

Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood 2.0 Implementation Oversight Committee

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (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* (proxy: Matt Baerwalde - Y)	Y	Josh Monaghan, King Conservation District*	Y	Angela Donaldson, Fall City Community Association*	Y
Denise Krownbell, Snohomish Forum	Y	Cynthia Krass, Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance	Y	Stuart Lisk, City of Carnation	N
Mike Remington, Snoqualmie Forum	Y	Bobbi Lindemulder, farmer	Y	Lara Thomas, City of Duvall	Y
Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy	Y	Meredith Molli, Agriculture Commission	Y		
Daryl Williams, Tulalip Tribes (proxy: Kurt Nelson - N)	Y	Libby Reed, Sno Valley Tilth	N		
Ex Officio Members Present (Y/N)					
Gary Bahr, WSDA	N	Brendan Brokes, WDFW (proxy: Stewart Reinbold - N)	Y		
Josh Baldi, KC DNRP	Y	Tom Buroker, WDOE (proxy: Joe Burcar - N)	Y		

1) Introductions/Welcome by Co-Chair/Agenda Review (Tamie Kellogg, Angela Donaldson)

- Call to Order: Ms. Kellogg called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.
- Welcome: Ms. Donaldson welcomed all. She noted while current budget times are difficult, there is optimism for the recent co-chairs' letters received by the Executive. She invited all to plug their location into the website www.native-land.ca to find the native lands they live on, and share/acknowledge the results with those present.
- Farmers' Check-in: Members of the farming community were invited to share how things are going for them this year. (This will be part of a rotating check-in for coming IOC meetings with farm, fish, and flood.) Bobbi Lindemulder said the season had been "crazy," between bad smoke days and a very wet spring. Grass came on late, leading to a difficult hay window. Gardens are not doing well. Farmers' markets and CSAs have faced a hard season. Dairies are struggling to sell milk. She noted while this year has been hard for agriculture, many communities have stepped up and found outlets for farms, such as schools. She praised the outpouring of support and said she hoped to see successful seasonal farm activities such as pumpkin patches.
- Fall City Floodplain Restoration Project: Janne Kaje of DNRP's Regional Partnerships Unit reported the project is now ranked #1 in the two biggest state funding rounds, PSAR and FBD. \$1.4 million for drainage was folded into one of the grants. He said this is a hard budget year at the state legislature, and salmon recovery staff are reaching out to partners and member cities to lobby for funding sources. He announced postcards and emails are soon coming for a two-week virtual "open house" for the project from October 26 to November 9, with a one-hour public meeting and Q&A period on October 28.
- Recognition for Josh Monaghan: Josh Baldi announced a special recognition for Josh Monaghan is being signed by DNRP leadership. Mr. Monaghan is leaving KCD after 24 years of service. Mr. Baldi praised Mr. Monaghan's contributions and thoughtfulness on many issues over the years. Joan Lee, section manager for DNRP-WLRD's Rural and Regional Services, reinforced this praise, that Mr. Monaghan has been essential in this work. Mr. Monaghan spoke briefly. He said FFF has been some of his favorite work, in finding common ground with those of different viewpoints and focusing on how to win together. He further said he was grateful for the teaching and learning he's done, and is thinking on how collective groups such as the IOC plan for transitions like this one. He gave thanks for the kind words, and Ms. Kellogg affirmed that time will be found on a future meeting agenda for more significant recognition of Mr. Monaghan's service.

2) FFF Q4 Workplan (*Beth leDoux*)

Ms. leDoux reported the Executive's proposed County budget has been submitted to King County Council (KCC) for approval and includes funding for FFF. Should she need to leave her current position, she wants to assure durable changes remain for FFF. She reviewed a proposed 4th quarter 2020 FFF workplan, hitting several points:

- **Comprehensive Drainage:** This was the top item picked to move forward in 2020. It is also necessary to implement the "Farm 2-2" recommendation item, regarding the agriculture strategic plan.
- **Regulatory Task Force:** This work will be reviewed by Eric Beach in today's meeting.
- **Buffers Task Force:** Per reply from the Executive, he supports the task force and wants it to move forward.
- **2D Modeling:** This is to address the flood component of FFF. Blue-green LiDAR was acquired two weeks ago; Ms. leDoux thanked King County's stormwater and internal teams for setting this in motion.
- **Communications:** Ms. leDoux wants to improve this and ensure she gets information out in a timely manner. Work is being done in collaboration with internal and external partners, and she wants partners to come to the County with their questions and get the service they deserve.

She further said it is important she hears from the IOC on what is important for FFF moving into the next biennium. She asked anyone with questions about the workplan to contact her.

3) Agriculture Strategic Plan Task Force (*Patrice Barrentine*)

Ms. Barrentine reviewed a draft Table of Contents outline for the Agriculture Strategic Plan task force's work. The plan will be broken into eight chapters, possibly nine, with several two-to-three-page issue papers under each chapter. Land base requirements and protections for a viable farm sector will be covered in the final chapter.

She reviewed the planned timeline for the task force's work, which has faced delays due to COVID-19. The original plan was to complete work by summer 2020, but this is now hoped to be approved and adopted by end of 2021. The goal to publish the plan is June of 2021.

It was asked if this plan could be a living document with changes made after its approval, and about a need voiced in FFF 1.0 for infrastructure to get local farm products to markets, which did not appear addressed in this current document. Ms. Barrentine replied the task force determined that infrastructure for on-farm production is more needed, but infrastructure to get local products to markets is also integral and may be revisited and developed later.

4) Regulatory Task Force Breakout Discussion (*Eric Beach*)

Mr. Beach reviewed the scope of work for the task force, which included a list of priority topics from the FFF 1.0 agreement. Mr. Beach reported on the outcomes of these topics, broken down under several broader types:

- **Resolved, No Further Action**
 - Bypass requirements for small waterways; de-fishing requirements and methods; multiyear permitting HPA; and requirements to maintain agriculture buffers after drainage and mitigation is done.
 - Task Force Recommendation: To compile and present their conclusions on the FFF website.
 - The IOC concurred with the task force's recommendation.
- **Additional Work Needed on Approved Recommendations**
 - DLS collaboration on beaver management tiered permitting; a memorandum of acceptance (MOA) on the task force's interpretation of regulations; and Endangered Species Act (ESA) coverage, including a Safe Harbor Agreement.
 - Task Force Recommendation: For WLRD to form and resource a "disappearing task force" of subject matter experts (SMEs) to develop an agreement.
 - Comprehensive Agriculture Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP): to develop and implement pilot projects, and complete development of program architecture.
 - Task Force Recommendation: That WLRD provide resources to move the program forward.
 - The IOC concurred with the task force's recommendations.
- **New Recommendations Presented This Meeting**
 - Off-site mitigation: To assemble and resource a "disappearing task force" of SMEs with time and expertise to identify options and complete a cost/benefit analysis.
 - Zero-rise: To convene a group to evaluate the HECRAS 2D model, and do a literature review to determine if this type of analysis can be done.
 - The IOC had no questions about these new recommendations.
- **New Findings**
 - Cultural Resources Review Requirements: That the County requirement for these reviews does not have a significant budget impact on ADAP projects.

- Turbidity: That best management practices are in place for ADAP to achieve water quality standards.
- Alluvial Fans: WLRD management will discuss this report with the IOC and bring SMEs to cover details.
- The IOC would like a presentation on the alluvial fan report for their next meeting.
- **Topics That Cannot Be Meaningfully Influenced**
 - Additional flexibility in calculating zero-rise. While important and complex, and has direct impact on the national flood insurance program, it falls under purview of FEMA and state Department of Ecology.
 - Ongoing Program to Assist with Non-fill Options: Progress could not be made on this due to a lack of access to SMEs from the Flood Control District (FCD) not participating in FFF.
 - An IOC member asked if there is another avenue to pursue on non-fill options. Josh Baldi answered that WLRD’s budget is being restructured to allow more access to Rivers section staff (who staff the FCD) and free up some of their expertise. He noted this situation is still a key conversation to be had with the FCD.
- **Next Steps and Schedule**
 - Collaboration with DLS: Complete a concurrence memo by end of 2020, and a beaver management permitting strategy by second quarter of 2021.
 - Safe Harbor Agreement: WLRD’s effort begins in first quarter of 2021, with submittal by end of 2021. This is expected to take about two years to review and finalize.
 - Off-site Mitigation: Implement a “disappearing task force.”
 - Comprehensive Drainage: A program proposal is expected to be accepted in first quarter of 2021. The pilot project implementation is ongoing.
 - IOC Letter to the Executive: Findings, recommendations, and request for resources are being transmitted.
 - The IOC concurred with this list. Angela Donaldson motioned to draft/transmit a letter to the Executive, and for the IOC to approve caucus co-chairs to sign it to expedite moving forward. The motion carried.

Mr. Beach offered several conclusions to his presentation. He said task force findings cleared up many regulatory misconceptions and provided guidance for future actions, including an unexpected benefit of improving several King County work processes. He said that over the next several months, the task force’s body of work will be synthesized and made available on the FFF website.

5) **Regulatory Task Force Breakout Discussion**

The IOC was split into four “breakout room” groups to discuss and weigh on the information and priorities presented for the Regulatory Task Force.

6) **Full Group Discussion on Regulatory Task Force Approval**

After the breakout discussion, representatives from each breakout room group reported on discussed priorities.

- Group 1: Top priority for this group was zero-rise; all in the group believed the issue should not be let go. Other priorities included resolving comprehensive drainage issues: off-site mitigation, beaver management, and pilot projects to continue learning.
- Group 2: Priorities here were wide and varied, with three votes for comprehensive drainage. An issue of concern was accountability of the proposed “disappearing task forces,” and if they are to be linked to the IOC. Scope, schedule, and outcomes of the task force should all come to the IOC, and the IOC should be transparent in the way FFF progress is shared. Implications of the updated FEMA flood maps were also a concern.
- Group 3: Zero-rise was a top priority, including digging into if 2D modeling will provide movement on this. Other priorities were comprehensive drainage, off-site mitigation, and ESA “incidental take” coverage. They noted beaver management should be a “slam dunk” as far as permitting.
- Group 4: A key concern is if the original FFF priorities list is complete or needs updating, especially on agriculture issues. Other concerns were: how the task force work is the only solution for FFF agricultural drainage needs; asking why County inter-agency collaboration has to be a checklist item; comprehensive drainage; and maybe finding synergy with off-site mitigation and beaver management in APDs.

7) **Wrap-Up/Adjourn**

Beth leDoux said drainage will be the focus at December’s IOC meeting, with updates from the WID on this and their conservation plans. She added that appropriate steps are being taken to refill the vacancy on the agriculture caucus from the loss of Josh Monaghan, and the spot should be filled soon.

Tamie Kellogg adjourned the meeting at 4:43 pm.

Next IOC Meeting: December 8, 2020, 9:00 am to 11:00 am (Zoom video conference call)