

FFF Implementation Oversight Committee Meeting

Agenda

June 10, 2020

1:00-2:30

Zoom Call Meeting ID: 889 1972 2003 Passcode: 609472

Meeting Purpose: Re-connect with IOC members. Confirm the BITF Transmittal Letter to Executive Constantine and the SOW. Approve the letter of support for FbD projects. Discuss how FFF work can be done in the coming months. Provide input on FFF communications.

1:00 – 1:10	1. Introductions and Welcome (10 min) Welcome from your Co-chair, Josh Monahan Housekeeping & Agenda review	Josh Monahan & Tamie Kellogg
1:10 1:40	2. Buffer Task Force – Transmittal letter and Scope of Work (40 min) IOC Decision Point: Do you agree with submitting the IOC transmittal letter to the Executive? Do agree with the proposed SOW? Discussion: Provide input on what can we realistically get done by December. Materials: BITF SOW and Transmittal letter	Josh Monaghan & Beth LeDoux
1:40 – 1:50	3. FbD Multi-benefit Grant Application – Fall City Floodplain Restoration Project (10 min) IOC Decision Point: Do agree to have the co-chairs sign the letter and send to the Executive to include in the County’s application for funding? If support for this suite of actions is needed for other funding requests, could the co-chairs review the letter for concurrence and sign without coming back to IOC? a. Letter to King County Executive Materials: Draft Letter to the Executive	Cindy Spiry
1:50 - 2:15	4. FFF Next Steps/Outcomes by end of 2020 IOC Decision Point: What do you want to get done by the end of the year? Do you have the bandwidth to work on FFF this summer? Materials: FFF Topic table	Tamie Kellogg
2:15- 2:30	5. Communications IOC Decision Point: Do you agree with the FFF Masthead and branding elements? If not, what changes do you recommended? a. Masthead/brand - Gov delivery layout b. Need to communicate updates with interested parties what activities have been accomplished in FFF. i. KC example ii. Share updated full progress report (table of 42) c. Public Comment d. Working together in an Online World - Feedback on the meeting Materials: FFF Masthead, Updated progress report – (table of 42)	Beth LeDoux
2:30	6. Adjourn	

SNOQUALMIE FISH, FARM, FLOOD, IMPLEMENTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

March 20, 2020

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

The Honorable Claudia Balducci, Chair
King County Council
516 Third Avenue, Room 120
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Executive Constantine and Councilmember Balducci;

In April of 2018, the Fish, Farm, Flood (FFF) Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC) convened the Buffer Task Force (BTF) with the specific goal of generating recommendations for variable width, voluntary riparian buffers on private land in the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District (SVAPD). The intent was to move away from a one-size-fits-all approach and identify riparian buffer widths that provide scientifically supported, waterway specific, ecological lift for salmon while minimizing, as best as possible, the impact to agriculture.

Eleven individuals served on the Buffer Task Force, including representatives from the City of Duvall, the King County Agriculture Commission, private farm landowners (2), Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Citizens Alliance for Property Rights, Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, Stewardship Partners, and Tulalip Tribes. The BTF spent 18 months developing recommendations for variable width buffers specific to the SVAPD; supporting documentation for this work is attached to this letter. The primary recommendations specify the *maximum* riparian buffer width, based on waterway size and other factors, that would be pursued with King County dollars on privately owned agricultural lands in the SVAPD.

Ten of the eleven members of the BTF support the variable width recommendations, with one landowner member citing an overarching concern about the impacts of trees on agriculture. The tribal partners at the table also addressed the need for a future discussion about the need for *minimum* buffers in order to ensure that plantings funded by public dollars are providing a legitimate ecological benefit. For now, they are supportive of the recommendations, with the understanding that minimum widths must be discussed when developing an implementation framework for them to remain supportive. The purpose of these recommendations is not to be used to change regulatory language or intent. These buffer widths were agreed upon in order to help strategically plant voluntary riparian buffer of various widths in a working landscape. It is the desire of the BTF that King County use these recommendations to advance and balance the needs for salmon recovery and productive agriculture in the SVAPD.

The agreement around variable widths was the first essential step to gain agreement on how to accelerate riparian buffer plantings in the SVAPD. We are requesting the Executive to support, through staff time and necessary budget, reconvening the Buffer Task Force to develop an implementation plan that includes goals, metrics, and incentive programs. Moving into the implementation body of work will allow King County to continue to be at the forefront of innovative solutions for healthy habitats while supporting the local food economy.

The IOC looks to support the Buffer Task Force work by making the following requests:

- 1) Reconvene the Buffer Task Force, including experts in policy and buffer project expertise, to continue discussions around implementation of riparian buffers.
 - a. Encourage the Buffer Task Force to set *minimum* buffers in order to ensure that plantings funded by public dollars are providing a legitimate ecological benefit.
 - b. Encourage the Buffer Task Force to set forward specific riparian planting goals and metrics for success so progress towards a healthy riparian ecosystem can be tracked.
 - c. Expand incentive programs to encourage private landowners to participate in riparian buffer plantings. This should include exploring the development of additional funding and incentive enhancements to current buffer implementation programs, such as enhanced rental payments, a Carbon Credit Program for riparian buffers in the SVAPD, and easements.
- 2) Encourage King County and Partners to use the Buffer Task Force decision model to apply recommended buffer widths when working with private landowners to plant voluntary riparian buffers in the SVAPD.

Getting to agreement around variable width buffers in the SVAPD was an exciting, monumental effort. To build on this impressive work, it is imperative that the Buffer Task Force reconvenes to discuss implementation of riparian buffers – what the specific goals are and what additional incentives can be used to encourage private landowners to participate in plantings. Accomplishing an implementation plan, it is hoped, will lead to acceleration of riparian plantings in the SVAPD.

Sincerely,

Fish, Farm, Flood IOC

Buffer Implementation Task Force (BITF) Scope of Work

Buffer Task Force Background: In April of 2018, in response to the FFF 1.0 priority, the County convened the Buffer Task Force (BTF) under the auspices of the Fish, Farm, Flood (FFF) Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC). The BTF had the specific goal of generating recommendations for variable width, voluntary riparian buffers on private land in the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District (SVAPD). The intent was to determine if context specific considerations could provide a way to identify riparian buffer widths that provide scientifically supported ecological lift for salmon while minimizing, as possible, the impact to agriculture.

Eleven individuals served on the Buffer Task Force, including representatives from the City of Duvall, the King County Agriculture Commission, private farm landowners (2), Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Citizens Alliance for Property Rights, Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, Stewardship Partners, and Tulalip Tribes. The BTF spent 18 months developing recommendations for variable width buffers specific to the SVAPD; <https://bit.ly/2AARsvG>. The BTF developed a science based decision model to develop these riparian buffer width recommendations. The primary recommendations specify a *maximum* riparian buffer width, based on landscape characteristics, that would be pursued via voluntary planting agreements by King County and its FFF partners on privately owned agricultural lands in the SVAPD.

The intent of those recommendations is not to change regulatory language or intent and have recommendations and implementation strategies remain adaptable to any changing regulations in the future. These buffer widths were cooperatively agreed upon to help strategically plant voluntary riparian buffer of various widths in a working landscape. It is the desire of the BTF that King County use these recommendations to advance and balance the needs for salmon recovery and productive agriculture in the SVAPD.

In addition to setting maximum widths for county investments, the BTF also recognized the need to set *minimum* widths to ensure ecological function and find incentives that would encourage voluntary participation by land owners in agricultural areas. This would ensure that public dollars are invested in buffers that provide meaningful ecological benefits. To address those two topics a follow up group, the Buffer Implementation Task Force (BITF) is being formed.

Buffer Implementation Task Force Goal: Make recommendations to the FFF IOC on a SVAPD Riparian Buffer Implementation Plan that will lead to acceleration of riparian plantings to benefit salmon recovery in the SVAPD. The Buffer Implementation Task Force is encouraged to address:

- **Minimum Buffers:**
 - Set *minimum* buffers in order to ensure that plantings funded by public dollars are providing a significant ecological benefit through development of recommended minimum buffer widths
 - Develop or confirm near- and longer-term strategic planting goals
- **Incentives:**
 - Expand incentive programs to significantly increase private landowners' participation in riparian buffer plantings. Explore the development of additional funding and incentive enhancements to current buffer implementation programs, such as enhanced rental payments, a Carbon Credit Program for riparian buffers in the SVAPD, easements, and others.

- **Guidance Tools:**
 - Develop specific buffer planting guidelines that can be used by planting implementers to apply and adapt the BTF recommendations at the scale of an individual project or property such as oxbows and stream length.
 - Develop riparian planting goals and metrics for success so progress can be tracked.
 - Highlight challenges that were unable to be addressed by the BITF.
- **Communications:**
 - Identify actions necessary to create more permanent/durable support from King County and Partners to use the Buffer Task Force decision model to apply recommended buffer widths and incentives when working with private landowners to plant voluntary riparian buffers in the SVAPD. Develop a plan for engagement of federal agencies/non-salmon recovery partners as well as related riparian planting programs (NRCS/CREP).
 - Develop a plan for engagement and communication with the local farming community about the plan.

The best possible outcome is that the implementation recommendations will be supported by IOC, the resources to enact these recommendations will be secured, an increase in planting will begin shortly thereafter, and the approach will be scalable to the rest of the county and beyond.

In addition, the outcomes of the Buffers Implementation Task Force may also help inform future discussions that will consider the overall strategy of fish recovery and farming needs in the SVAPD (the latter to be identified in the *Snoqualmie Valley APD Agricultural Land Resource Strategic Plan*). The two efforts will allow for conversations to happen in the context of King County support for salmon recovery and agricultural preservation.

Product: An implementation plan that would enact the initial BTF riparian buffer recommendations (e.g., widths based on land use, watercourse type and/or needed riparian function for salmon), add minimums to the recommended function-based buffers, and identify near and long term priorities. The plan would include additional recommendations for incentives to encourage private landowners to participate in plantings, and identify the actions and resources necessary to achieve the goals and partner agreements.

Recommendations will provide:

For Fish Interests: Increased clarity of what type and level of incentives are needed by farmers, in addition to the variable width buffers agreed to in the original BTF. Greater confidence that the buffer planting goals needed to support salmon habitat functions across different waterways can be achieved. Increased understanding and support from the agricultural community for voluntary riparian planting. Increased understanding of conceptually where on the landscape plantings may occur both at a site specific scale and at a macro scale of understanding where plantings will have low impact to agriculture.

For Agriculture Interests: Increased incentives to agricultural landowners who may wish to participate in voluntary riparian plantings. Greater confidence for farmers that the implementation plan will consider the various needs and challenges farmers may experience around riparian buffer planting. Increased understanding of conceptually where on the landscape plantings may occur and the degree of potential impact to farmland.

Givens and Clarifications for the BITF Scope of Work

- Recommendations will pertain only to voluntary publicly funded plantings, not regulatory requirements.
- No collection of new field data and recommendations for field data collection can be made.
- Work within the King County policies on the landscape as they are now, (e.g., Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO), Agriculture Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP)).
- The main purposed is to not revise the of Buffer Task Force recommendations and waterway classification, however, if site-specific information is brought forward that may change the waterway classification.
- These recommendations only apply to private agricultural lands within APD; not applicable to public lands slated for salmon recovery within the APD including buffers that occur on large capital projects sites.
- Until consensus is reached on an overall buffer planting strategy, riparian buffer planting will continue to occur in the APD as it does now, which is opportunistic with voluntary plantings of the biggest buffers possible, wherever possible.
- Buffer Implementation Task Force work is slated to be completed within a year of initiation, but more quickly if possible.
- If needed, briefings will be provided to the FFF caucuses on progress made on reaching a set of implementation recommendations.
- The Agricultural Land-based Strategic Plan Task Force anticipates completion of their plan in early 2021. The assumption is that the IOC will apply the findings and recommendations from the buffer and strategic plan task forces to help reach agreement on long-term farming and habitat acreage (process TBD).

Buffer Implementation Task Force Structure:

The Buffers Implementation Task Force is part of the larger Farm, Fish, Flood 2.0 (FFF 2.0) advisory committee to the King County Executive. The Task Force works within the structure designed for FFF 2.0. The Task force is comprised of two main bodies – the Task Force and a Workgroup to develop the guidance for specific planting conditions. As needed, subject matter experts may be called upon for additional expertise. Both groups will work directly with the Task Force Project Manager/FFF Project Manager.

Task Force Participants – To the greatest extent possible encourage participation from the individuals who formally or participated in the initial Buffers Task Force and planting partners. Invitation offered to each of these organizations:

TBD	Tulalip Tribes
TBD	Snoqualmie Tribe
TBD	Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
TBD	King Conservation District
TBD	Stewardship Partners
TBD	Individual Farmer – preferably someone who has had planting done on their property
TBD	Flood Caucus representative
TBD	Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance
TBD	King County Agriculture Commission
TBD	Other

Workgroup:

The Workgroup will meet regularly to develop DRAFT recommended guidance for specific planting conditions. The workgroup will allow time for more detail discussions, review of data, and exploration of the issues. At key milestones the draft guidance will be presented and discussed with the Task Force, and their input will be incorporated into a final set of draft recommendations.

	Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
	King Conservation District
	Stewardship Partners
	Snoqualmie Tribe
	Tulalip Tribes
	Ag interest
	Ecology

Subject Matter Experts:

Subject matter experts may be in the audience and help provide points of clarification, technical expertise and fill in the conversation to ensure robust discussion or may provide input on preliminary strategies to the Task Force Project Manager.

	Tulalip Tribes
	Snoqualmie Tribe
	Expert on Carbon credit program
	Expert on Easements
	Expert on Buffer rental programs
	Expert on Bond measures
Colin Hume	Department of Ecology
Ralph Svrjeck	Department of Ecology
Appointee from Brendon Brokes	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Micah Wait	Wild Fish Conservancy

From: Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood Implementation Oversight Committee (co-chairs?) – list the names and orgs of co-chairs?

To: King County Executive Dow Constantine:

Re: Support Letter for King County's Fall City Floodplain Restoration Project

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, Snoqualmie Valley residents and other key stakeholders in the watershed. While that agreement included more than thirty recommendations, two key priorities rose to the top for urgent action: implementation of large-scale habitat restoration projects to benefit the threatened population of Chinook salmon in the basin, and the development of a comprehensive suite of drainage maintenance solutions to address a key limiting factor of farm productivity in the Snoqualmie Valley.

King County's proposed Fall City Floodplain Restoration Project (also known as Haffner-Barfuse project) will connect the river to 145 acres of its floodplain in a key spawning and rearing reach. The IOC is very pleased to support this significant investment toward following through on the habitat recommendations in the agreement. As part of King County's \$10 million application to the Department of Ecology's Floodplains by Design multi-objective grant program, the county is also requesting \$250,000 to help advance urgent actions to improve farm field drainage in the valley. County staff are leveraging the efforts of key FFF partners, including the Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District and the King Conservation District, to identify a suite of potential drainage projects that would coincide with the timing of state funding. Finally, hydraulic modeling results indicate that the project also reduces flood risk by lowering water surface levels during floods on over 300 acres of surrounding farms, roads and other private and public lands. We are very excited to see this explicit combination of actions and benefits in the county's proposal which reflects the intent and spirit of FFF.

The tradeoffs between fish, farm and flood objectives are at times difficult, especially where these goals intersect in the same landscape. For example, in the case of this project, some farmland will be permanently lost in order to restore critical salmon habitat. Similarly, some drainage projects have the potential to adversely affect fish and water quality but are needed to keep farmland productive. However, we firmly believe that long-term success will only be achieved through collaboration and mutual support for the highest priorities of each caucus.

In closing, we ask that you include this letter in the county's final grant application packet for Floodplains by Design as an indication of the IOC's strong support for this multi-objective project.

Sincerely,

FFF IOC Engagement					
FFF IOC Topics	IOC In-person Meeting	Virtual IOC Agenda Item	Video Presentation or Webinar (Review on your own)	IOC Email Update with input requested via poll or other	Gov Delivery Update for all interested parties
1. Fall City Floodplain Restoration Project a. 30% Design Update and Input					
2. Regulatory Task Force Recommendations a. Approve Transmittal letter to Ex (if needed?) b. Approve of recommendations					
3. Comp D Program a. General update and increase understanding of the program and criteria					
4. Near Term Pilot Drainage Projects a. What is the verb?					
5. Agriculture Strategic Plan					

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Discuss/Increase understanding b. Commercial Farms, Farm Pads, etc. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. How to demonstrate commitment to FFF in the future? Letter? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Discuss how to do this 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Guidance on IOC Letter of Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Approve guidance 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8. FFF Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Accomplishments to date for each Fish, Farm and Flood b. The FFF Story 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. 2D Modeling 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Buffer Implementation Task Force Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Discussion/increase understanding b. Approval 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11. TBD 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12. TBD 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13. TBD 					



Fish Farm Flood

Working together for our best future

