

WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Meeting Notes

Bellevue City Hall

September 18, 2014 3:00-5:30p.m.

Members Present		
#	Name	Affiliation
1.	Councilmember Larry Phillips, Chair	King County
2.	Councilmember Andy Rheaume, Vice-Chair	City of Bothell
3.	Councilmember Jay Arnold	City of Kirkland
4.	Councilmember Eileen Barber	City of Issaquah
5.	Councilmember Layne Barnes	City of Maple Valley
6.	Mayor Bruce Bassett	City of Mercer Island
7.	Dick Bonewits	Cedar River Council
8.	Councilmember Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
9.	Mari Chew	City of Mill Creek
10.	Don Davidson	Long Live the Kings
11.	Councilmember Bruce Dodds	City of Clyde Hill
12.	Nancy Eklund	The Boeing Company
13.	Marian Ericks	Snohomish County
14.	Councilmember Ted Frantz	City of Hunts Point
15.	Dave Garland	WA Department of Ecology (Ecology)
16.	Noel Gilbrough	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group (MSFEG)
17.	Bill Knutsen	King Conservation District
18.	Peggy Marcus	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
19.	Kathy Minsch	City of Seattle
20.	Councilmember Tom Odell	City of Sammamish
21.	Councilmember Mark Phillips	City of Lake Forest Park
22.	Janet Pritchard	Friends of the Cedar River Watershed (FRCW)
23.	Councilmember Jesse Salomon	City of Shoreline
24.	Councilmember Carl Scandella	City of Yarrow Point
25.	Gary Schulz	WA Association of Sewer and Water Districts
26.	Gary Smith	Water Tenders
27.	Richard Sowa	Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery
28.	Councilmember John Stokes	City of Bellevue
29.	Frank Urabeck	Citizen
30.	Councilmember Paula Waters	City of Woodinville
Alternates Present		
31.	Councilmember Don Gerend	City of Sammamish
32.	Joan Nolan	Ecology
Others Present		
33.	John Engel	King County
34.	Nancy Faegenburg	King County
35.	Diana Forman	Portage Bay Coalition for Clean Water
36.	Antonia Jindrich	MSFEG
37.	Allison McCoy	Citizen
38.	Kit Paulsen	City of Bellevue
39.	Jeralyn Roetemeyer	City of Redmond
40.	Stacey Rush	City of Kirkland
41.	Charlotte Spang	FCRW
42.	David St. John	King County
43.	Ralph Svrjcek	Ecology
44.	Jean White	King County

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45.	Polly Freeman	WRIA 8 Team
46.	Linda Grob	WRIA 8 Team
47.	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 Team
48.	Scott Stolnack	WRIA 8 Team
49.	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8 Team

Chair Larry Phillips opened the meeting, inviting all attendees to introduce themselves.

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes for July 17, 2014

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (MK), Watershed Coordinator, indicated that Andy Rheume had clarification edits to the meeting notes for his July 17 Building Cities in the Rain presentation. Jason said the edits are clarifications and not substantive, and the meeting notes will be revised after the meeting.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the meeting notes for the July 17, 2014 meeting with clarification edits for the notes on the Building Cities in the Rain presentation.

3. Updates & Announcements

General Announcements:

Jason MK highlighted several items from the WRIA 8 Update handout:

- **Outreach and Communications Staff Support:** Polly Freeman was hired as the temporary part-time staff to support education and outreach for the ILA renewal and 10-year Salmon Conservation Plan update, and to coordinate Greens Shorelines and riparian stewardship. Her time will be split with King County's Snoqualmie Watershed Team. Polly brings great expertise from her previous experience in the county's Community Outreach program, and from her work as a consultant coordinating the WRIA 8 Salmon SEESon fall program.
- **Town of Woodway Addendum:** The City of Bothell approved the addendum to add the Town of Woodway to the WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement (ILA), which means all ILA partners approved adding Woodway as the 28th party to the ILA.
- **Letter of Support for the Cedar River Floodplains by Design Grant Proposal:** WRIA 8 provided a letter of support (included in the meeting packet) for a joint King County/Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) proposal to advance priority Cedar River floodplain acquisition and restoration as part of the process to develop a \$50 million Floodplains by Design prioritized project list. The list will be submitted as part of the 2015-2017 biennium capital budget request to the legislature.
- **Letter of Commitment to Participate in King County Flood Control District's Cedar River Corridor Plan:** WRIA 8 sent a letter (included in the meeting packet) to the Flood Control District (FCD) project manager committing to partner and participate in development of the corridor plan, and how WRIA 8 expects to engage as a member of a to-be-created advisory council.
- **Letter on Hiram M. Chittenden (Ballard) Locks Infrastructure Improvements from King County Councilmember Larry Phillips to Colonel John Buck, Seattle District Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:** Larry Phillips sent the letter to Col. Buck, requesting an update on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) list of priority infrastructure improvements projects, including cost estimates, timelines, and assessment of potential impacts to the surrounding community if improvements are not implemented. Peggy Marcus said she appreciated the letter and the Corps is preparing a response letter. Councilmember (CM) Phillips thanked Peggy for organizing a recent tour at the Locks, which reinforced it is critical to make the necessary facility improvements. He noted that next year is the Locks centennial.

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- **King Conservation District Proposal to Increase Per Parcel Assessment to \$10:** On August 1 the King Conservation District (KCD) submitted a proposal to the King County Council to increase the annual assessment to \$10 per parcel to support an expansion of KCD's work program. Bill Knutsen said part of the additional funding will extend jurisdictional grant programs, and part will be will to fund a Shoreline & Riparian Habitat Program.
- **Puget Sound Partnership Watershed Groups Review:** The legislative proviso to Puget Sound Partnership's (PSP) supplemental budget to conduct a review of watershed groups, including Lead Entities, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups, Puget Sound local integrating organizations, etc., is due to the Legislature on December 1, 2014. PSP is tasked with making recommendations to improve watershed groups' contributions to salmon recovery. WRIA 8 staff submitted documentation of operating guidelines, structure, priorities, etc., and will continue to track this topic.
- **Salmon SEEson:** Polly Freeman reported that there are posters and flyers available for Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) members to take with them. This year there are three additional viewing sites, two in the Duwamish and one in Lake Sammamish. Jason MK explained that Duwamish River sites are in WRIA 9, and are being supported with extra resources. He said let us know if you have ideas for other venues and sites to get the word out. Andy Rheaume noted that there was once a North Creek site included in Salmon SEEson. Polly explained that Snohomish County staff were involved with that site, but consequently felt the salmon run was not strong enough. CM Rheaume said he will provide the name of a Bothell contact.
- **Salmon Recovery Tour:** The tour is scheduled for October 10, starting and ending at the Locks. So far a couple of state senators and representatives are going, as well as the head of a state agency, congressional staff, and hopefully Col. Buck. Besides a tour of the Locks, participants will visit three projects: Mapes Creek daylighting, Issaquah Creek dam removal, and Lower Bear Creek relation and enhancement. Kathy Minsch announced that Mapes Creek was just daylighted and plants have been put in. Don Davidson asked if a second bus can be added for the tour, because it might be good to have funders on the tour, fundraising is just getting going, and it would be a good opportunity to show them salmon. Jason explained that there is not enough of a crush of participants yet, and having to add a second bus would be a problem we'd like to have. He said if you have personal contact with State Legislators, please invite them.
- **Fish Counts:** Scott Stolnack, Technical Coordinator, reported that chinook are now being reported in the Cedar. Last year chinook numbers through the Locks were not spectacular but we ended up with one of the best chinook runs for the Cedar River. However, this year is looking like the numbers are well below expectations. Jesse Salomon asked if we have enough info coming in from the ocean yet, and if there is a bigger picture. Scott replied that research is under way to examine Chinook mortality when they are young and just enter Puget Sound. Ted Frantz inquired where the sustainable line is on the fish graph. Scott explained that it is about at the 2007 line. Frank Urabeck mentioned that the graph shows hatchery and wild fish, and he said the wild are doing pretty well.
- **2015 SRC Meeting Location:** Next year meetings will be held at the Ecology Northwest Regional Office in Bellevue (Eastgate), thanks to Dave Garland.

4. Draft 2015 WRIA 8 Legislative Priorities

Jason MK said the 2015 Legislative Priorities for Puget Sound Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery document will be iterative. 2015 legislative priorities are:

Federal:

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- Support appropriations request of at least \$65 million for Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund for FY 2015 and FY 2016, which allows NOAA to award grants to the state and nets WRIA 8 about \$400,000 for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grants.
- Support Puget Sound Recovery Act, designating Puget Sound as a “Great Waterbody”, making it a formal Clean Water Act program, and making Puget Sound at the same level as Chesapeake Bay, etc.
- Support funding for the Corps to implement critical infrastructure improvements to the Ballard Locks.

State:

Capital Budget:

- Support \$140 million for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) fund for large capital projects, plus money for normal grant round projects.
- Support up to \$40 million in general obligation bonds for state portion of SRFB funding.
- Support the \$50 million Floodplains by Design request.

Operating budget:

- Support request for \$770,000 request for the Recreation and Conservation Office and the continued role of Lead Entities.

Policy Legislation:

- Support continued efforts to explore new watershed-based funding authorities to support multiple-benefit projects that address salmon habitat protection and restoration, water quality, stormwater management, and flood management.

Discussion:

- Don Gerend mentioned that the state budget director was pessimistic about the next budget, which looks pretty grim. Jason MK said we heard that last year and we got more than expected.
- Dave Garland inquired if we ever thought about prioritizing the legislative priorities to see if that would help. Jason MK replied that he didn't know, but it might.
- Kathy Minsch commented it would be helpful to put in the range and amount for Ballard Locks improvements. Peggy Marcus asked if she meant a total amount. Kathy said either a total or a prioritized list. Larry Phillips noted that it is always helpful to have an amount and a prioritized list as well. Peggy said she could work on that, but had some hesitation because what \$3 million is now could be \$10 million down the road. Kathy suggested she aim high.
- Don Davidson said it is helpful to have the big picture, and negotiate down. He cautioned about doing a prioritized list because they'll jump right to it.
- Janet Pritchard remarked that we need to keep in mind who we're talking to.
- Marian Ericks said when we were doing our legislative priorities in Snohomish County we debating prioritizing the list, but decided against it.
- Dick Bonewits mentioned that one time he was selected out of Boeing to negotiate contracts and given a short period of time. He said you want to identify your negotiating team and give them some guidance, then go big picture and give the team some flexibility.

By headnod the Salmon Recovery Council agreed to move forward with the 2015 WRIA 8 Legislative Priorities.

Jason MK noted that last year we sent letters out about our legislative priorities, and we will do that again. Diane Buckshnis asked him to send a draft to cities, because in Edmonds will send our own letter.

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5. Update on Draft WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement Feedback

Jason MK presented the one page Summary of Proposed Changes document. He said we went over the draft ILA at the last Implementation Committee meeting, when additional changes were proposed, including: adding 1999 as the year of the ESA listing of chinook; adding language about WRIA 8's role as the Lead Entity to convene local watershed-based committees; etc.

Discussion:

- Don Gerend noted that several wild card projects were introduced since the first ILA. Kokanee is one of those wild card projects. Jason MK responded that the ILA does not specifically mention kokanee, but it is in our implementation plan where kokanee goals overlap with chinook. CM Gerend said it would be nice to have it explicitly stated in the ILA.
- Diane Buckshnis commented on 4.2.2, which states an outside consultant will do a survey every three years of the fiscal agent and service provider. She asked if SRC members as ILA partners shouldn't be the ones to evaluate the service provider. Jason MK explained that King County does a survey of the service provider every year. CM Buckshnis suggested changing "the WRIA 8 SRC shall retain an outside consultant to perform a professional assessment" to "may retain".
- Don Davidson remarked that the state auditor will demand a three year audit. Philosophy behind having an outside consultant to review the service provider means they are an independent auditor. Mark Phillips suggested we maybe have a more formal assessment if the review is negative. Jean White, King County, reported that we had at least one outside survey in the past, which was costly. King County then starting doing an annual online survey, and we left open the option of doing the independent survey.
- Layne Barnes asked if we are satisfied with what our costs have been in the past. Tom Odell asked if there has there been a federal requirement for how the assessment is done. Jean White replied that the group around the table qualifies for the federal requirement.
- Larry Phillips clarified that we are not talking about an audit when we refer to an assessment of the service provider. An audit may happen at some point in the future. Moving it to "may retain an outside consultant" seems to be where we are heading here.
- Kathy Minsch said it would be good to have a discussion regarding including other agencies in the ILA at another SRC meeting. It would set up different cost shares, and have an impact on the budget.
- Mark Phillips asked what the timing is for billing cities. Jason MK reported that we do trimester billing. CM Phillips said it might be good to have that in the ILA. Linda Grob, Administrative Coordinator, piped up that it is in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Ted Frantz, commenting on adding other agencies, said we talked about limiting the number of public utilities, and may want to put a number on other public agencies we might include. Jason MK said that is addressed in **blank**, clarifying that the SRC has control over the number.

6. Cedar River Corridor Plan

John Engel, King County, reported that a Cedar River Corridor Plan would set the tone for what the river might look like in the next 20 years, and would provide:

- A detailed look at the floodplain;
- A clearly defined vision/outcomes;
- A prioritized list of capital projects;
- An evaluation of public safety in projects and implementation; and
- Flood project mitigation integrated with the WRIA 8 Salmon Conservation Plan.

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John noted that there has been a shift in how we do this work in the last ten years. Improvements in available data now allow us to have very detailed imaging and information on flood risk. A result is the active channel migration maps that will be out this fall, providing the groundwork for process-based restoration for areas like Belmondo Reach. Corridor plan development will include conditions characterization using existing data, and identifying and characterizing problems and opportunities. End products will include clearly detailed outcomes for the corridor, a list of recommended CIP's to achieve outcomes, and detailed worksheets on each project.

John explained that the King County FCD, the lead agency and project funder for the corridor plan, is just finishing up negotiations with their contractor. Partners are WRIA 8 and the King County Science Section. He said they plan to form an advisory committee and will be inviting, as members, the Cities of Seattle and Renton, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, neighborhood residents, River Safety Council and other recreational interests, SRC and Cedar River Council, non-profits FRCW and Forterra, Boeing, the Corps, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Ecology, etc. Citizen meetings will be held throughout the planning process, and on November 18 we will have our annual Cedar River Open House.

Preliminary outreach work will take place in spring-summer 2014. Neighborhood interviews are starting in the next month, the consultant contract will be wrapped up in the new few weeks, and the goal is to have the corridor plan completed in December 2015, with project selection and implementation occurring in 2016. To conclude his presentation, John showed slides of Rainbow Bend and the new channels that developed, which are now hosting sockeye and Chinook.

Discussion:

- Larry Phillips commented that he was out at Rainbow Bend two weeks ago, and the channels have changed even more than indicated on the slides.
- Carl Scandella asked what consultants are being considered. John Engel responded that they hired Herrera.
- Larry Phillips asked if we shouldn't be looking at safety as a more discrete part of the corridor plan in terms of recreation and hillside slides. John Engel explained that they are looking at that, because it does enter as a risk. The advisory committee will include a representative from the River Safety Committee. CM Phillips noted that with the Oso event, there was a general nod that we had done well with slides in this watershed.
- Ted Frantz asked if this corridor plan is really the first plan for the Cedar River. John Engel said there is a plan in place, but this process will help them look at the river in more detail, and help figure out how to integrate flood goals and habitat goals without having to look reach by reach.
- One member asked how often the corridor plan will be updated. John Engel replied that he was not sure at this point, but it could be a ten- or 15-year update.
- Carl Scandella asked when a more definite timeline can be expected. John Engel responded that the timeline will be update as they go along. The advisory committee will kick off in October or November, public meetings will kick off with the Cedar Open House in November, and they will go back out to the public next spring or summer. They will develop a schedule, timeline and products of the plan and bring it back to the SRC.
- Gary Smith asked if there is still work to be done at Rainbow Bend. John Engel said they will have to look at the right bank levee, etc., but both Belmondo and Rainbow Bend are almost done. Nancy Faegenburg, King County, said they are trying to look at contiguous areas and types of site-specific projects that may come from the WRIA 8 Plan or the Flood Plan.
- Gary Smith asked what the public money that purchased Rainbow Bend can be used for. John Engel said the money for Rainbow Bend came from a conglomeration of agencies to do habitat

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work. Scott Stolnack added that the Recovery Implementation Technical Team (RITT) says when you do large scale projects like Rainbow Bend, you restore river processes and get more fish back.

- Dick Bonewits commented that the elephant in the room and the one with the money is FCD. Our WRIA is focused on habitat restoration. This presentation now makes it look like there are three different plans (WRIA 8 Plan, flood plan, corridor plan), and he doesn't see the integration. John Engel reported that this corridor plan is intended to be the integrated plan.

7. Lake Sammamish Kokanee Recovery Update

David St. John, King County, said the conservation goal for Lake Sammamish kokanee is to "prevent the extinction and improve the health of the native kokanee population such that it is viable and self-supporting, and then supports fishery opportunities". He said SRC members Don Gerend and Tom Odell are on the Kokanee Work Group, which has been meeting as a group since 2007. Other active partners on the work group are watershed residents, King County staff, and representatives from the Cities of Issaquah, Bellevue and Redmond, non-profit groups, Snoqualmie Tribe, state and federal agencies, and Darigold.

David explained that Lake Sammamish kokanee are unlike any other kokanee in the world, living in natal streams for only a few months, and spending three years in the lake before returning to spawn in primarily three creeks, Ebright, Lewis, and Laughing Jacobs. Abundance is around 20% of historic levels, two of three unique runs are extinct, and productivity is unknown. Hatchery supplementation of kokanee began in 2007, but we failed for two years to have salmon in the system. Since 2009 there's been five consecutive years of production, and the run for 2012 was very strong. He said good lake years are ones with no storms, because one storm can wipe out the whole year. One danger we are seeing is hatchery fish getting bigger, so now we know we have a habitat problem, and are aware that forest cover is being lost in the Lake Sammamish basin. The focus in the next round of kokanee recovery is habitat, hatchery, and public engagement. WRIA 8 has funded 11 kokanee/chinook projects, seven of what are done, and we will continue to do fry releases every year.

David reported that Secretary Sally Jewell, U.S. Department of the Interior, has initiated a new program called the Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (UWRP) to have a presence in urban areas. The Lake Sammamish UWRP was one of eight partnerships identified nationwide, and is the only one in the Pacific Northwest. He said his question today is who is going to be the group to shepherd this partnership, because it needs a bigger group than the Kokanee Work Group. The UWRP augments capacity, does not have regulatory requirements, is a community-based partnership, and provides \$100,000 in funding to start the launch. He inquired what the right connection is to, and level of involvement of, the WRIA 8 SRC.

Discussion:

- Don Gerend thanked David St. John and all the other partners for their continued work on kokanee. He said while kokanee is not a listed species, he thought the UWRP/Kokanee Work Group might be incorporated into the WRIA 8 ILA.
- Don Davidson remarked that the other side of the coin is the capacity of WRIA 8 staff to take on this work.
- Carl Scandella asked if kokanee is the dominant species in Lake Sammamish. David St. John replied that they used to be, but we are not sure now. CM Scandella asked if other salmon species in Lake Sammamish fluctuate in numbers in sync with kokanee. David said we don't know that either.

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- John Stokes commented that Bellevue has been involved with the work group, but maybe not as much as before. People are actually saying “kokanee” now, which is new. He said this is exciting and he thinks we need to look at the need, and at the cities around the lake. A role for the SRC might be more specific.
- Dick Bonewits remarked that he’s been on the FCD committee for many years, and he knows how easy it is to become the overall leader for all sorts of thing. He said this is the most exciting kokanee presentation he’s heard. Cities around Lake Sammamish should be approached first, because he didn’t think this group should be the first one involved.
- Gary Smith commented that getting the tribes buy-in is very important. He said we don’t want that to die, but he doesn’t know if we can improve on the work already done.
- Jesse Salomon mentioned that it is easier to discover how lake conditions are affecting kokanee than it is to figure out ocean conditions for chinook. David St. John said Hans Berge, King County, has done a lot of work on Lake Sammamish, and he believes the interplay between **the two?** is shrinking. Hans says we but need to know more about the impact of conditions on kokanee.
- Bill Knutsen noted that there aren’t many places in King County losing habitat faster than the east side of Lake Sammamish. He asked if the hatchery supplementation this and last year have been as aggressive as the previous three years. David St. John responded that we always endeavor to stay below taking half of our kokanee on the spawning ground, and we are below that now.
- Tom Odell commented that he has been associated with the work group since he joined the Sammamish City Council five years ago. He said kokanee is the canary in the coal mine, and Sammamish is trying to slow down the habitat loss, and there are three creeks within the city limits that could support kokanee. He said he thinks it is critical that the three cities around Lake Sammamish get more involved, and UWRP adds more importance to kokanee.
- Gary Smith said what is appealing to him is that kokanee have a three-year rather than seven-year life cycle. Because they are contained in this lake it offers a great chance to really look at this species.

Larry Phillips said it was a great presentation, but he doesn’t think we can decide anything today. He reminded folks that we are the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed, so we will stay involved with kokanee.

8. Success Story: Cedar River Salmon Journey

Charlotte Spang, Friends of the Cedar River Watershed (FCRW), explained that the Cedar River Salmon Journey (CRSJ) Program was started in 1999 by King County, Seattle Aquarium and SPU, was cut by the county in 2005, went to the Aquarium for one year, and has been run by FCRW from 2007 to the present. CRSJ’s mission is to promote understanding and stewardship of the Cedar River/Lake Washington ecosystem from the mountains to the sound. Program goals are to inform and inspire 10,000+ watershed residents about critical needs facing the watershed and promote simple solutions that everyone can take at home. Visitors are asked to fill out pledge cards asking what actions they will take. Six months to a year later they are called to see if they’ve fulfilled their pledges, and last year 80% said they did.

Charlotte reported that this is CRSJ’s 17th year and the numbers of visitors have grown every year. This year salmon programs are taking place every weekend in October at four sites on the Cedar River, and on three Saturdays during the salmon migration at the Locks. Volunteers in the fall program train for 20 hours, and in the summer program they connect with Beach Naturalists for four hours to teach about the nearshore. She said volunteers are terrific, and some have been involved for

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16 years. We've had people who live along the river not know that salmon are in the river and get very excited.

Charlotte said we evaluate the CRSJ program every year to see what we can do better. In 2014 we started collaborating with Salmon Watchers, had a joint training attended by 60 people, and are making an online salmon map. Partners and sponsors are FCRW, King County, SPU, WRIA 8, FCD, Corps, and the City of Renton.

9. Next Meeting

The next SRC meeting is November 20, 2014, 3:00-5:15 p.m., Bellevue City Hall, room 1E-108.