

Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood 2.0 Implementation Oversight Committee

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Video Conference Call on King County Microsoft Teams 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	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	Y	Meredith Molli, Agriculture Commission	Y		
Daryl Williams, Tulalip Tribes (proxy: Kurt Nelson – N)	Y	Dave Glenn, Sno Valley Tilth	N		
Rick Shaffer, Snoqualmie Forum	N	Liz Stockton, King Conservation District	N		
Ex Officio Members Present (Y/N)					
Gary Bahr, WSDA	N	Kirk Lakey, WDFW	N		
Josh Baldi, KC DNRP	Y	Tom Buroker, WDOE (proxy: Joe Burcar – N)	Y		

I) Call to Order & Welcome Activity/Updates

FFF interim project manager Joan Lee of King County DNRP called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm and thanked caucus co-chairs for their service.

a) Service Recognition: Tamie Kellogg

Lee recognized former IOC facilitator Tamie Kellogg for 10 years of service in support of FFF. Kellogg has attended every meeting since the start of FFF and has been instrumental in its shaping. Kellogg is moving on from her IOC facilitator role to other work but will continue to work with FFF through the Buffer Implementation Task Force. Bobbi Lindemulder read aloud a letter from caucus co-chairs on behalf of the IOC, expressing thanks to Kellogg for her service to FFF. Kellogg said she has appreciated this group and looks forward to future opportunities to bring people together.

b) Comments From Sarah Perry, King County Councilmember

Lee invited a few words from Councilmember Sarah Perry. Perry expressed a love of the work of FFF and of learning about it. Perry said she appreciates the work this group is doing together. She recognized the Snoqualmie basin is a precious area and wants to do what she can to preserve it. She invited the IOC to help educate her on this and thanked them for their contributions to the FFF effort.

c) Co-Chair Acknowledgements and IOC Introductions

Each co-chair and IOC member gave a brief introduction and update.

II) King County Comprehensive (“Comp”) Plan Update (Michael Murphy, DNRP; Joan Lee, DNRP)

Today’s meeting goals were to finalize the IOC’s comp plan update recommendations, and to identify concepts for a letter to the Executive in support of FFF and to recommend the updated comp plan policies.

Joan Lee reminded IOC members they received documents on February 28 that their comp plan subcommittee provided consensus on. Michael Murphy, who serves as a liaison for the comp plan update at DNRP, reviewed the documents discussed at the December IOC meeting.

Murphy said there were relatively few changes to the “Revised Narrative Policy” document included in today’s meeting packet – some in the narrative, some in the policy. He reviewed each of the changes with the IOC. This review was for IOC members only, to discuss and provide feedback. Most of the suggested changes met with no comments from the IOC, with the following exceptions:

- Language addressing establishment of minimum “acreage targets” for agriculture, floodplain, and riparian habitat project land (line 69 of the “Revised Narrative Policy” document): There was some concern this language is not strong enough. Angela Donaldson, who leads the comp plan subcommittee, replied the subcommittee had a lot of discussion on agriculture “viability” and that language on line 72 of the document helps clarify this. She further

explained the subcommittee discussed acreage, and that the language addressing it does become more specific in line 75 of the “Revised Narrative Policy” document.

- Removing the term “cumulative” from R-650 (line 178 of “Revised Narrative Policy” document): This language addressed tracking changes in land cover relative to farmland and habitat restoration areas. The rationale for removing this term was explained as there being a dilemma over how to enter comparable data. Several farm caucus members expressed a need to define a specific starting point for tracking land use changes and said there was a mutual understanding to track these changes going forward from the signing of the FFF 1.0 agreement. Donaldson said while there was consensus on this issue in the subcommittee’s discussions, she advised flagging this concern to address in the IOC’s transmittal letter to the Executive.

Donaldson motioned for a consensus of the IOC to forward the comp plan subcommittee’s recommended language to the Executive. Cindy Spiry seconded the motion.

The motion was followed by further discussion, primarily on the above proposed removal of the term “cumulative” from R-650. Farm caucus members reiterated the concern that removing “cumulative” from R-650 eliminates a defined starting point necessary to track land use changes. Tracking this information from both an agricultural and fish/habitat restoration perspective is important, and anything done in this document to establish this would be positive. Donaldson replied that the term “cumulative” itself requires a definition, which is at a detail level beyond what is currently established in policy language. She suggested asking for guidance on this in the letter to the Executive, which some IOC members agreed would be sufficient to address their concerns. Lee asked IOC members if anything else was keeping them from consensus on sending this recommended language to the Executive. Some members reiterated concern about accountability for tracking land use not being established in writing, and asked who would be held accountable for it. Lee replied that she, as she reports to DNRP’s WLRD director Josh Baldi, could be held accountable, and noted this letter and language is an advisory statement to the Executive.

Baldi assured farm and fish caucus members the County clearly hears their concerns about a need to track progress over time. Where should the baseline be set? A minimum acreage hasn’t been established yet. There is a need to be certain there’s a level of accountability in the code, however, there’s limited opportunity to do that. The County is trying to determine how to operationalize this and is committed to being transparent about this work. Baldi recognized this is a technical challenge but reiterated the County is committed to continue to track this work and acknowledge where progress is or isn’t being made.

Lee asked IOC members again if a consensus had been reached on Donaldson’s motion for the IOC to transmit the subcommittee’s recommended language to the Executive. A vote confirmed unanimous approval.

It was suggested to amend the letter to the Executive to include several instances of the term “farmable” to tie these efforts to the FFF Agriculture Strategic Plan (ASP), which led to discussion on an official definition of the term. Patrice Barrentine, who coordinates the ASP task force, explained the comp plan has not previously distinguished farmland as “farmable” or “unfarmable.” However, the ASP does include a definition for “unfarmable,” which was shared in the meeting chat. Josh Baldi noted it may be advisable to maintain flexibility to be able to further clarify a definition of “farmable” in the ASP. It was also suggested the IOC address at some point the issue of farmable land becoming unfarmable through neglect or default.

It was ultimately agreed among the IOC to amend the transmittal letter to the Executive to include a statement addressing the definition of “farmable.”

III) Next Steps

The IOC agreed to have caucus co-chairs do an updated draft and review of the letter in the next couple of weeks, before transmitting it to the Executive.

IV) Ex-Officio Updates/Around the Table

This item was not addressed due to time constraints.

V) Public Input

This item was not addressed due to time constraints.

VI) Wrap Up/Adjourn

The meeting ended at 4:28 pm.