

# Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood 2.0 Implementation Oversight Committee

## DRAFT MEETING NOTES

**Wednesday, December 7, 2022  
12:30 pm to 2:30 pm (scheduled)  
Zoom Video Conference Call**

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	Bobbi Lindemulder, farmer*	Y	Angela Donaldson, Fall City Community Association*	Y
Denise Krownbell, Snohomish Forum	Y	Lauren Silver, Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance	Y	Lara Thomas, City of Duvall	N
Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy	N	Meredith Molli, Agriculture Commission	N		
Daryl Williams, Tulalip Tribes <i>(proxy: Kurt Nelson - N)</i>	Y	Libby Reed, Sno Valley Tilth	Y		
Rick Shaffer, Snoqualmie Forum	Y	Liz Stockton, King Conservation District	Y		
Ex Officio Members Present (Y/N)					
Gary Bahr, WSDA	Y	Kirk Lakey, WDFW	Y		
Josh Baldi, KC DNRP	Y	Tom Buroker, WDOE <i>(proxy: Joe Burcar - Y)</i>	Y		

### I) Call to Order & Welcome Activity / Updates

Facilitator Tamie Kellogg began the meeting at 12:35 pm.

#### a) Welcome

Kayla Eicholtz of the state Department of Ecology was introduced as the new regional floodplain planner, who also helps with national flood insurance program.

#### b) FFF Written Updates - Questions

There were no questions posed by those present.

#### c) Updates and Questions – Josh Baldi

- King County’s River and Floodplain Management Section (RFMS) team has updated Councilmember Sarah Perry on their work in the Snoqualmie Valley on behalf of the Flood Control District (FCD).
- A group including Lauren Silver, Wayne Gullstad, and Beth leDoux provided an update last week on the buffer task force to Ruth Musgrave, Natural Resources Senior Policy Advisor in Governor Inslee’s office. There is a keen interest in FFF work in this space. Musgrave was impressed, but made it clear something that requires this much work may not emerge in legislation anytime soon and this discussion may go on for a while. Musgrave was offered a field visit to the Snoqualmie Valley and expressed interest in doing so.
- Baldi singled out Angela Donaldson’s leadership, specifically on work on the King County Comprehensive (“Comp”) Plan. Baldi thanked Donaldson and all who have contributed input on the plan and corresponding letter to the Executive. Anyone with feedback for the floodplain citizen partner group should also contact Donaldson.

### II) Comprehensive (“Comp”) Plan Update, Future FFF Engagement, and Letter to Executive

Angela Donaldson has led a subcommittee to propose updates to the King County Comp Plan – specifically policies R649, R650, and R650A – in relation to FFF. The group has met several times since February and looks to send their work to the Executive with a clear consensus. This will include a motion to approve the comp plan narrative and policy revisions as written or amended, then moving on.

Donaldson motioned that the IOC approve the narrative and policy language updates as written. Cindy Spiry seconded the motion, which was followed by a lengthy discussion.

Discussion first focused on a perceived discrepancy in R650 between narrative and policy on the matter of the Multi-Disciplinary Review Committee (MDRC), a non-permitting collaborative project review process: whether the MDRC would be just for projects in the APD, or in any unincorporated area of the county where habitat or floodplain restoration projects may reduce farmland. Michael Murphy of DNRP offered to clarify language to state the MDRC

would apply in all areas of King County. There was a concern voiced that the County would struggle with setting up a land use tracking system to document farmland outside of APDs.

Discussion shifted to concern voiced by several IOC members, that the County may be “overstepping” in policy language asking to extend the MDRC beyond the Snoqualmie Valley. Murphy said the MDRC would apply to unincorporated areas where the three “fish, farm, and flood” interests converge, but not everywhere in the county. Josh Baldi added this is not intended to impose, but to create an option; to try to operationalize best practices and be more thoughtful and engaging earlier in the project process. A concern was also voiced on increasing difficulty in getting habitat projects permitted outside of APDs, that the IOC isn’t looking to do MDRC reviews outside of APDs. Donaldson explained current R650 language already applies to all APDs, not just the Snoqualmie, that the only issue being broadened in the subcommittee’s requested language change is to go beyond APDs.

Donaldson asked for a show of IOC hands on how many members wanted the MDRC process relevant specifically to APDs, not other parts of unincorporated King County. Three fish caucus members raised their hands. A few farm caucus members noted there is power in taking what’s learned from the Snoqualmie FFF process and applying it elsewhere, that the MDRC can help move projects forward and find benefits to all three “Fs” in areas outside the APDs. It was also noted that about 40% of farming in King County happens outside the APDs and that having a place to farm outside the APDs is key for agriculture.

Baldi explained the MDRC process will happen in WLRD internally regardless of FFF. Baldi further clarified the intent of FFF is not to impose on all of King County, but offer a recommendation for the Snoqualmie, and beyond that would be in the hands of WLRD. WLRD can make recommendations to the Executive about what should be implemented elsewhere. Tamie Kellogg clarified to the IOC that the recommendation on the table was that the collaborative review process would happen in any unincorporated area of the county. Kellogg noted any points of disagreement could be called out in the Executive letter or referred to caucus co-chairs for separate discussion.

After further discussion, it was agreed to vote on the R650 language as originally proposed, with none of the edits offered by the fish caucus prior to today’s meeting.

Angela Donaldson made a motion to approve R650 as written. Bobbi Lindemulder seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of six yeas to three nays.

It was noted the three “nay” voters would likely have approved the motion if the language on unincorporated areas in the first paragraph of R650 had been removed. A concern was voiced about how the MDRC process could increase delays for habitat restoration projects.

Discussion then moved to the R650A language. Much of this discussion focused on the setting of acreage targets for protecting farmland and for habitat projects, as indicated in the original FFF agreement. However, details for this goal were not clearly outlined in language of the original 42 FFF actions. Angela Donaldson explained not much is changing here, but the IOC does have a duty to update the language. This language states the IOC wants support/funds for FFF to continue, and that acreage targets for protecting farmland – but not necessarily habitat restoration – need to be determined, as guided by policy R649, and the County should support this for other APDs if needed.

There was some discussion as to the benefit toward larger FFF goals to try to define specific acreage targets now, especially given the ongoing effects of climate change. Further discussion from the fish caucus leaned toward removing a targeted habitat restoration acreage, that it isn’t really a significant issue for them. Farm caucus members supported this revision as long as they still got farmland acreage targets from the agriculture strategic plan task force, citing this is key to tracking farmland loss. Joan Lee, acting DNRP FFF project manager, stressed that a fundamental point in the original FFF agreement was agreeing that everyone at the table would come to agreement at some point on farm acreage.

Before agreeing to switch discussion to the Executive transmittal letter, Donaldson asked for a motion to approve R650A as written. Libby Reed made the motion, with Donaldson seconding. The motion passed with two nays and one abstention. The nay voters explained their sticking point against voting “yea” was discomfort with putting maximum acreage targets on farmland used for habitat restoration projects.

Donaldson noted a voiced concern about voting by majority as opposed to the IOC’s traditional consensus method, explaining this vote was largely to gauge where the IOC stands and document what language specifically needs to change. Donaldson expressed reservation about moving disagreement points into the transmittal letter until a clear intent was determined, but felt good about R650 and R650A due to the vote and clear guidance on the language. A few others voiced concern about moving the Executive transmittal letter forward today without a full IOC consensus.

Michael Murphy explained the comp plan timeline, that there is time to revise the language. Policy language needs to be 95% dialed in by April 10, for transmittal to King County Regional Planning. The hope was to get a jump start on this letter to give the Executive time to respond to it before then. What's due on April 10 is all narrative and policy, with no accompanying code. The hard deadline for the language is September, to transmit to Regional Planning for the Executive to transmit to King County Council (KCC). The IOC agreed to schedule one more meeting of the comp plan subcommittee as soon as possible, before the end of the year if feasible, to hash out the remaining disagreement points in this language. Donaldson requested any changes to policy language be specific in what needs to change.

### III) Ex Officio Member Updates

- **Kayla Eicholtz** gave an update on the [Flood Control Assistance Program](#) (FCAP). Applications for the 2023-2025 cycle run from mid-February through the end of March. The focus for FCAP this year is competitive planning projects. Workshops on January 11 and 19 will detail more about what is eligible. Priority funding is to be given to projects for underserved or overburdened communities.
- **Daryl Williams** reported on two yet-to-be-filed bills for next month's legislative session, both addressing voluntary stewardship programs (VSP). One bill would allow non-VSP counties to opt into the program late, which – if this were to happen with FFF – would mean restructuring FFF to fit the VSP mold. The second bill would apply to counties with VSP programs similar to FFF, and require them to file a plan with the conservation commission for approval, which could also mean more access to state funds. **Gary Bahr** agreed to track these bills as well.
- **Josh Baldi** reported the SEPA scoping comments for the King County flood plan are due this Friday, and asked Joan Lee to send out info to FFF members who wish to comment on this. Baldi noted that while the conversation at today's IOC meeting didn't necessarily land where they all wanted, these discussions still very much influence the way of thinking about this work under WLRD.

### IV) Public Input/Adjourn (*Tamie Kellogg*)

There was no public input.

The meeting ended at 2:32 pm.