

Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood 2.0 Implementation Oversight Committee

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020
Duvall Visitor Center
15619 Main St. NE, Duvall, WA 98019

9:00 am - 9:30 am: Continental Breakfast & Catch Up!
9:30 am - 1:00 pm: Meeting

1) Introductions, Welcome by Co-Chair, Public Comment (*Tamie Kellogg, Angela Donaldson*)

- Tamie Kellogg called the meeting to order at 9:32 am, and reviewed the agenda.
- Flood caucus co-chair Angela Donaldson welcomed all and explained the theme of this meeting: diving into successes and milestones.
- There was no public comment during the designated comment period.

2) Celebrating Successes & Updates (*Beth leDoux, IOC Members*)

• **2D Modeling (*Angela Donaldson*) – DECISION ITEM**

Ms. Donaldson directed attention to a draft letter to DNRP management, asking support to pursue 2D flood modeling in the Snoqualmie Valley. She said FFF's push for resiliency and protection of natural resources means being able to respond to growing landslide and flood risks. This is key given the poor roads situation in King County and Washington State: per a recent letter from the state, cities under 20,000 in population will no longer receive maintenance and operations funding from them. Ms. Donaldson said the main goal of the flood caucus is to support a cross-Valley flood road, but this situation presents partnership opportunities to benefit fish and farm interests too. The first step is the 2D modeling. She opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion raised several points and suggested amendments to the draft. This included conducting a review of existing modeling literature, followed by "sensitivity testing" to clarify any unclear points from the review and gather more information. It was also suggested any new information found during this process should be incorporated into it. Joan Lee assured that DNRP-WLRD staff who support the Flood Control District (FCD) have reviewed and tracked this letter as well.

ACTION: Ms. Donaldson motioned for the IOC to pass the letter with the discussed amendments. Josh Monaghan seconded this motion. The motion passed with unanimous IOC approval.

It was agreed caucus co-chairs would review the letter and provide Beth leDoux any further feedback by this Friday, at which point the letter will be transmitted to WLRD management.

• **Highlights of Recent Accomplishments (*Beth leDoux*):**

Ms. leDoux reiterated today's theme: how and if the IOC's work should go forward, and if it should do more. She said now is the time to think about 2021 budget requests, and reflected on several related topics:

- **Regulatory Task Force:** Per Eric Beach, this force's work is near completion, and has program proposals. They are now working on comprehensive drainage. Next steps have been identified, and a public comment period is coming on proposed changes to on-site mitigation requirements. Recommendations will come to the IOC by late 2020.
- **Agriculture Strategic Plan Task Force:** Work continues on trying to "crack" the question of an acreage cap for converted farmland. Despite delays, the force is on track for a summer 2020 draft recommendation to the IOC. This is to be followed by targeted outreach to partners not currently at the discussion table.
- **Haffner/Barfuse Project:** This is the largest salmon recovery project underway in the Valley, and one place the County is tracking how it does business. Community outreach continues, to ensure project neighbors understand and are comfortable with the project. A large public meeting is planned for late spring/early summer 2020. A third-party review of the modeling process also continues. Janne Kaje added that for the purpose of pursuing grants, the project is referred to as "Haffner/Barfuse," after the prior landowners. However, in public outreach, the project is called "Fall City Floodplain Restoration." The official name-change is underway, as it should not be implied the prior landowners endorse the project.
- **Drainage Work Funding:** Two major grants, from Floodplains by Design and the Large Cap PSAR fund, are going forward. This request is specifically for drainage work in the Snoqualmie APD. Mr. Kaje spoke

with Department of Ecology about the Floodplains by Design request, and says they are “excited” about this new element, that linking drainage to large capital projects is key. There have been talks with the Snoqualmie WID to identify work areas, as Ecology wants to know how this work will be done.

- **Sub-basin Drainage/Conservation Plan (Cynthia Krass):**

Ms. Krass said upon the Snoqualmie WID’s formation two years ago, a key identified deliverable was to “improve drainage in a systematic way.” The plan to achieve this is a “sub-basin” approach. The Snoqualmie watershed was divided up into sub-basins, and prioritized. It was realized this could be a powerful tool to facilitate conservation planning. It was also noted that grouping together multiple sub-basins can be beneficial, to assure that at least one of them has a high-value project in it.

The WID has drafted an example plan for the Indian Creek sub-basin, with a request for proposals (RFP) currently in progress and a draft plan expected by June 2020. No formal action by the IOC is needed at this time, only feedback from any interested parties. Ms. Krass added that this proposal is not only a great planning tool, but also a support for funding applications and to “shore up” the regulatory task force’s work in delivering the “Farm 2” action recommendation.

There were no follow-up discussions or questions for Ms. Krass. The IOC’s general consensus supported continuing work on this approach.

- **King County Updates (Joan Lee, Josh Baldi, Abby Hook):**

Joan Lee spoke briefly, saying WLRD has submitted its budgets. She added that FFF’s model of working across divisions has affected work in WLRD as well, with “silos” breaking down across divides. She stressed that this effort would continue even should there be no new funding.

Mr. Baldi then delivered a series of updates.

- **Funding Sources/SWM Rates:** WLRD is still in an “idea-crunching” phase on new funding sources for the coming biennium. Several possibilities have been suggested, including surface water management (SWM) funds, which bring in about \$40 million annually. There have been multiple SWM rate increases in recent years, including a 20% increase with an increment designated for fish passage work. Meetings with DNRP Director Christie True and Executive Constantine are planned in coming weeks to discuss another proposed increase. Mr. Baldi said a way will be found to fund FFF support regardless, as the work is important to both the Executive and DNRP.
- **ADAP Proviso:** This was submitted to KCC by Councilmember Kathy Lambert three months ago. She has voiced strong interest in what work can be done with ADAP, and requests a much more coordinated and clear work plan. KCC expects a drainage report from County staff later this summer. Any policy recommendations to KCC should go through the established vetting process, including a report on pilot work for alluvial fans. Mr. Baldi promised the IOC will be kept in the loop on this process.
- **Flood Hazard Management Plan:** The County and FCD are still negotiating inter-local agreements, so little progress has been made on this since last IOC meeting. The County seeks clarity this quarter from FCD, as the schedule is to begin stakeholder engagement and planning in second quarter of 2020. The SEPA process will also begin later this year, to be transmitted to KCC in first quarter of 2022. The FHMP is part of the Comprehensive Plan for King County. The FHMP’s last technical update was in 2013, but was only adopted by the County, not the FCD. Next steps are to establish a planning advisory committee, including stakeholders. Internal outreach is being done to County basin teams and colleagues.
- **2020 Flood Events:** There have been five major flood events in King County in the first six weeks of 2020. Several rivers, tributaries, and lakes reached historic levels, including the Snoqualmie. The County’s flood app received its highest usage to date, and flood patrol crews were deployed 24 hours a day for six straight days. Cynthia Krass added that most farmers impacted by the Snoqualmie flood were not just near the mainstem, as several tributary creeks blew out into adjoining farms.
- **Farm Pads/FEMA Audit:** FEMA has given King County until August 19, 2020 to update its flood code to remain compliant with federal standards regarding flood storage. The County had believed its “zero-rise” analysis was sufficient to meet these requirements. This is a significant issue, but there are still discussions to be had with FEMA on how to accomplish this. DNRP and Department of Local Services (DLS) are working on how to respond to a small backlog of farm pad requests that have been caught in limbo by this situation. Lara Thomas added that smaller cities like Duvall also received this deadline to update their policy, but there is no model policy out there on this issue for smaller cities. She asked if

FEMA is working on such a model. Mr. Baldi replied he could not speak for FEMA, but agreed it is a challenge for the County as well.

Abby Hook of DNRP then delivered an update on the County’s new “Clean Water, Healthy Habitat” (CWHH) initiative and how it ties into the work of FFF.

CWHH sprung from the Executive reviewing numbers for all County programs and divisions that address water quality, back in 2018. He asked how the \$6.5 billion budget for these entities and their work applied to the 30-year goals set in the Land Conservation Initiative (LCI). There was no clear answer to this, nor a County-wide definition of success for water quality. It was decided a better understanding was needed of the investment return of these funds, the desired outcomes. The Executive also asked how these multiple entities connect to each other; largely, they do not. CWHH is doing an accounting of desired best outcomes, how to measure them, and how to get the best data-backed “bang” for the County’s money.

Ms. Hook said FFF is already doing much of this work: looking across “silos” to achieve common goals, being clear in regulatory structures, and seeking where there might be changes. CWHH plans to replicate this effort in the County as a whole. A metric for desired objectives is sought by end of 2020. Once these internal goals are set, the expectation is there will be engagement with County partners to amplify this work. Ms. Hook agreed to come back to the IOC with an update, and more specifics, later in 2020.

3) Reflections on Recent Flooding (*IOC Members*)

Several IOC members offered thoughts about the recent floods:

- Lara Thomas stressed a need for all stakeholders to be more situationally aware. She said the Duvall area received a lot of infrastructure damage, including to roads and failed waterways and maxed-out sewer treatment plants. She said Congresswoman Suzan DelBene’s office contacted the city, but the County hasn’t.
- Josh Baldi said damages to roads across the County from the floods will cost \$10+ million to address. One stretch of land near the Cedar River has 40+ homes under some degree of water.
- Kurt Nelson said since flooding started three weeks ago, he and others from WRIA 7 have worked on dozens of Hydraulic Project Approvals (HPAs) to get culverts addressed. The Tulalips also seek a meeting with King County’s Roads division to assess emergency HPAs. He noted KC Roads will take a major budget hit and be overwhelmed. Councilmember Lambert has said one-third of the County’s annual roads budget was spent in one week. Mr. Nelson also noted the difficult situation faced by many landowners, many of whom have chosen to clear culverts themselves, without the usual permit.
- Several members discussed the disaster declaration from the floods. The deadline to report damage has been extended to March 2, though many have been hesitant to report due to lack of insurance. Mr. Baldi agreed to contact KC Emergency Management to get specific numbers on this declaration, including whether all the extended damage from the floods (such as landslides) counts as one or multiple events.

--BREAK--

4) How Can We Collectively Enhance Our Impact? (*Group Exercise*)

IOC members paired off in a “speed-dating” format of exercise, to ask each other a series of questions, discuss for five minutes, then rotate and repeat with the next person in line, several times over. The questions were:

- What’s one thing related to your work/interest you wish you had the support of other FFF interests, groups, or individuals to do?
- How could FFF support you in doing your work better?
- What is something the FFF table should be paying attention to, have on our radar?

--LUNCH--

5) How Can We Collectively Enhance Our Impact? (*Report-Out from Group Exercise*)

Reports from IOC members after the prior exercise included the following observations:

- Momentum/passion for FFF is continuing steadily, not tapering off. There is still much work to be done, including by the buffers task force.
- More outreach/external communication is needed with communities– organizations, constituents, etc. This includes empowering non-regulatory organizations, informing policy local and elsewhere.
- The IOC should dive more into land use planning, tying it into FFF’s sphere of influence.
- Flood Control District involvement in FFF is needed.

6) FFF Measures of Success Progress Report (*Beth leDoux*) – **DECISION ITEM**

Ms. leDoux asked for feedback on a draft FFF “Measures of Success” progress report. The draft categorizes success measures for Fish, Farm, Flood, and Collaboration, and ranks each measure on a progress scale of 1-4 with 1 being “Not started” and 4 being “Complete.” There was discussion about the wording of some measures, as well as suggested revisions to scale rankings of others. General consensus was that this drafts needs revision before use as a public-facing document. Suggested revisions in this vein included:

- Use original FFF transmittal letter language to set the stage, then have caucuses determine what actions they most want to track.
- Attach a running list of footnotes to these actions, to give history and context.

It was agreed for the time being this progress report is for internal IOC use only, then suggested edits would be incorporated, and the document re-submitted to the IOC for feedback/approval before being posted externally.

Ms. leDoux directed attention to a larger spreadsheet of collective actions for FFF 2.0. She asked the IOC to review the document and consider answers to the following questions:

- Do you concur with the level of success in the draft progress report?
- Do you want the IOC to continue receiving a report on the full 40 recommendations? If so, do you concur with the organization in the table provided? Do you concur with the items that need IOC approval?

Tamie Kellogg advised there would be no line-by-line review of this list today. She explained the main purpose of the list is to inform agenda development and be clearer about things that need IOC approval.

Suggested IOC feedback on this spreadsheet included:

- Leave specific language from the original agreement alone, but if any language in the new document is not in agreement with the original language, figure out how to combine the two.
- It’s helpful to have all information displayed in one place, including a column for activities progress, and the target completion date.
- The draft progress report is a great format for the quarterly FFF newsletter, but it’s important not to lose all the recommendations.

Ms. Kellogg directed any further comments on the listing or its organizational structure to be sent to Ms. leDoux.

7) Buffer Task Force Transmittal Letter (*Beth leDoux*)

Ms. leDoux asked for feedback on a draft letter from the buffer task force, to Executive Constantine via Josh Baldi and Christie True, regarding the task force’s recommendations. She said the letter asks partners to follow the decision framework, but does not change regulatory language or intent.

Several IOC members voiced concern about sending a letter on behalf of a task force that is now dissolved. There was concern expressed that the task force has dissolved when there is still work to do and discussion to be had, chiefly in developing an implementation strategy for its recommendations.

It was recommended, with a general consensus of the IOC, that caucus co-chairs work on a letter hitting on all the suggested revisions. Anyone else who wishes to offer input should contact Ms. leDoux.

8) Next Steps, Follow-Up Actions (*Tamie Kellogg*)

The target date for the next IOC meeting is on or close to April 30. The meeting would be a similar length to today’s and also likely held in Duvall. After this would follow a summer break, with the next meeting around October. Ms. Kellogg advised anyone with specific agenda requests to let her or Ms. leDoux know.

9) Meeting Adjourned

Tamie Kellogg adjourned the meeting at 1:07 pm.

Next IOC Meeting: April/May 2020, Date TBD – 9:00 am to 12:30 pm, Duvall Community Center