

Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood 2.0 Implementation Oversight Committee

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

2:30 pm to 4:30 pm (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* (proxy: Matt Baerwalde - Y)	Y	Cynthia Krass, Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance	Y	Angela Donaldson, Fall City Community Association*	Y
Denise Krownbell, Snohomish Forum	N	Bobbi Lindemulder, farmer	Y	Stuart Lisk, City of Carnation	N
Mike Remington, Snoqualmie Forum	Y	Meredith Molli, Agriculture Commission	Y	Lara Thomas, City of Duvall	Y
Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy	Y	Dave Glenn, Sno Valley Tilth	Y		
Daryl Williams, Tulalip Tribes (proxy: Kurt Nelson - N)	Y				
Ex Officio Members Present (Y/N)					
Gary Bahr, WSDA	Y	Brendan Brokes, WDFW (proxy: Stewart Reinbold - N)	N		
Josh Baldi, KC DNRP	Y	Tom Buroker, WDOE (proxy: Joe Burcar - Y)	N		

1) Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review (Tamie Kellogg, Angela Donaldson)

- **Call to Order:** Ms. Kellogg called the meeting to order at 2:34 pm.
- **Welcome:**
 - Ms. Donaldson said she is optimistic about a great year and recommitting to FFF, and staying connected to community. She thanked all for being present.
 - Beth leDoux introduced Marie Shimada, the new Executive Director for SVPA.
- **Native Lands Acknowledgement:** Ms. Kellogg led IOC members in acknowledging the native lands they reside on, noting the act's intent to show recognition and respect for the tribes and relationships with them.
- **Recognize Passing of Chief de los Angeles:** Josh Baldi spoke on the recent passing of Chief de los Angeles of the Snoqualmie Tribe. He said this is a big loss for the tribe and region, and the Chief was a truly great leader. Mr. Baldi read a memorial proclamation from Executive Constantine, noting Chief de los Angeles's efforts in recognizing many tribes and causes, and how his blessing and support was key to FFF's work. Ms. Kellogg led all present in a moment of silence in the Chief's honor.

- **Rotating Check-In – Flood Caucus:**

The caucus met a week and a half ago to discuss several action items they seek to close out:

- Improving road safety in the Snoqualmie Valley. Progress has been made, including application for a 2D modeling grant and collaboration with King County's Roads division.
- Addressing home elevations in the Snoqualmie APD. The caucus has worked with County agencies to review and make recommendations; the agencies have also done internal reviews and dedicated funds are available. A March 12 meeting is scheduled for a formal presentation. The IOC was asked who wants a formal presentation on how home elevations work; this will be confirmed later via email.
- Availability of more safe/affordable farm housing. Eric Beach created an assessment of housing demand and available housing has been found to meet those needs. A formal trust is not needed, and since the need has been met it was suggested to "close out" this recommendation.
- Address farm flood safety and community outreach. It was asked for all to answer in the Zoom chat the question "how would you like us to collaborate to see more farm flood safety?"

Praise was also given to SVPA and King County's Flood Control District (FCD) for the success of the citizen flood monitoring program.

2) Integrated Drainage Project (*Beth leDoux, Josh Baldi*)

Ms. leDoux explained today's presentation is about learning where work stands on the idea of integrated drainage. One question being discussed is how to do pilot projects. Two potential pilot projects are in exploratory phases. These look at addressing integrated drainage both on a level of capital projects, and from a regulatory standpoint. Development of these projects should inform how integrated drainage efforts are managed in real time, as well as inform policy interpretation and changes. The timing of these is optimal due to the County's long-term commitment to these issues. The Executive's Clean Water Healthy Habitat (CWHH) initiative focuses on environmental outcomes, which work integrated drainage and agriculture in floodplains are part of. A joint program with Department of Local Services (DLS) is in the works; with leadership there and at DNRP, work should progress once a Scope of Work (SOW) and deliverables are determined. Ms. leDoux urged the IOC to hold the County to account on this issue, and that more updates will come.

- **Pilot Projects: Griffin Creek (Capital Solution Center)**

Griffin Creek is a potential multi-objective project with potential proof of concept for capital projects. DNRP's Agriculture, Forestry, and Incentives (AFI) team are working with landowners and salmon recovery teams to consider how this can be truly multi-benefit. Josh Baldi added that it is helpful when those in FFF raise questions and bring ideas forward, and that these efforts will take a while.

- **Pilot Projects: Cherry Creek (Regulatory Solution Center)**

The Cherry Creek project is sponsored by the Snoqualmie Watershed Improvement District (WID) and indicates a need for clarity on the definition of "multi-benefit." This spotlight project will be teased apart, as it does not neatly fit into a specific category such as flood hazard or salmon recovery. A multi-disciplinary team has been formed, and it was noted regulatory barriers may be a concern as well.

3) Agriculture Strategic Plan Update (*Patrice Barrentine*)

Ms. Barrentine reported the agriculture strategic plan task force is undergoing a massive "reset." This includes establishing a charter with sideboards to fine-tune their process, and be a "how"/"who" of how they will proceed. The plan has outlined nine chapters; the task force's six members are distilling the information and hope to find the right level of information to include in the plan for key audiences.

4) Inquiring into the Future of FFF, 2021 and Beyond (*Tamie Kellogg, Beth leDoux*)

Ms. Kellogg reminded the IOC that at December's meeting many shared thoughts about the power of this group and good being done that wasn't being done before. To ensure things are grounded, IOC feedback is wanted on the idea of a symposium, and developing a "shared story" for FFF.

- **FFF Project Symposium in the Snoqualmie Valley**

Ms. leDoux suggested an FFF-sponsored project symposium before construction season begins. The proposal is, in spring, for people to create presentations to communicate their projects over the next two years. The event would likely be held virtually via Zoom, depending on COVID-19 vaccination rollout. The expectation is there will be a recording of the meeting and a map of projects developed, to develop synergies and a full picture of activities in the Valley. These can be capital projects, studies, or assessments.

Follow-up discussion and feedback raised the following points:

- Love the idea. Would like to develop a story map, perhaps maintained by County, consolidating data collected by all projects. This would include locations, progress, and connections between projects.
- The symposium can be a public meeting, so people in the Valley can attend. The recording can be posted online for future review.
- Should see measurable accomplishments in terms of projects and project types, including quantified data. The most important measurables should be used to guide presentations and groups involved.
- What level of detail should be expected for each project? What kind of sideboards? It was agreed for Ms. leDoux to draft a template slideshow to gauge appropriate detail level.
- Anyone interested in serving on a steering group for the symposium should contact Ms. leDoux.
- Should be sensitive to what level of detail is appropriate or legal to share with landowners.
- Sideboards are needed for defining expectations and the intended audience.
- There may be two detail levels needed: one for partners/collaborators, another for public.
- Sharing project progress can demonstrate collaboration; this can also be done by newsletter or map.
- Contextualize how public and private interests can meet, how people can be oriented on these topics.
- The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum would be a good nexus for this proposal.

Ms. leDoux agreed to draft sideboards and slideshows to gauge appropriate detail level and audience by next IOC meeting. Most planning for this symposium will occur over email.

- **FFF Shared Vision and Activities to Support**

Ms. Kellogg prefaced that while a lot of good work has been done in FFF, a lot of actions set up, it has not yet been made clear how to “on-ramp” or “off-ramp” this work: if it means simply completing the action list, or if priorities need to be shifted and a new shared story needed. She noted many new people are involved in FFF now that weren’t at the start, and asked if this presents a chance to seek new opportunities.

Cynthia Krass noted a situation where SVPA had concerns on if the Fall City Floodplain Restoration Project met King County code guidelines to minimize APD soil loss. There was a short window of time to comment, and the situation raised a question of what it means to support each other’s projects. SVPA supports FFF but had concern their comments may seem unsupportive. Ms. Krass said supporting something shouldn’t mean giving up a right to challenge an aspect of it. She clarified there had not been any signs of dissonance around SVPA’s comments, but a lot of internal concern.

Josh Baldi agreed no one should give up any rights in this process. Ms. Kellogg asked if more clarity is needed on a definition of “mutual support.” Daryl Williams added that the original assumption had been that any King County project moving forward would come to the IOC for discussion if something about it didn’t seem good for one side. He said a 10-year old agreement should not mean people cannot comment on projects. Ms. leDoux queued up a poll to clarify views on the commitment all present have made to one other.

- **Zoom Poll Questions**

- **Do you feel everyone shares the same vision of FFF? What is that vision?**

About 2/3 of participants agreed or strongly agreed, and about ¼ were neutral/uncertain. Angela Donaldson said differing opinions are what makes this group powerful, as well as being respectful of each other. She believes the vision is a community that collaborates on shared items and listens to each other’s concerns to find solutions; a give-and-take relationship.

- **Are the actions or activities we’re focused on now priorities for achieving that vision?**

Most participants agreed with this. It was noted there may be need for more follow-up input.

Meredith Molli said there are things the group knows now that they believe more important and support making a priority. Libby Reed agreed. Mr. Williams said he would be surprised if priorities for the caucuses hadn’t changed somewhat over the years, and this should be recognized. Priorities may need to be re-evaluated going forward. He noted “reconfirm” may not be the best term; Ms. Kellogg suggested “revise,” “revisit,” or “re-prioritize” might be more suited.

- **Share Info on “Transformative Scenario Planning” Concept:** A video will be sent to IOC members on this concept. Ms. Kellogg advised it might be interesting for this group to think about, and that members should look at the video and give their thoughts if possible.

- **Breakout Group Discussions:** This was not addressed due to time constraints.

5) Updates/Housekeeping/Public Comment

- **Public Comment:** There was no public comment given.
- **DECISION: SVPA Recommendation that Cynthia Krass stay on as SVPA Representative/Agriculture Caucus Co-Chair for six months**

Melissa Borsting reported that while KCD is filling Josh Monaghan’s former staff position, his departure has left the farm caucus with no co-chair and only four members. Cynthia Krass left SVPA but has been hired as a consultant for six months to support SVPA in FFF duties in this transitory space. Farm caucus members have agreed Ms. Krass should serve as interim co-chair while they determine next steps and how to fill this gap.

Beth leDoux said there is no need for the IOC to formally approve the co-chair nomination, as Ms. Krass qualifies as a current IOC member. The IOC must approve SVPA’s recommendation; this allows Ms. leDoux to send a letter to Josh Baldi and DNRP Director Christie True to put forth a recommendation from the IOC.

Angela Donaldson motioned to accept SVPA’s recommendation for Ms. Krass to continue to serve as their FFF representative. Mr. Baldi seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

Ms. leDoux shared a “WordCloud” graphic compilation of FFF keywords from last meeting’s breakout chats, to be sent out with other promised materials. She will also send a poll to decide a date for next meeting, likely April.

Tamie Kellogg adjourned the meeting at 4:28 pm.