

Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood 2.0 Implementation Oversight Committee

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Monday, December 13, 2021

9:00 am to 11:00 am (scheduled)

Video Conference Call via King County Zoom Account

Committee Members Present (Y/N)					
* = denotes caucus co-chair					
Fish Caucus		Farm Caucus		Flood Caucus	
Cindy Spiry, Snoqualmie Tribe* <i>(proxy: Matt Baerwalde - Y)</i>	Y	Marie Shimada, Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance*	Y	Angela Donaldson, Fall City Community Association*	Y
Denise Krownbell, Snohomish Forum	Y	Bobbi Lindemulder, farmer	Y	Stuart Lisk, City of Carnation	N
Mike Remington, Snoqualmie Forum	N	Meredith Molli, Agriculture Commission	Y	Lara Thomas, City of Duvall	N
Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy	Y	Dave Glenn, Sno Valley Tilth	Y		
Daryl Williams, Tulalip Tribes <i>(proxy: Kurt Nelson - N)</i>	Y	Liz Stockton, King Conservation District	N		
Ex Officio Members Present (Y/N)					
Gary Bahr, WSDA	N	Brendan Brokes, WDFW <i>(proxy: Stewart Reinbold - N)</i>	N	Kirk Lakey, WDFW	N
Josh Baldi, KC DNRP	Y	Tom Buroker, WDOE <i>(proxy: Joe Burcar - N)</i>	N		

I) Call to Order and Chairs Welcome / Updates / 2022 Draft IOC Work Plan

Meeting facilitator Tamie Kellogg called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and requested attendees remind others to follow up on King County Flood Control District (FCD)’s participation in future FFF meetings. Carrie King will be the FCD representative until further notice. King reported an advertisement for FCD Stewardship Director will be posted very soon. Caucus co-chairs and IOC members introduced themselves verbally.

King County DNRP-WLRD Division Director Josh Baldi announced that Beth leDoux has accepted a three-month SDA supervisory position within the Science Section of WLRD. An advertisement will be posted to fill the permanent FFF position. Baldi stated leDoux will continue to perform some FFF duties initially while transitioning into the new position. Meanwhile, WLRD will work on ways to address the FFF PM work.

Kellogg recently met with caucus co-chairs after October’s FFF Retreat to review a follow-up list of priorities to work on in the coming year. This provided the basis on a draft IOC workplan for 2022. Kellogg encouraged feedback from IOC members, WLRD, DLS, FCD, and others to ensure the accuracy of timing for the FFF priorities. The work plan draft also includes five IOC meetings in 2022, containing “placeholder” items for various plans such as the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan, the King County Comprehensive Plan, and the Snoqualmie Sub-Area Plan. Other key “placeholder” items included the Agricultural Strategic Plan, the Buffer Implementation Task Force, and FFF accountability to the priorities. The IOC work plan is anticipated to be finalized in late January 2022.

II) King County Comprehensive Plan (Ivan Miller, King County Executive’s Office)

Josh Baldi introduced Ivan Miller, the Comprehensive Planning Manager (CPM) from the King County Executive’s Office, as presenter. Regarding the King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP), DNRP and DLS work together in a joint work program to fulfill planning objectives. Baldi noted both departments anticipate meeting with their department directors next month. Work is expected to continue for the KCCP and King County Flood Management Plan.

There is also technical work on policy discussion surrounding King County Ordinance R-650a. Examples include 2-D modeling of the Snoqualmie Valley, road studies, landslide hazard mapping and alluvial fan mapping. Jason Wilkinson will be the Project Manager for the King County Flood Management Plan, and the plan will be updated in partnership with FCD. New areas of emphasis, such as equity and climate change, will be addressed in both plan updates. Baldi urged IOC members to not treat the two plans as separate forums and encouraged FFF in collectively advocating multiple objective positions.

a. Presentation - Comp Plan Process, Timeline for Opportunities for Input to KCCP

Miller forewarned IOC members that the schedule is what King County is currently using for the 2024 KCCP update, however, it is likely the schedule may shift an additional 6-12 months due to state legislation changing the upcoming Growth Management Act (GMA) schedule. Starting in 2022, the new King County CPM will be Christine Jensen. The GMA is a state law that requires city and county jurisdictions to achieve 14 different

planning goals in urban and rural growth. Comprehensive (comp) plans and processes are created to address urgent needs of the region such as affordable housing, amenities, and land preservation. King County addresses needs in both plans and individual policies in critical areas using best available science. Comp plans contain numerous elements via chapters ranging from land use to economic development and serves as a guide on how best to serve overall growth.

The KCCP is implemented in a variety of ways through developmental regulations, capital projects, and county policies, all of which need to be consistent with codes and policies within the plan itself. This comp plan is undergoing a statutory update as required by state law; the last update was in 2012. Major updates like this one occurs every four years; King County anticipates the 2024 update will provide opportunities for major changes. The 2024 KCCP update is currently behind schedule due to employee transitions and the need for bidding for an ESI/SEPA consultant. Outreach and the establishment of the scope of work will begin in January 2022 and continue through May 2022. June 2022 will see the formation of the scope of work on the EIS and a public engagement plan, with the issuance of a public review plan and EIS draft by the end of 2022. January 2023 will initiate the public comment period, which will be taken to departments and subject matter experts to review and update into an executive plan and final EIS, transmitting to the KCC by June 2023. The KCC will then go to committee using a standard legislative process and develop possible striking amendments and environmental review processes for the next 6-8 months. Finally, if state legislature extends the GMA deadline, the 2024 KCCP update is expected to be adopted by December 2024.

b. Q & A from IOC Members

- **Q:** Will King County consider a full report of growth maximum targets for rural areas as part of the update?
IM: King County does not establish growth targets for rural areas. We assume there is a growth increment in those areas, but not targets. There is typically an overall growth of 3% in rural areas. Over 90% of growth is in the cities with the remainder in unincorporated urban areas, assuming possible growth in a rural area. Cities are growing up, not out, with some zoned at low densities, which could increase after annexation.
- **Q:** Are growth averages on a ten or twenty-year cycle?
IM: Twenty. The next round of targets reaches out from 2019 to 2044. They need to be twenty years beyond the date of the KCCP update.
- **Q:** How do we handle present conflicts such as moratoriums while we wait for KCCP updates?
IM: Code enforcement is currently stretched thin, but if it's that type of issue, please contact me or Jesse Reynolds for any sub-areas or Josh Baldi for any policy issues. Annual updates are done in addition to the major updates with the option to fix current issues, but we may not choose to do that if it's a countywide issue.
- **Q:** How granular might some of these policies become? Are policies like buffer widths included in the KCCP or some other sub-plan?
IM: Probably a sub-plan. Policies are broader and any details are typically in a functional plan or code. The real policy question is: do the policies in the KCCP provide King County the flexibility it needs for more certainty? We need to make sure we're consistent with state requirements. If we have the affordability, we can have more stringent regulations.
- **Q:** What do you see as the best way to receive input on the KCCP by nonprofits?
IM: A variety of different ways are good. I recommend getting on the mailing list to track what's happening, you don't have to wait for a public comment period. You can write a separate letter and send it to all King County Council (KCC) members and the Executive. It is important to show up and testify when the plan is at a KCC committee meeting as it is the most effective with councilmembers.
- **Q:** Between now and the end of the public comment period in May 2022, is feedback useful or expected?
IM: January to May 2022 is when we will be receiving feedback and where the scope of work and environmental impact statement (EIS) will be established. From May 2022 until the end of the year, research and analysis will be done, but there will be additional opportunities for input. By January and February 2023 and a draft plan and EIS have been written, then the formal comment period begins.
- **Q:** How do you see this multi-interest group providing feedback to you? Is it a formal or informal process?
IM: It is formal. Department heads will come forward with their ideas and updates, then it will go through the Executive process, the Executive provides input, and then KCC reviews adopts it. Staff will check in with the KCCP manager throughout the process. It is important to comment during the first draft. After transmittal in June 2023, it is at KCC, then staff can connect you with KCC members.
- **Q:** Can you explain the public process occurring in 2022 and 2023?
IM: Currently, these are generic placeholders for the following: Quarter 4 (Q4) of 2021 is the scope announcement, Q1 of 2022 is developing the scope with KCC, then the scope is adopted in Q2 of 2022. Q3 to

Q4 of 2022 is the drafting of the KCCP and EIS and outreach. The final Executive plan and EIS will be revealed Q1 or Q2 of 2023, where it will go to the KCC committee from Q3 to Q4 of 2023. Finally, the KCCP is adopted by Q2 of 2024.

- **Q:** Is it correct that if a topic is not in the motion of the scope, it cannot be discussed in the KCCP motion?
IM: That is not correct. That would be true in midpoint update, but not in a statutory update. Issues can come up as we are doing the work and we can adjust accordingly.
- **Q:** Where are things at currently with King County? Can what is currently being proposed change?
IM: We currently do not have the list because we haven't contacted other departments yet. There will be some issues on climate change, mitigation, and resiliency. There is a lot on homelessness and affordable housing, particularly for low-income, as part of a state requirement. Social equity is another issue, not I am not sure how much will be policy.
- **Q:** Will there be new sections or policies to the KCCP or changes to existing sections?
IM: They are changes to existing sections. Climate change affects everything and affects the entirety of the plan. Social equity and affordable housing will be in the housing chapter. There is a lot of need for code updates, and I can see those adjustments.
- **Q:** Do you go back to older versions of the KCCP and compare to see what you've accomplished? How can you strategize priorities that are still outstanding and who prioritizes everything?
IM: In terms of the KCCP, it is a balancing act. Everything is subject to appeal. Things like policy framework, zoning, or critical areas won't be touched. We are trying to strategically streamline the plan because it has gotten so big and there is a lot of outdated language. One thing going to be released in 2022 is our first KCCP measures report to give a snapshot of how things are working. In terms of prioritizing, we implement through budget, code, and functional plans like open space plans. Action items require individual studies.

c. IOC Next Steps to Support FFF Strategic Priorities into KCCP

Tamie Kellogg invited caucus co-chairs and IOC members to measure their level of interest in FFF IOC's involvement in the KCCP and goals to coincide with said involvement. All IOC members expressed a medium to medium-high interest in participating in KCCP updates. Caucus co-chairs and their members for each group proposed the following goals:

- **Flood:** Stay engaged and interested in the process and have each caucus review chapters pertinent to FFF, specifically Chapters 3,5,8, and 11. Then, find areas where the IOC can advocate for caucus priorities in the KCCP update. After 3-6 months, caucuses will individually meet and discuss. A follow-up meeting with KCCP Manager Christine Jensen can then take place. The KCCP should not take priority over other FFF items, but in conjunction with them.
- **Farm:** Examine the information presented today and plan some feedback and ways to participate. Caucuses should receive updates from King County. An example of how the Agriculture Commission has contributed to the KCCP in the past includes: the KCCP Manager gathers all relevant issues for the commission and the commission establishes a committee to create comments for all docket items. These comments go the KCCP staff and Executive Constantine. When the KCCP is transmitted to KCC, the Ag Commission again reviews and comments.
- **Fish:** Stay engaged in areas that connect with FFF and form a subcommittee that tracks the KCCP process and coordinate with a sustainable land strategy. Also, the subcommittee should coordinate with Snohomish County's comp plan subcommittee as both counties face similar issues.

III) FFF Priorities 2022-2024 Gap Analysis for King County

a. WLRD Context

Throughout the fall, IOC members and caucus co-chairs discussed various FFF priorities and milestones to achieve necessary goals and to ultimately provide content items regarding resource needs in a future letter to King County Executive Constantine. Tamie Kellogg referred to WLRD Director Josh Baldi to address context with current resources and budgeting. Baldi discussed the following areas:

- **King County budget:** There have been many economic implications due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, due to a \$1.2 trillion federal infrastructure bill, new funding has been established. There are newly-elected members of the King County Council (KCC), which may affect county policy discussions. King County is currently in a dispute with WSDOT regarding the Surface Water Management fee (SWM), putting a monetary hole in the SWM base rate. No rate increase has occurred in the latest budget cycle. There have been many considerations regarding the rate. WLRD is corresponding with the Executive's Office on what is politically possible, but Executive Constantine has requested quick advancement on these considerations. Equity and Social Justice (ESJ), the Clean Water Healthy Habitat Initiative (CWHH), and the Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) are also driving forces in WLRD's work on rate proposals. There is an anticipated modest increase in the rate around targeted priority issues.

- **Internal budget process:** This process will begin tomorrow (12/14) and will occur for the next six months to deliver a recommendation to the Executive's Office by the deadline on July 1, 2022. DNRP is collaborating with DLS through their joint work program to achieve mutual goals. Executive Constantine will forward his final decisions and budget recommendation to the KCC on September 27, 2022. After deliberation, the KCC will then approve items for the 2023-24 budget in late November 2022.
- **Capacity gaps:** The SWM is difficult to obtain as there are many competing needs and is just one method to add capacity. Other methods are capital investment strategies with FCD, targeted road investments and studies, and watershed management grants using FCD funding. New funding from FEMA and the federal infrastructure bill has allocated \$1 billion for fish passage; however, there is funding competition with Washington State. King County has completed a prioritized list of fish barriers to invest in with the help of various fish agencies, local tribes, and partners once funding is received. WLRD is also considering reprogramming existing resources to accommodate current priorities.
- **Policy interpretation:** Interpretations may either be near-term or long-term, and the pathway to obtain permits can be difficult. DLS has an obligation to follow existing code; however, WLRD is working with DLS to explore where code can be interpreted differently or changed to advance objectives through FFF. Baldi invited IOC members to provide feedback on moving forward.

b. Caucus Priority Input on Gap Analysis and Need for Resources

Regarding gap analysis and need for additional resources, caucus co-chairs for each group presented the following from their respective caucus discussions:

- **Flood:** Two caucus priorities will be sunsetted. There are strong partners within King County making progress on roads and flood resiliency. However, a more resilient and integrated watershed management plan, more funding, and support outside of FFF are strongly desired as they would meet caucus needs.
- **Farm:** Questions were raised concerning items at risk for SWM fee dollars, "equity" overriding critical work, the need for a timeline for funding and staffing the priorities, and notifying caucuses when barriers are slowing work progress. Possible alternative funding from FCD and tribes for a fish biologist and keeping caucuses updated with yearly milestone timelines were also requested.
- **Fish:** The major gap for the caucus is staffing, specifically for an FTE basin steward and a fish biologist. Other issues included seeking funding for multiple projects, timelines, reporting on project progress and staffing, and developing minimums and incentives for the Buffer Task Force.

c. Discussion to Achieve Outcomes Not Currently Funded in County Budget

Upon review of the IOC transmittal letter to Executive Constantine in June 2017, Libby Reed suggested formalizing the participation of FFF IOC partners; specifically, the Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District (WID). WID's involvement would encourage a cultural perspective and promotion of multi-benefit projects. Elissa Ostergaard proposed more availability of grant funding programs to fund more multi-benefit projects and more staffing capacity and capital project implementation from the FFF Project Manager. Finally, producing a funding strategy for fish habitat feasibility studies via a Project Coordinator was also considered.

d. Priority Topics for Letter to Executive

The final priority topics for the transmittal letter are to include long-term funding, appropriate resources, and creating bigger funding strategies to complete FFF work.

e. Next Steps and Timing for Draft Letter to Executive Constantine on Resource Needs

Libby Reed stated the need for non-governmental organizations to participate in FFF IOC meetings. Daryl Williams offered to help with the letter to the Executive on the indicated possible funding strategies with funds from the recent federal infrastructure bill.

IV) Letter Requesting Participation of FCD in FFF

Tamie Kellogg reviewed an updated draft letter by flood caucus co-chair Angela Donaldson and Beth leDoux to transmit to King County FCD Chair Dave Uptegrove requesting FCD's participation in FFF meetings. The draft letter is based in part on a previously submitted letter. IOC member Denise Krownbell recommended a small amendment to the letter to add the duration of each quarterly meeting (2-3 hours) to reflect the amount of time FCD's participation would be needed. Krownbell motioned to approve the letter for submission. Angela Donaldson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Kellogg mentioned the letter will most likely be signed in January when co-chairs reconvene.

V) Next Steps/Follow-Up and Public Comment

Beth leDoux is drafting the FFF project managers annual report to DNRP leadership to provide an update on work performed by FFF throughout 2020 and 2021. The report will be worked on the next couple of weeks and will be distributed to IOC members once completed. leDoux also announced that FFF will receive a Flood Hazard Management grant of \$320,000 for 2-D modelling of the Snoqualmie Valley. Over the next few months, FFF will also be entering into a contract with FEMA and hiring a contractor to do the modeling work.

Tamie Kellogg announced that a poll will be sent to IOC members via e-mail shortly to confirm FFF meeting dates for the coming year. The tentative schedule is to hold five meetings in 2022. Kellogg also reminded IOC members to send feedback regarding the IOC Work Plan to caucus co-chairs by early January.

Daryl Williams disclosed in the public comment period his appointment as chairman of the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC). Tamie Kellogg adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.