Brad Murphy opened the meeting and discussed the organization of the comments received on the draft SMP. He explained that for the process moving forward, if the comments are sent to him in a word document they can be merged into one document for ease of review. All of the comments are forwarded to the Planning Commission and if they use them it will be seen in the draft, but not all comments will necessarily make it into the document. The Planning Commission is the place to take any concerns. If a change wasn’t made there is likely a reason, such as rules or regulations that don’t allow it.

Question: what comes out of groups like this? Answer: discussions, identifying concerns, and exploring what can be done. This SMP is for all of Thurston County so this is a way to talk through the theory of why, see stakeholder viewpoints and ideas and explore what can be done.

Brad showed the group flow charts of the review process. Currently, in the Planning Commission step of the process staff is providing an overview and receiving public input. They will be getting to decisions on changes to be made, developing discussion memos and feedback for the strikethrough version of the draft. Brad is looking at scheduling presentations on subjects in the summer (July/Aug) based on interest and availability at the Planning Commission meetings. These presentations can be on topics of their concern or what they think needs to be discussed by the PC. There was concern expressed by a stakeholder about having an opportunity to respond to presentations and knowing ahead of time what the presentation will be on. Brad explained that the presentation format in the PC are not point and counter point. Members of the public have an opportunity to speak at the beginning of the meeting, or at the next meeting after the presentation. The topics of presentations will be on the agenda that is sent out prior to the meeting. The group requested a more informal email directly letting them know what the subject of the presentations will be from Brad as soon as he has more information on them. Brad will try to get it as early as he can. Typically presenters are asked to send information on their presentations by the Thursday before the Planning Commission meeting so that it can go out with the agenda and meeting materials.

Discussion of no-net-loss. Brad shared the key talking points from the Dept. of Ecology. Discussion of “new” impact and what’s the baseline. Brad explained that the baseline starts at the time of SMP approval. Mitigation will be done on a site-by-site basis and no-net-loss is captured at the project level. There was acknowledgement from the group that this is a complex discussion that will be on-going. The group would like specifics on what the mitigation mechanisms will likely look like. Discussion of mitigation requirements and credits for projects that generate a lift in the functions.

Question on coordination with current planning and how it will actually be implemented. Brad has shared the draft with the planners and went over it in detail with them to get their input in weekly meetings over approximately nine months. He will also be going
over the new drafts with them again to ensure that it will all be implementable after they receive more public input.

Brad reviewed the information review process and the anticipated timeline, explaining in more detail how the process works. He will likely have a strikethrough version with decisions from the PC by the end of 2018 and a recommended version from the PC by the beginning of 2019. The goal is to enter into the Board of County Commissioners review process by the first half of 2019.

Discussion of comments on the purpose section of the draft. Brad was able to incorporate the comments that were provided in word format, but not PDF. He will send a copy to the group as soon as he is able to incorporate them all. The group will also be working through the document and comments together in the meetings.