

Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood Advisory Committee

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

9:00 PM – 11:00 AM

Zoom - Register in advance for this meeting:

Facilitator: Tamie Kellogg

Meeting Purpose: Discussion and update on drainage related to Farm 2. Approval of RTF recommendations transmittal to the Executive. Organizational items for 2021-2022, individual commitment to participation and caucus Co-chairs.

9:00 – 9:20	<p>1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Welcome from Co-Chair Josh Monahan b. Native Lands Acknowledgement c. Rotating check-in with Fish IOC members. How are things going for you this year? How is progress viewed, challenges, and wins? (10 min) 	<p>Josh Monahan</p> <p>All</p> <p>IOC Fish Advisory Committee members</p>
9:20- 9:55	<p>2. Drainage - Progress to Date (30 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. King County commitment to Integrate Drainage Program /Comp D. b. Farm 2 – Reflections on FFF drainage progress. c. Q & A 	<p>Beth LeDoux and Josh Baldi</p> <p>All</p>
9:55- 10:10	<p>3. Regulatory Task Force Transmittal to the Executive (15 min)</p> <p><i>DECISION POINT: Approve IOC Regulatory Task Force transmittal to the King County Executive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Discuss and approve RTF transmittal. b. Share pathway for RTF memo of concurrence on interpretation of regulations between WLRD and DLS. <p>Materials: Regulatory Task Force Transmittal Letter.</p>	<p>Eric Beach</p>
10:10- 10:20	<p>4. IOC member Recognition Commitment and Co-chair Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognition of service for Cynthia Krass and Josh Monahan. b. Each IOC sector members shares their commitment to participate and caucuses share their recommended chair for 2021-2022. <p><i>DECISION POINT: FFF Individual commitment to Advisory Committee participation and co-chair selections for 2021-2022.</i></p>	<p>Josh Baldi</p> <p>Tamie Kellogg</p>
10:20- 11:00	<p>5. Celebrate FFF progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Share King County Farm, Fish, Flood progress documents. b. In break out groups each IOC member reflects upon FFF progress and shares their what they feel is a success story that holds the spirit of FFF c. Share out with the large group. 	<p>Tamie Kellogg & All</p>

	Materials: The King County Farm Fish Flood progress documents.	
11:00	6. Adjourned	

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

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020
9:00 am to 11:00 am (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* <i>(proxy: Matt Baerwalde - Y)</i>	Y	Josh Monaghan, King Conservation District*	Y	Angela Donaldson, Fall City Community Association*	Y
Denise Krownbell, Snohomish Forum	N	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 <i>(proxy: Kurt Nelson - N)</i>	Y	Dave Glenn, Sno Valley Tilth	Y		
Ex Officio Members Present (Y/N)					
Gary Bahr, WSDA	N	Brendan Brokes, WDFW <i>(proxy: Stewart Reinbold - N)</i>	N		
Josh Baldi, KC DNRP	Y	Tom Buroker, WDOE <i>(proxy: Joe Burcar - N)</i>	N		

1) Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review (Tamie Kellogg, Josh Monaghan)

- **Call to Order:** Ms. Kellogg called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.
- **Welcome:**
 - Beth leDoux welcomed Dave Glenn, the new director and representative for Sno Valley Tilth.
 - Mr. Monaghan said this meeting is his last as a co-chair. He attributed the “special” nature of FFF to its collaborative and diverse membership, and a clear focus on seeking mutual goals. He acknowledged the County’s leadership role in FFF, noting early trust challenges between the County and the Agriculture Commission. He also noted that progress on drainage should remain key in the evolution and sustainment of FFF. He continued that while the original agreement is the foundation of FFF’s work, as time moves forward it becomes crucial for the IOC to consider flexibility of certain elements in the agreement. He encouraged the IOC to focus on goals and be flexible in tactics to achieve them.
- **Native Lands Acknowledgement:** Mr. Monaghan led IOC members in acknowledging the native lands they reside on, noting the act’s significance as a way to show respect to native peoples.
- **Rotating Check-In – Fish Caucus:**
 - Mike Remington thanked Mr. Monaghan for his words. He reported there are several fish projects now in motion, and that elected officials are starting to recognize key issues for salmon recovery. Alluvial fans and their impacts on fish are being considered. He said while much work remains, the three FFF caucuses are stronger when they work together.
 - Cindy Spiry agreed with Mr. Remington that collaboration and partnerships are essential to FFF success. She noted the recent refocusing of the Flood Control District (FCD) on multi-benefit efforts as an FFF success, and that future engagement in FFF from the FCD would be positive. She praised the buffer task force’s work as a huge win.
 - Micah Wait noted the County’s Fall City Floodplain Restoration Project ranks first in the Floodplains by Design funding list, and there have been other funding “wins” as well.
 - Daryl Williams agreed with prior comments and praised the collaborative nature of the IOC.

2) Drainage – Progress to Date (*Beth leDoux, Josh Baldi*)

- **King County Commitment to Integrate Drainage Program/Comprehensive Drainage**

Ms. leDoux introduced the County’s Integrated Drainage program, formerly “Comprehensive Drainage” or “Comp D.” She said the issue has become larger than comprehensive drainage, as it needs to address regulatory and capital issues in unlocking drainage concerns and could have impacts outside farming.

Mr. Baldi said drainage is often named to him as the main barrier to productive land in King County. To address it will take changes on both operational and code levels: not just working across the Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD), but with Department of Local Services’ (DLS) permitting team. While the Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP) should be continued, its impact should expand. Code changes will be a multi-year effort, but in the meantime, there are other projects to implement. He stressed the importance of FFF’s collaborative lessons as it will take a countywide effort to achieve code changes, as well as the need to assure clear conversations on what is being achieved on the ground.

- **Farm 2: Reflections on FFF Drainage Progress**

Bobbi Lindemulder observed the objective to “improve drainage, reduce costs and complexity of drainage projects, and increase certainty,” and complexity of connecting Point A to Point B in this regard. She said while there is no easy way to complete this process, it remains imperative to the agriculture community.

Cynthia Krass agreed there is continued frustration from the agriculture caucus on a lack of progress, but she is encouraged by work being done on the ground. This work is in significant part due to additional funding for the Watershed Improvement District (WID) from sources including the FCD. She continued that drainage work should circle back to the work of the buffers task force. She and Erin Ericson at the WID have discussed off-site mitigation as a nexus to coordinate restoration goals and activities, and buffers and the agriculture strategic plan. Libby Reed agreed this concept should be emphasized, that more coordination on this level will increase on-the-ground productivity.

- **Discussion/Q & A:** There were no further discussions or questions on this agenda item.

3) Regulatory Task Force Transmittal to Executive (*Eric Beach*)

Mr. Beach reviewed a draft letter to transmit to the King County Executive reporting findings, accomplishments, and intended actions to pursue from the regulatory task force’s work. This includes: incidental take coverage, developing an off-site mitigation program, and moving the integrated drainage program forward. Several issue papers have been written and provided to the IOC and DLS Permitting for review, one of which is still awaiting final review at DLS. This is expected to be complete by the end of this month.

- **Discuss and Approve RTF Transmittal**

Several present suggested ways to emphasize or clarify existing points in the letter. Josh Baldi said in terms of informing the Executive, the letter should provide general understanding of how ideas are being implemented, including how to improve drainage and farmability, and ergo food productivity and salmon recovery. The Executive will receive further briefings on these issues. Josh Monaghan advised adding language about the “intersectionality” of these issues, as well as having a consistent framing language or template for each transmittal to the Executive.

Tamie Kellogg noted the IOC had already approved a vote to send this letter, and that today’s vote was on how to revise it. Mr. Monaghan motioned to have County staff work with caucus co-chairs on revisions and bring the letter back to the IOC later. Cindy Spiry seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

- **RTF Concurrence Memo Between WLRD and DLS:** This item was not discussed in today’s meeting.

4) IOC Member Recognition, Commitment and Co-Chair Discussion (*Tamie Kellogg, Josh Baldi*)

- **Service Recognition for Cynthia Krass and Josh Monaghan**

Mr. Baldi read, in full, two proclamations from the Executive recognizing Ms. Krass and Mr. Monaghan for their years of service to King County. The reading was followed by many thanks and comments to Ms. Krass and Mr. Monaghan from Mr. Baldi, IOC members, and staff.

- **IOC Members Share Commitment to Participate & Recommended Co-Chairs for 2021-22**

The IOC members discussed importance of co-chairs to this phase of FFF and possible nominees for 2021:

- **Fish:** Cindy Spiry voiced willingness to continue as caucus co-chair, but also to turn the role over to anyone wanting to take it on. She suggested following up on this discussion later this month as no final decision has yet been made.
- **Flood:** Angela Donaldson said she would be honored to continue as co-chair, and that fellow caucus member Lara Thomas supports this.
- **Farm:** Josh Monaghan said Erin Ericson of the Snoqualmie WID has been nominated for and is seriously considering the co-chair role. Bobbi Lindemulder and Meredith Molli have offered to be considered as a backup to that role. However, no final decision has been made.

5) Celebrate FFF Progress (Tamie Kellogg, All)

Ms. Kellogg prefaced that this time marks the end of the first three years of FFF, and a point at which the IOC needs to look back as well as look forward in its accomplishments. IOC members were sent and asked to review several documents summarizing these accomplishments. Beth leDoux added that these break-out discussions are meant to capture a “static shot” of how things are today, with hope of reminding everyone much remains to do while reflecting on what has been done.

● **Break-out Groups: Reflect on Progress and share FFF Success Stories**

IOC members were assigned randomly to several break-out rooms, and asked to spend several minutes answering and discussing the following questions:

- Looking back on the work for 2017-2020, how do you feel about the progress made so far?
- What’s your favorite part of serving on the IOC?

Full detailed notes from each break-out group were captured in a separate document.

● **Share-Out Results with Full IOC**

Representatives from each group reported the results of their break-out discussions:

- **Group 1:** N/A – Group 1 was the entire IOC.
- **Group 2:** All felt the understanding and collaboration of other involved parties have been the biggest outcomes they valued, and they are encouraged to continue this work.
- **Group 3:** Several issues were touched on, but a main point of consensus was the collaboration and understanding of different groups.
- **Group 4:** Understanding each other’s positions and working together to solve each other’s problems was a point that resonated for all, along with the value of caucuses and co-chairs.
- **Group 5:** This group agreed with others on the points of collaboration and other supportive measures.
- **Group 6:** All agreed this is a valuable process, which much learned and much to do. Some noted a need to focus on hard issues and not just easy ones; keep “eyes on the prize”; and for future inclusion of forestry interests in discussions, along with focus from the flood caucus on stormwater concerns.

Several follow-up observations were offered by staff and IOC members: the importance of keeping government grounded; the constant work of maintaining trust, transparency, and communication; the importance of continuing to tell stories of past and ongoing work to help trust-building. Josh Baldi finished by adding that this all helps the understanding of if certain processes are working; that co-creating multi-benefit solutions remains important, as well as working for the people and the land.

6) Wrap-Up/Adjourn (Beth leDoux, Tamie Kellogg)

Ms. leDoux asked IOC members to send her stories for the next quarterly FFF e-newsletter: stories they think would benefit the extended community who may want to hear how this work is going and how they can connect to it. The newsletter is expected in the first quarter of 2021.

Tamie Kellogg adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.

Next IOC Meeting: February 23, 2021, 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm (Zoom video conference call)

FFF IOC Updates

December 8, 2020

King County Budget: King County Council has passed the 2021-2022 budget, including a Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) Budget and Surface Water Management fee that holds the current fee stable (no increase). FFF work has been included in this budget to support the Project Manager and consultant time.

2D Model Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant: WLRD submitted a Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant application on November 6, 2020 to support the building of a 2-dimensional (2D) hydraulic model for the Snoqualmie Valley. This modelling work will focus on understanding, timing and sequencing of when floods impact roads, inform the development of future flood mitigation plans, and guide preparation of capital projects for both the County and other jurisdictions.

FCD Integrated Floodplain Motion: The King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a [motion](#) declaring the King County Flood Control District's commitment to integrated floodplain management and multi-benefit projects and to the principles of environmental stewardship, equity and social justice and environmental justice; and redefining how the District plans capital projects and reimagining how the District designs projects.

Ag Strategic Plan – Work continues on the third chapter as partner feedback is solicited and incorporated into the drainage issue papers. The Ag Strategic Plan Task Force has reviewed initial drafts and offered keen input. Once edits are finalized, the chapters will be shared with the IOC. Expected timeline for Ag Drainage will be Q1 2021. Funding opportunities are being pursued to support the timely delivery of the plan.

Snoqualmie Fish Farm Flood Implementation Oversight Committee

December 8, 2020

The Honorable Dow Constantine
King County Executive
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle WA 98104

Dear Executive Constantine;

The Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood (FFF) Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC) was convened in 2018 to guide implementation of the landmark 2017 agreement between farmers, tribes, valley residents and other key stakeholders in the watershed. That agreement included more than thirty recommendations and established three task forces to study remaining issues in detail, including the Regulatory Task Force (RTF).

The nine-member Regulatory Task Force (RTF) represents each of the Fish, Farm and Flood caucuses. The membership was included farmers, staff from the Tulalip Tribes and the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, the Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District, City of Duvall and the Fall City Community Association. We are writing to you as the three chairs of the IOC to update you on areas of agreement and seek your support for implementing key regulatory recommendations that will provide greater certainty about drainage regulations while providing environmental protections.

The IOC requests your support and resource commitments to implement RTF recommendations:

- 1) Support continued dedication of staff time from the Water and Land Resources Division and Permitting to work on the recommendations described below in #2
- 2) Continue to support cross-division work between Department of Local Services - Permitting Division and Water and Land Resources to collaborate on permitting processes and regulatory updates that provide greater certainty for both agricultural operations and aquatic resource protection, and
- 3) Encourage information sharing from our regulatory partners and staff regarding flood hazard regulations that may not be influenced by the RTF but have large impacts on the collaborative work of the IOC groups and individuals.

The RTF worked through the identified Priority Issues and at the end categorized them into three major categories:

- 1) **Issues examined and resolved.** These items have been written up into a memo and the Department of Local Services-Permitting Division (Permitting) will issue a Memo of Concurrence
- 2) **Actions to pursue:**
 - a. Obtain Endangered Species Act (ESA) Incidental Take coverage for the Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP) to protect King County from third party lawsuits.
 - b. Develop a program allowing for Off-Site Mitigation for agricultural activities

(predominantly agricultural waterway maintenance) in collaboration with existing FFF efforts such as Buffer Task Force and the Agriculture Strategic Plan.

- c. Develop Integrated Drainage Program that tackles agricultural drainage issues holistically tackle agriculture drainage while remaining in line with salmon recovery and flood safety priorities.

3) Issues that cannot be meaningfully influenced by the RTF. The RTF recognized it has little ability to influence changes in federal flood policy and federal minimum requirements for local flood hazard regulations. We will continue to engage with Water and Land Resources and Permitting on these topics but have no further body of work for the RTF.

Getting to agreement and understanding around the difficult issues of regulations impacting agricultural drainage was a momentous step in building understanding and identifying key next steps to help ensure work in the Valley can be done with fewer hurdles and more certainty. Agricultural drainage continues to face challenges and the IOC remains dedicated to working collaboratively to address the practical, financial and regulatory hurdles to drainage, as agreed upon in June 2017.

Sincerely,

Angela Donaldson
Certified Floodplain Manager, FFF Flood Caucus Chair

Joshua Monaghan
FFF Farm Caucus Chair

Cindy Spiry
Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, FFF Fish Caucus Chair

cc: Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD), DNRP Megan Smith, Deputy Director, WLRD, DNRP
Joan Lee, Manager, Rural and Regional Services Section (RRSS), WLRD, DNRP Curt Crawford, Manager, Stormwater Services Section (SWS), WLRD, DNRP John Brosnan, Strategic Planning Manager, SWS, WLRD, DNRP
Janne Kaje, Regional Partnerships Unit Supervisor, RRSS, WLRD, DNRP Richard Martin, Environmental Programs Managing Supervisor, WLRD, DNRP

Fish Accomplishments

This document reflects the work of King County. We have many committed partners to this work: Watershed Improvement District, Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Association, Tulalip Tribes, Snoqualmie Tribe, King County Agriculture Commission, King Conservation District, Sound Salmon Solutions, Wild Fish Conservancy, Stewardship Partners, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, Valley Cities, and others. The FFF Project manager is gathering the great success stories from our partners and will be sharing those accomplishments in as many formats as we can.

Background:

The Fish Farm Flood (FFF) Advisory Committee was formed in late 2013 to advise the King County Executive on issues creating obstacles and conflict around salmon recovery, flood protection, and productive agriculture in the Snoqualmie Valley Agriculture Production District (SVAPD). Since 2017, when the FFF interests reached agreement on 42 recommendations aimed at improving outcomes for each of these interests, there has been notable progress. Although there is still more work to be done, King County has refocused its efforts guided by FFF recommendations. King County remains committed to sustaining the trusting relationships gained through this process and continues exploring opportunities and approaches to make progress on present and future complex challenges toward a more resilient future. Following are highlights of efforts completed or underway by King County sponsored by FFF or undertaken in alignment with FFF 1.0 recommendations.

1. Floodplain restoration capital projects

Inside the APD, **the Fall City Floodplain Restoration Project is moving forward with design and securing grant funding.** The King County project team is in the design phase, is applying for grants for construction, and is on track for construction in 2022. The project combines two projects originally envisioned as separate large-scale projects into the single largest footprint floodplain reconnection project undertaken by King County. The project has incorporated FFF 1.0 recommendations to engage the public early in the design process, and hire a third-party subject matter expert to review computer modeling, and continues to meet regularly with potentially affected property owners.

Outside the APD, **King County completed the San Souci Floodplain Restoration Project on the Tolt River** in 2019 and has initiated reconnaissance and planning for an additional project on the Tolt and the Snoqualmie rivers.

On a related note, the King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a [motion](#) in November 2020 declaring the **King County Flood Control District's commitment to integrated floodplain management and multi-benefit projects** and to the principles of environmental stewardship, equity and social justice and environmental justice; and redefining how the District plans capital projects and reimagining how the District designs projects.

2. Riparian buffer plantings

The Buffers Task Force established new recommendations for voluntary, King County-funded, riparian buffer widths on private farmland through an agreement among appointed FFF representatives. This work updates “one size fits all” buffer widths to **variable-width buffer planting guidelines** that are more practical for farmers and still beneficial for salmon. These new guidelines are intended to help encourage landowner participation in incentive programs, yielding more waterways planted.

King County Executive Dow Constantine is supporting the scope of work for the **Buffer Implementation Task Force** to think through the goals, incentives and guidance to implement the FFF Buffer Task Force variable width recommendations and promote practical solutions to planting in the SVAPD.

3. Changes in the way King County does business

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In 2019, King County allocated an additional half-time Basin Steward position to the Snoqualmie Basin. This position focuses on watershed health and habitat restoration opportunities above Snoqualmie Falls in the Upper Snoqualmie Valley, as well as in the South Fork Skykomish River.

The Water and Land Resources Division has a new process to ensure **internal review of purchase of any houses** or farmland in the Snoqualmie valley. Using a checklist, WLRD can determine if farm homes can be relocated if the acquisition is deemed necessary.

When land within the Snoqualmie Valley, in particular the APD, is being considered for the purchase of permanent easement (i.e., the Farmland Preservation Program) these **lands are also evaluated for their habitat potential** so that the opportunity to pursue restoration in the future is not precluded by the easement.

Addition of a water quality scientist to the Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program team. This position ensures water quality standards and other conditions for salmonids are planned for, and met, during and after ADAP projects.

King County ecologists participated in the development of King County's **Comprehensive Agriculture Drainage Program** that recommends expansion of services currently provided by ADAP.

Farm Accomplishments

This document reflects the work of King County. We have many committed partners to this work: Watershed Improvement District, Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Association, Tulalip Tribes, Snoqualmie Tribe, King County Agriculture Commission, King Conservation District, Sound Salmon Solutions, Wild Fish Conservancy, Stewardship Partners, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, Valley Cities, and others. The FFF Project manager is gathering the great success stories from our partners and will be sharing those accomplishments in as many formats as we can.

Background:

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1. Drainage:

Since 2015, the five-year average of agriculture waterways maintained has been 14,684 linear feet per year, an increase of 68% over the previous 5 years thanks to a strong partnership between King County's Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program and the King Conservation District. With King County Flood Control District support, funding has increased more than a million dollars since the 2013-2014 budget, catalyzed by the strong support from FFF 1.0 to **increase the number of ADAP drainage assistance projects.**

In 2020, King County piloted working on a large modified channel in the ADP. King County worked with three commercial farms along Griffin Creek to design a project that alleviates flooding impacts. In fall, flood-fencing was installed along Full Circle Farm to trap debris and sediment forming a barrier to flood waters-decreasing the impact of high flows on farm fields and infrastructure. In the summer of 2021, creating a series of drainage ditches to route water back into the creek will be done.

In 2017, the year the FFF 1.0 agreement was signed, King County funded a Beaver Working Group, to **provide information** on how to **find the best solutions for coexisting with beavers**; contacts for technical assistance with beavers, and general information about beaver behavior and life cycle. King County is working on King County code changes for streamlining the permit process and allow for clearer and easier ways to deal with beavers on private property.

The Regulatory Task force provided **clarifications** to many of the **regulations** facing the agriculture sector that were identified in FFF 1.0. King County Code clarifications will be captured in a document for farmers and landowners entitled **Farm Practices Illustrated. The first three chapters including Farmworker Housing, Agriculture Buildings in the Floodplain, and Drainage will be finished December 2020.** The remainder of the chapters will be done throughout 2021.

King County is directing resources to address drainage issues beyond those currently undertaken through the Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP) by pursuing a **new, countywide program** called the **Integrated Drainage Program**. Money was secured in the 2019-2020 Stormwater Services budget to support projects that solved drainage issues in watercourses outside of ADAP.

A report from King County WLRD to the King County Council for how to address **drainage work in alluvial fans** was submitted in September 2020. This work will be incorporated into the Integrated Drainage Program. King County

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will work with tribes and key stakeholder groups, including FFF IOC, to identify what code and program changes are needed to implement a comprehensive drainage program.

2. Farmability:

In 2017, a **land survey cataloging agriculture uses in the Snoqualmie Valley APD was completed**. The data will be used to update maps to reflect land that is currently farmed, farmable, or not farmable (due to existing structures, such as roads). This will help **identify APD lands not currently farmed** (such as fallow land) **and target them to be returned to farming uses**.

The King County **Agriculture Strategic Plan** is the first plan to quantify the land-based needs of the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural sector and recommend specific actions for improvements on a timeline for the next 20 years, in Part I: Infrastructure Needs. The plan will be completed by December 2021. The following are key elements of the plan:

- **Increase opportunities for farmers to develop necessary infrastructure to support or expand their farm businesses** – assuring the long-term productivity of farmland and bringing more acres into food production.
- **An inventory of farm pads is complete and will be used to determine the need for high ground in farming as part of the Agriculture Strategic Plan**. Reconciling farm pad authorization with federal floodplain regulations is also part of this scope of work.
- **Identified, catalogued and mapped the 214 commercial farm operations that make up the agricultural economic sector**.

King County completed an assessment of the needs and options for **farm worker housing**. The final recommendation is to provide easy and straightforward technical assistance to farmers who want to provide farmworker housing.

3. Increased considerations and resources for farming in King County programs:

Landowner outreach for large capital projects.

- Informal, one-to-one discussions with residents, neighborhood and public engagement

Conducting 3rd party reviews of all capital improvement habitat restoration projects at 30% design are now standardized in the King County Capital Project Management Manual.

The Agriculture, Forestry and Incentives Unit (AFI) has the equivalent of **2 full time employees working on farming**. In 2017, AFI added a full-time position (Eric Beach) to support finding regulatory solutions for the agricultural needs identified in FFF 1.0. AFI provides FFF with support from several staff members (Melissa Borsting, Patrice Barrentine, Ted Sullivan) who work with agricultural partners (e.g., the Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District, SnoValley Tilth and SVPA) on agricultural initiatives and projects to increase farmland in active production. This work is the equivalent of 1 additional full-time employee supporting agricultural interests in FFF.

There is now additional King County process for the KC Agriculture Program to **review all proposed purchases or easements of properties** within an APD. The process requires verification that analysis and consensus has been achieved between farm and fish subject matter experts so that **land being considered for habitat restoration is concurrently evaluated for farming potential**. The analysis documents how to optimize both objectives.

The Buffers Task Force established new riparian buffer widths on private farmland through an agreement among appointed FFF representatives. This work reduces “one size fits all” buffer widths to support **variable buffer planting guidelines** that are **more practical for farmers** and still beneficial for salmon.

Flood Accomplishments

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Background:

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1. Flood Safety

Laid the groundwork for development of a Lower Snoqualmie Valley-Wide 2D Computer Model to answer a range of outstanding questions of the FFF 1.0 Advisory Committee and FFF 2.0 IOC such as cumulative impacts of public infrastructure projects and study of vulnerable road segments.:

- **Completed a Memo of Findings in December 2019 and presented to the IOC.** Watershed Science & Engineering (WSE) was hired to explore the utility of use of a 2D model and **presented** their findings to the IOC.
- Based on the WSE findings, **the FFF Implementation Oversight Committee wrote a letter of support to County leadership in support of developing a 2D Valley-wide Hydraulic Computer model.**
- **Funds were identified to contract the completion of a blue green LIDAR map of the Snoqualmie valley** capturing river channel topography which, when combined with existing LIDAR data, provides essential baseline topographic data for 2D model development.
- **Submitted grant applications for funding of the 2D model** from newly available federal grant programs

Approximately 1,200 feet of frequently flooded Neal Road will be relocated as part of the Fall City Floodplain Restoration Project to improve public safety, support agriculture, and maintain access to private properties.

Completed an assessment of the needs and options for King County farms to provide farm worker housing.

A perceived lack of adequate flood worker housing raised concerns for unsafe housing in flood prone areas. The final recommendation is to assist farms with easy and straightforward technical assistance to farms who want to provide farmworker housing.

Confirmed King County Roads' commitment to analyze a flood tolerant, cross-valley road, a project in the King County Flood Control District's 2021-2022 Capital Improvement Program.