*)**

Ms. Lee reported the proposed County budget is now with King County Council (KCC), who has until November 13th to adopt it. The proposal from the Executive’s office requests a 20% increase in the Surface Water Management (SWM) fee rate. She highlighted several intended focuses of revenue from this increase: accelerated efforts to address fish passage barriers; Roads division funding; and a budget increase for salmon recovery projects. She explained a small amount of SWM fees are allocated to salmon recovery, but these are leveraged to gain additional funds. A portion of the revenue would also go towards the Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP).

Cynthia Krass asked if additional ADAP funds meant a change in the items covered by ADAP, or just “more of the same.” Ms. Lee and Richard Martin confirmed it is basically the latter, though Mr. Martin said the FFF regulatory task force seeks to expand the program. Angela Donaldson asked if this would be implementation funding; Mr. Martin replied it would go towards aspects like engineering and planting. He offered to answer more follow-up questions later, and email IOC members when the budget passes and if there are any changes from what was heard here today. A result from KCC is expected by November 14th.

4) **Milestones Discussion (*Janne Kaje, Tamie Kellogg, Caucus Co-Chairs*)**

Ms. Kellogg directed IOC members to review the handout “What does FFF 2020 Success Look Like?” Mr. Kaje briefed the IOC on ongoing discussion to determine definitions of success and progress in implementing FFF action items.

Mr. Kaje said many questions from both new and prior FFF participants centered on the notion of “bundling” recommendations, and what things have to happen first. He observed some difficulty came from lack of a report tying everything together; a report had originally been drafted to submit with the agreement, but a conveyance letter was submitted instead. He clarified that when discussing the “agreement,” he was referring to the recommendations agreed upon in 2016, sorted under “flood,” “farm,” and “fish” categories.

He discussed the possible meanings of “balanced implementation.” One specific request from the agriculture community was the idea of a “trigger,” to identify when progress is not being made, at which point a letter would be sent to the director of DNRP. He elaborated on an example of this bundling, the recommendations known as Fish 1 and Farm 2. These two actions are linked: if significant improvements are not seen in drainage (including restoration of funding for a fish biologist to assist in this area) and ground is being broken on a new salmon recovery project, it conveys that the bundled progress idea is not being honored. Mr. Kaje noted the language of the agreement is about supporting each caucus’s highest recommendations, not being conditional or prohibitive. He said the next major capital project in the Snoqualmie APD is not likely to break ground until 2019 as is, but it is important that by that time, there are major drainage improvements. If a certain point is reached and no progress was made, the “trigger” may be pulled.

Josh Monaghan voiced a hope that the language of the agreement’s transmittal letter could be reviewed, as this was how some broader themes in the original report were tackled. Ms. Kellogg pointed out this letter in the meeting binders, noting a bit of framing could be done if need be. Mr. Kaje said this letter tried to capture what was needed to get people comfortable, but that it would be overstating to say it created a new architecture. He said it highlighted the need for synchrony from all participants, and framed a need for a trigger. Cindy Spiry noted she didn’t believe the fish caucus would have signed the letter if they thought it would change the terms of the agreement.

Mr. Kaje continued that a key theme/issue is that there are no hard milestones defined in the agreement, and the framework of today’s discussion centered on defining meaningful improvements. Stewart Reinbold said there needs to be recognition of progress that has already been made in drainage projects. Cynthia Krass added she and other committee members are here to represent various groups, and she’d prefer to put effort into ensuring her constituents are on board with the work done here. Daryl Williams agreed, saying it has been hard to explain ongoing project delays to people they represent. Mr. Kaje explained if insufficient drainage progress is made, County managers could decide on a policy response, such as deciding not to move forward on project construction because it’s the right thing to do. However, he agreed with Ms. Krass in that if people continue to push and get things done, pulling the “trigger” will not be needed.

Mr. Monaghan said a lot of time was spent on each word in the transmittal letter so that it could be used as a foundation, and he looked forward to defining terms like “accelerated” and “significant progress.” Patrice Barrentine added that the Agriculture Commission had had key concerns about the agreement and pored over the language in the letter for many months. She said some of the farm caucus had considered the timeline of how things would play out in three years as part of the agreement.

Ms. Kellogg asked IOC members to refer to the “What Does Success Look Like?” handout in their meeting packet. She encouraged them to discuss in their caucuses the following: prioritizing recommendations, tracking and communicating progress, and determining milestones. She asked them to define “reasonable” measures of success for 2018, 2019, and onward. Richard Martin added that specificity is needed in terms of quantifying progress, timelines, and benchmarks.

Libby Reed asked to clarify the communication flow among FFF participants. Mr. Martin said it was decided that in terms of caucuses communicating with each other, each caucus’s staff liaison will send correspondence to him for distribution. Ms. Kellogg said discussion of a communications plan would occur later on.

- **Caucus Breakouts**
 - From 10:19 am to 11:40 am, IOC members broke into the three caucuses to brainstorm how to define measures of success in the FFF actions most key to them.
- **Caucuses Report Back**
 - Due to time constraints, this was not addressed in-meeting. Ms. Kellogg said each caucus’s breakout session notes would be transcribed and distributed for review and follow-up.

****5-MINUTE BREAK****

5) Action Updates and Recommendations

- **Large Cap Projects (*Janne Kaje*)**

- Mr. Kaje announced the Hafner/Barfuse project team is ready to begin its first round of communications with the agriculture and flood communities. They would like to schedule meetings with caucuses in the next six weeks, before the holidays, to brief these groups on project progress and get their feedback. Updates will be communicated via staff liaisons. Mr. Kaje continued his update by posing and answering five questions:

- **Has King County accelerated large cap projects?** From 2006-2014, there were 6-7 large cap projects in the Snoqualmie basin. This has since slowed, largely due to difficulty and unpredictability in securing needed private lands for projects. He gave progress on this action a “red” (poor) grade.
- **Are we working to secure footprints for future projects?** These are actively being pursued, largely outside the APD, and will hopefully relieve some “bottleneck.” For large projects, often several landowners are needed. He gave progress on this action a “green” (good) grade.
- **Are we spending more money in the Snoqualmie?** He stressed that DNRP only controls a small amount of funding needed for capital projects; about 75-80% comes from elsewhere. While part of funding does come from SWM fees, grants and other funds are sometimes a factor. He said the amount of money spent does not always translate to how much work is being done at a given moment. Overall, it is hard to build a robust program when one does not control all funding; he gave progress on this action a “yellow” (needs improvement) grade.
- **Is King County adding capital project staff?** While much is still needed, there is Executive support for more habitat projects, and more resources are coming. Many County staff have been allocated to Snoqualmie projects. He gave progress on this a “yellow/green” grade.
- **Is King County adding stewardship?** Snoqualmie basin steward Mary Maier is retiring soon, but her position will be filled and there is a possibility of adding a half-time stewardship position. Mr. Kaje would like to grow the program, as currently stewards are largely focused on fundraising. He gave progress on this action a “yellow/green” grade.

- **Regulatory Task Force (*Eric Beach, task force coordinator*)**

- Mr. Beach presented a set of initial recommendations for IOC consideration. He noted that Christie True, director of DNRP, has already been spoken with to ensure support for these items, which were modified slightly based on input from regulatory colleagues. Mr. Beach is looking for IOC approval or disapproval to proceed developing these:

- **Develop modified farm plan.** Recommended action: DNRP staff work with KCD to create a more streamlined, drainage-focused farm plan. This will be part of a two-year pilot program to include implementation and effectiveness monitoring. Mr. Beach noted that DNRP-WLRD director Josh Baldi is enthusiastic for this due to a view of Department of Ecology that if these buffers are in place quickly, water quality will improve.
- **Pursue Endangered Species Act (ESA) coverage for Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP).** Recommended action: explore development of a low-effect habitat conservation plan (HCP) with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to provide coverage for handling ESA-listed and potentially-listed salmonids. This is being approached from a voluntary conservation measure HCP known as “Section 10.”

Bobbi Lindemulder asked if the HCP’s scope would be the Snoqualmie APD, all APDs, or countywide. Mr. Beach was uncertain, as he is still defining this with NMFS’s Seattle office.

Micah Wait asked what the scale difference is between “low-effect” and standard habitat plans. Mr. Beach said this is more of a USFW (US Dept. of Fish and Wildlife) mechanism, a very focused/limited approach to listed salmonids and agricultural drainage work. He said there could be ongoing discussion on this, as it is a difficult question to answer.

Daryl Williams voiced concern about expansion of work to larger streams, particularly longer lengths of stream being worked on at one time, which increases risk to juvenile fish. Mr. Beach replied that voluntary conservation measures are an open public process, with opportunities for comment. These could come as recurring regulatory task force briefings to the IOC. Mr. Williams believed development of the HCP could proceed, but the conditions under consideration may be different than for ADAP.

Action: Angela Donaldson motioned to recommend proceeding with submittal of the regulatory task force’s recommendations to the appropriate individuals in King County, likely Christie True. Cindy Spiry seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

- **Buffers Task Force (*Beth leDoux, task force coordinator*)**

- Ms. leDoux updated the IOC on three items the task force has been working on:
 - **Waterway classification:** The task force is taking time to finalize specific definitions to utilize for a waterway classification system, citing a concern that whatever this task force determines may be used as a stepping-stone by future groups. This group is as yet unready to commit to a class system, as they want everyone to be on board with the final determinations. Ms. leDoux said one possibility is an off-meeting “exploration” workshop.
 - **“Best Available Science” paper:** This is one of two major draft documents up for review. The process behind this paper involved reviewing the science behind functions such as climate and shade, and dissecting what makes a stream appealing for fish.
 - **“Agricultural Issues” paper:** This is the second draft document up for review. Information from farmers and other land workers is being gathered and coalesced into one central place, to provide context. Buffer impacts to farms and other working areas vary depending on context – what benefits one farmer does not necessarily benefit another.

Both papers are undergoing internal review and should be available by the end of this month. Ms. leDoux encouraged communication and review from the IOC, to ensure all concerns are logged in time to finalize the papers in January. She said the draft documents would be shared with each of the three caucuses. WDFW will have access to review them as well. Jason Walker offered to have his staff help review the papers; Ms. leDoux agreed to follow up with him.

- **Agriculture Strategic Plan Task Force (*Patrice Barrentine, task force coordinator*)**

- Ms. Barrentine reported the task force’s first meeting is scheduled for January, and membership will be beefed up through November and December. She encouraged anyone with suggestions for membership to contact her.
- She handed out a draft job description for a new temporary task force support position, asking for feedback on it by the end of this week. The position, to be posted later this month, has a two-year term and would start in February. One task force member will participate in the hiring process.
- The task force is working with KCD and reviewing RFPs (Requests for Proposal) from several consultants. Work is also being done with Bobbi Lindemulder and others on Snohomish County’s strategic plan, gleaning what they have learned and building from what has worked for them.

6) Progress Report on Full Collective Actions List (*Richard Martin*)

- Due to time constraints, it was asked that anyone with comments on the list email them to Mr. Martin.

7) Communications (*Tamie Kellogg*)

- A communications plan for FFF is being developed, for both internal and external communications. Ms. Kellogg said the IOC will be integral to this process.

8) Closing/Adjourn

- Ms. Kellogg asked the caucuses to further develop the measures and milestones worked on in today’s meeting, and have a draft ready for the January 24th IOC meeting, or possibly as soon as the caucus co-chairs meeting on December 11th.
- Daryl Williams announced that Mark Clark, Executive of the State Conservation Commission, is retiring in January, and anyone interested in the position should contact the SCC now.
- The three caucus chairs expressed appreciation for the time allowed for the breakout sessions this meeting, which they found helpful in fleshing out goals and direction.
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 pm.

Next Meeting: January 24th, 2019 – Duvall Visitor Center, 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

**Fish Farm Flood 2.0 Implementation Oversight Committee
Member Attendance List – November 7, 2018 Meeting
Duvall Community/Visitors' Center – Duvall, WA**

Tom Buroker, WA Department of Ecology (*ex officio*)

Angela Donaldson, Fall City Community Association

Cynthia Krass, Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance

Bobbi Lindemulder, farmer

Meredith Molli, farmer/Agriculture Commission

Josh Monaghan, King Conservation District

Libby Reed, Sno Valley Tilth

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

Cindy Spiry, Snoqualmie Tribe

Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy

Jason Walker, Snoqualmie Forum

Daryl Williams, Tulalip Tribes