

WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Meeting Notes

Department of Ecology Northwest Regional Office

March 17, 2016 3:00-5:15 p.m.

Members/Jurisdictional Staff Alternates Present		
#	Name	Affiliation
1.	Mayor Andy Rheaume, Chair	City of Bothell
2.	Mayor John Stokes, Vice-Chair	City of Bellevue
3.	Councilmember (CM) Eileen Barber	City of Issaquah
4.	Tor Bell	Mountain to Sound Greenway Trust
5.	Judy Blanco	Forterra
6.	CM Allen Dauterman	City of Newcastle
7.	Don Davidson	Long Live the Kings
8.	CM Rod Dembowski	King County
9.	Nancy Eklund	The Boeing Company
10.	CM Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
11.	Dave Garland	WA Dept. of Ecology (Ecology)
12.	Cyndy Holtz	City of Seattle
13.	Antonia Jindrich	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
14.	CM Sean Kelly	City of Mill Creek
15.	CM Tom Odell	City of Sammamish
16.	Deputy Mayor Dana Parnello	City of Maple Valley
17.	CM Mark Phillips	City of Lake Forest Park
18.	Stewart Reinbold	WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
19.	CM Jesse Salomon	City of Shoreline
20.	Richard Sowa	Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery
21.	Terry Lavender	Water Tenders/Citizen Representative
22.	Val Stewart	City of Edmonds Planning Board
23.	Frank Urabeck	At Large
24.	CM Paula Waters	City of Woodinville
Additional Alternates Present		
25.	CM James McNeal	City of Bothell
Others Present		
26.	Jim Adams	Discover Your Northwest
27.	David Bain	One Bothell
28.	Alison Bennett	City of Bellevue
29.	Bob Burns	King County
30.	Alex Chen	City of Seattle
31.	Rich Deline	Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Foundation
32.	Danielle Devoe	Ecology
33.	Bill Dowell	Corps
34.	Garrett Holbrook	King County
35.	Liz Johnston	Forterra
36.	Kristina Lowthian	City of Renton
37.	Nate McGowan	Corps
38.	Martha Moritz	Sound Salmon Solutions
39.	Michael Murphy	King County
40.	Scott Pozarycki	Corps
41.	Larry Reymann	Environmental Science Center
42.	Jerallyn Roetemeyer	City of Redmond

WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

March 17, 2016

43.	Ralph Svrjcek	Ecology
44.	Lauren Vlas	King County
45.	Jean White	King County
46.	Polly Freeman	WRIA 8 Team
47.	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 Team
48.	Scott Stolnack	WRIA 8 Team
49.	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8 Team

Chair Andy Rheaume opened the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meeting, inviting all attendees to introduce themselves, especially new members.

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes for November 19, 2015

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the meeting notes for the November 17, 2015 meeting.

3. Updates & Announcements

General Announcements:

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (Jason MK), Salmon Recovery Manager, requested folks review the Updates & Announcements handout, and he highlighted the following:

- **Puget Sound Regional Update:**
 - **Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC)** is focusing on the 2017 legislative session, and we will keep you posted on how that's shaping up. John Stokes, SRC Vice-Chair, is the new WRIA 8 representative at that table.
 - **South Central Area Caucus** is working with EPA on new funding models to bring dollars to local priorities and to identify near-term actions for the 2016 update to the Action Agenda.
- **2016 Legislative Update:**
 - **WRIA 8's State Legislative Priorities** are focused on thanking legislators for their support of priority capital funding programs to keep them aware of WRIA 8's interests for the 2017-2019 biennium session. He said we will invite legislators on our annual fall Salmon Recovery Tour as part of this effort. An additional item to add to the WRIA 8 Legislative Priorities is funding for cleanup of contaminated sites, which comes from a portion of oil revenues. This funding has gone down with the decline in oil prices. Legislation (SB 6570) was introduced as an attempt to backfill funding for toxic cleanups by setting a policy that prioritizes cleanup of toxic sites, and postpones grants and loans for controlling stormwater pollution, riparian restoration, and public participation. There could be an amendment calling for keeping funding for stormwater cleanup. Another issue to note is an amendment to HB 2524, which is on Governor Inslee's desk and would allow the WA State Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT) and WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) to address fish passage in urban areas as mitigation.
 - **WRIA 8's Federal Legislative Priorities:** The Obama Administration proposed \$65 million for the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), the same amount as last year. Jason suggested the SRC consider submitting a letter thanking the Washington Congressional delegation for their support of PCSRF in the past, and encouraging their support for the \$65 million proposed funding level in the President's budget, is in the meeting packet, and Jason MK asked for approval to finalize and mail the letter.

WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

March 17, 2016

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved sending the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund support letter to the Congressional delegation.

- The **WRIA 8 Salmon Summit** in February was a great success, and Jason MK thanked everyone who participated. Approximately 115 people attended, the purpose of which was to celebrate progress in salmon recovery over the last ten years, acknowledge our challenges, and identify priorities for consideration in the upcoming update to the Salmon Conservation Plan (Plan). A lot of good ideas came out of the Summit. John Stokes said it was a good event and time well spent, and it was good to see other folks in attendance. He said it is worth having a Summit on a regular basis. Jason MK said the Summit also was our chance to roll out the **Ten-Year Implementation Progress Report**, hard copies of which are available here today. The Progress Report is also available online: <http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/reports/progress-report-2015/default.aspx>.
- **KING 5 Story:** Jason MK reported on his appearance on KING TV, along with King County (KC) staff Josh Latterell and KC Councilmember Reagan Dunn, talking about the completion of ten years of salmon recovery work, plans for the ten year Plan Update, and work at Rainbow Bend as an example of the kinds of habitat restoration actions we are taking. A link to the story is available: <http://www.king5.com/news/chinook-recovery-hits-10-year-mark/92927875>.
- **Decision Needed on WRIA 8 Sponsorship of “Our Urban Watershed” Signage:** Jason MK presented the proposal to spend \$4,600 to participate in an urban watershed sign with other partners, to be located at 50 sites for two years.

Discussion:

- Mark Phillips asked how we’d know the right information was being conveyed. Jason MK said we would have some input on key messages but the sign content is largely written.
- Dave Garland inquired if we could supplement the information with a water quality message about pet waste for the WA Dept. of Ecology (Ecology).
- Ted Frantz asked if we can add more salmon graphics and the WRIA 8 URL, and if we have the \$4,600 available. Jason MK clarified we have enough funds, but the decision is whether to use it for this sign.
- Tom Odell noted that the City of Sammamish’s name is included on the example, but he wondered if it was authorized by the city. He also questioned if this is the best use of \$4,600.
- Val Stewart asked how folks get chosen to participate, because the sign might be useful for Edmonds Marsh. Jason MK responded that he wasn’t sure what the consultant’s outreach/solicitation strategy is, but suspects he probably just contacts people he’s worked with before.
- Richard Sowa said he’s not eager to support the sign proposal without knowing how much we can influence the message.
- Terry Lavender and Don Davidson questioned the maintenance plan for the signs.
- Andy Rheaume said he doesn’t support the proposal because of the maintenance issue, and questioned the value of additional signs.
- Mark Phillips inquired if we have a chance to approve the sign at another time. Jason MK said no, this is our only chance. If we don’t have resounding enthusiasm for the proposal, it might not be the best choice right now. It’s an opportunity, but we don’t have a communications and outreach plan that is driving this potential investment.
- Dave Garland said these signs might bring awareness of the watershed and protecting salmon. Ecology has noticed that stream crossing signs help people become aware of the watersheds, and there is better quality signage now that holds up longer.

WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

March 17, 2016

- John Stokes said he understands the value of the sign, but it's very busy and he's not sure how many people will actually read it. It's a lot of money, he's concerned the proposal feels rushed with not enough time for vetting.
- Dana Parnello said the signage has potential, but it's too hard to decide at the eleventh hour. We want to "brand" WRIA 8 right.
- Paula Waters said, as a non-scientist, she's not sure about the watershed borders. She said she thinks a sign can be valuable, but the proposal feels too last minute.
- Tom Odell said we don't currently have a communications strategy, and he asked if this is the right way to go about it. Some are moving to small signs with just a QR code, and then the message can be updated.
- Val Stewart said she works with the Edmonds-Woodway High School Stream Team, and a sign like this would be useful for our students who are working on awareness. She agreed it is kind of busy.
- Bill Dowell, Corps, remarked that the sign says they are located at two places at the Ballard Locks, but he doesn't know about them. He said we'd want to make sure the message is right and vetted by WRIA 8.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously decided not to spend \$4,600 to participate in the "Our Urban Watershed" signage.

- **2016 SRC Meeting Topics:** Jason MK asked members to review the draft list of 2016 meeting topics and let him know if there are other items folks would like considered.

Discussion:

- Jesse Salomon proposed local climate change effects.
 - Ted Frantz requested information on all the chemicals being found in Puget Sound – caffeine, estrogen, and other drugs.
 - Stewart Reinbold suggested an update on water supply. He said it could be another dry year.
 - Tom Odell proposed monitoring of invertebrates.
 - Dave Garland suggested having the Willowmoor project on the agenda for the May 19 SRC meeting, and couple it with the Sammamish temperature study to talk more broadly about the Sammamish River. Jason MK agreed, if the Willowmoor project team is prepared to do that.
 - Val Stewart mentioned that the Edmonds high school Stream Team is testing water quality at strategic sites for heavy metals, fecal coliform, etc. She said maybe the students (grades 10-12) could do a short presentation at a SRC meeting. Jason MK said it could be a Success Story.
- **2017 Budget and Work Plan Development:** Jason MK said our May meeting is typically the budget/work plan meeting. We plan to convene the Management Committee in late April/early May to develop a budget and work plan recommendation for SRC review in May.
 - **Grants Update:** Jason MK reported that tomorrow, March 18, is the deadline for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) and Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) pre-applications. He said we should have grant recommendations ready for SRC consideration at the May meeting.

4. Four-Year Work Plan Update: Proposed Additions

Jason Wilkinson (Jason W), Actions and Funding Coordinator, reminded members that we discussed the Four-Year Work Plan at the November 2015 SRC meeting, and we have a few additional updates for consideration. The Four-Year Work Plan typically gets submitted to the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) at the end of March, but can be updated as necessary. The Four-Year Work Plan is a subset of the projects and programs in the WRIA 8 Plan and PSP will start using it to support biennial legislative funding requests. He said the Four-Year Work Plan also serves as a check that the grants we put

WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

March 17, 2016

forward for funding are consistent with our priorities. The WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) reviews the list of restoration and protection project updates and the Implementation Committee (IC) reviews programmatic activity updates.

Jason W reported that the TC, at its meeting on March 9, 2016, discussed the Four-Year Work Plan and developed the following recommendations for addition:

- **Herzman Floodplain Restoration** (Cedar River, Tier 1, King County is sponsor): Add project C218 to Four-Year Work Plan; sets back a levee near the Riverbend project.
- **Scheuerman Creek Riparian and Marine Shoreline Restoration** (Migratory/Nearshore, Tier 1, Seattle Public Utilities is sponsor): Create project M253 and add to Comprehensive List, Start List, and Four-Year Work Plan; Scheuerman Creek flows out of Discovery Park, and the proposed project would enhance the creek mouth and remove shoreline armoring.
- **Emerging Technical Issues** (various locations, Tier 1, various sponsors): The WRIA 8 Technical Forum in November identified predation, artificial light, juvenile survival/life history diversity, and water temperature as key issues, and adding them to the Four-Year Work Plan shows they are a priority.

Discussion:

- Judy Blanco asked if the Herzman project involves buying out entire parcels behind the setback levee or whether lot line adjustments would be considered. Jason W said it's too early to say for sure. The sponsor is starting to move forward on evaluating alternatives and talking to owners.
- Jesse Salomon asked if the floodplain properties behind the Herzman levee have residences or are undeveloped and whether eminent domain would be used. Jason W explained that some of the sites are vacant, while others have structures that may not be within the project area. For this reason, lot line adjustments may be an option. Regardless, some acquisition is needed to allow for the levee setback. These are voluntary sales only; eminent domain would not be used.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the Four-Year Work Plan additions: Herzman Floodplain Restoration (Cedar River), Scheuerman Creek Riparian and Marine Shoreline Restoration, and Emerging Technical Issues (predation, artificial light, juvenile survival/life history diversity, water temperature).

5. King County Land Conservation Initiative

Bob Burns, KC Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and Michael Murphy, KC Water and Land Resources Division, reported that KC Executive Dow Constantine challenged us to identify lands that still need protection and to get it done in a generation. The KC Council has asked for a work plan on how we would do this, and we have put a lot of data together based on work already done. We will work with existing processes, like the WRIA groups, as well as with cities.

The county identified five land conservation categories to focus on for protection: completing natural land corridors; protecting healthy forest lands; protecting farmland for local food; completing regional trail connections; and protecting urban and natural river corridors. Totaling up the five categories equals 4,243 parcels, 59,147 acres, and an estimated cost of \$1.27 billion in 2015 dollars. Anticipating existing funding sources, the funding gap is estimated at \$323 million. New funding options being considered include a bond, levy, REET-3, and increased Conservations Futures Tax (CFT) collections. Bob Burns reported the rough estimates are that the annual cost per household would be in the teens to \$20 per household. Next steps are to brief councilmembers, transmit the work plan to council, begin outreach to community groups, refine acreage/cost calculations, and convene a working group. By

WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

March 17, 2016

summer/fall 2016 the working group will be active and public outreach will begin. Bob said we want to work with cities and would be willing to come back to the SRC as often as you like.

Discussion:

- Terry Lavender commented that the KC Land Conservation Initiative includes WRIA 8-identified acquisition priorities and is not another plan and another process.
- Cyndy Holtz said the initiative is ambitious and great, but she questioned landowner willingness. Bob Burns agreed that's a challenge, how we change priorities into sales. One reason we want to get the money up front is to get the land before it's more expensive, but also to be able to jump on opportunities when owners become willing. Not every landowner will want to sell. When you look at corridors along major rivers, like the Cedar, we're getting to the point of acquiring some complete reaches by working on it year after year. Cyndy said it takes decades to acquire parcels. Bob responded that this generation can finish this job.
- Ted Frantz asked if we can view the presentation maps online. Jason MK said we will post the information and send out Michael Murphy's contact information so you can follow up with him.
- Tom Odell said the City of Sammamish can help fill in information on the eastern side of Lake Sammamish. We've already had a lot of discussion about kokanee. He explained we have a lot of steep and timbered areas we need to keep, so we really want to talk with you about this. Bob Burns said that would be great.
- Dana Parnello inquired if KC is aware of the "donut hole" in Maple Valley. It's a unique opportunity that might fit with this initiative. A big high school is going in up there, but it will be next to a closed golf course, which is a great opportunity to connect neighborhoods to the high school. He said it seems like a perfect fit, and developers are knocking at the door. Bob Burns said we'd love to follow up with individual councilmembers and to discuss specific parcels.

6. Ballard Locks Infrastructure Improvements Update & Recent Fish Passage Improvement Related Activities

Nate McGowan and Scott Pozarycki, Army Corps of Engineers, reported on the status of major infrastructure projects and fish passage improvements at the Ballard Locks. Nate provided a brief description of the Locks and its function in the community, noting it receives 1.3 million visitors annually, passes 45,000 vessels annually, and is the busiest lockage in the country. Nate noted that projects at the Locks are prioritized by need, safety, and requirements to meet the facility's mission. Nate noted projects that are complete, and focused on the remaining priority projects on a list the Corps originally developed in 2012. In particular, Nate discussed the pumping plant replacement, large lock emergency closure system and crane replacement, and filling culvert valve replacement.

Scott described several fish passage improvements, including:

- PIT tag monitoring project in the large lock to provide additional data on fish passage at the Locks, noting the cost share agreement between the Corps and King County using WRIA 8 directed grant funds.
- Need to design and replace the saltwater drain intake system that is designed to keep salt water from mixing with freshwater.
- Need for a permanent solution to screen off the diffuser well to prevent adult salmon from entering and being trapped in the diffuser well.
- Corps' false locking study to determine whether operation changes at the Locks – i.e., conducting lockings when vessels are not present and through the night – would improve water quality conditions by decreasing temperatures on the freshwater side of the Locks. The study found that water quality near the Locks can be substantially improved but may result in

WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

March 17, 2016

negative water quality effects elsewhere in the ship canal through increased amounts of salt water, that migration cannot be improved with operational changes, and that water quality can be slightly improved near the Locks without effects elsewhere.

- Design of new smolt flumes, for which a prototype will be installed and tested in late 2016/2017.

Discussion:

- Frank Urabeck said we know sockeye are experiencing pre-spawn mortality, and he asked where we stand on data gathering with regard to the rest of that system. Scott Pozarycki said we had warm water throughout last year. The bulk of sockeye came through the Ship Canal early, and we are looking at if the Ship Canal is impacting the sockeye.
- Frank Urabeck said we know we have mortality due to increased temperatures, more in 2014 than in 2015. He asked if percentage-wise the Corps is doing anything for reconnaissance to get a handle on this. Scott Pozarycki reported that the Muckleshoot Tribe has been gathering data for the last couple of years, and we're waiting on the results. There's also a fair amount of uncertainty about the accuracy of the counts at the Locks. For example, we could have a fair number of fish going through the ladder more than once.
- Frank Urabeck said we can speculate, but where are we at in getting a handle on the data. Scott Pozarycki said once we have data, we can move forward to identify next steps and begin to address the issue.
- Jason MK reported that the issue is the subject of one of the near-term actions WRIA 8 proposed as part of the 2016 update to the Puget Sound Action Agenda. If we got funding we would try to work on that with the Corps, Muckleshoot Tribe, and other partners. Frank Urabeck expressed thanks, and said that's new information.
- Scott Pozarycki noted it really helps the Corps to have a local project sponsor to move some of these priorities forward.

Bill Dowell, Corps, talked about the 2017 Locks Centennial anniversary, and said the Corps is looking for partners, noting that a partnership doesn't have to be financial. Jason MK said WRIA 8 would like to partner for the Centennial to present the Locks critical function for fish passage. Bill said the week of July 4 could be a good opportunity for educational information.

7. Success Story: Acquisition of Wayne Golf Course on the Sammamish River in Bothell

Liz Johnston, Forterra, presented on the interim arrangement reached last month to purchase the front and back nine of the Wayne Golf Course on the Sammamish River in the City of Bothell near Blyth Park and the Burke Gilman Trail. This is one of largest undeveloped sites remaining along the Sammamish, an urban river corridor with lots of potential in an area under extreme threat of development. Waynita Creek and some small wetlands are on the back nine. She said we had lots of great partners, people got inspired, and they came out for the February press conference and celebration when we announced the agreement.

Liz reported that for now it's just an interim solution, and we have three years to raise \$11 million to conserve it permanently. There are still four acres on the front nine where 15 homes could be built, and on the back nine 50 homes could be built under current conditions. The City of Bothell and KC likely will ultimately own the property. There will be a community visioning workshop in April to get input about what folks would like to see on the property. Once acquisition is complete we can move on to the restoration phase, including concepts and multiple benefits like floodplain connectivity and

WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

March 17, 2016

flood risk reduction. She thanked KC Councilmember Rod Dembowski for his leadership on the acquisition.

Discussion:

- Rod Dembowski said this was truly a team effort, and he thanked Bob Burns, Terry Lavender, Forterra, Professor David Bain of OneBothell, and even the media for holding elected officials accountable.
- Jesse Salomon inquired what is ultimately being envisioned at the site. Liz Johnston said based on the WRIA 8 Plan, we are looking at reconnecting Waynita Creek and other tributaries, controlling invasives, and reforesting whatever is possible of the riparian corridor with native trees and shrubs.
- Bob Burns said shading 4,500 lineal feet of river will bring the temperatures down.
- Jesse Salomon noted that the Sammamish is a slow moving river prone to heating. Jason MK said we need to look for opportunities to reconnect with historic groundwater sources and tributary streams to cool the river, and add shade to keep it from getting hotter.
- David Bain, One Bothell, said ideally we should create multiple channels for flow conditions, and bend the river more so that it's easier to shade the whole river.
- Ted Frantz asked if houses could still be built on the developed portion of the property. Liz Johnston explained that it is the clubhouse location, so less appealing for habitat. She said it is something to consider for funding if we can't reach our goal.
- John Stokes stated that we are going to reach our goal! He said this project is a good example that you can go out and fight for conservation and win.
- Andy Rheaume noted that new SRC alternate CM James McNeal ran for and helped turn around the Bothell City Council on this issue.
- James McNeal thanked WRIA 8 for writing a letter of support to the legislature for the acquisition, and said he was proud to be a part of this group. He also thanked Forterra.

8. Member Updates:

Eileen Barber announced there is a volunteer opportunity to track kokanee fry at Lewis, Laughing Jacobs and Ebright Creeks. We could use additional help in the evenings, and she asked people to contact her for information.

9. Upcoming Meetings:

- Salmon Recovery Council: May 19, 2016, 3:00 – 5:15 p.m., Ecology's Northwest Regional Office in Bellevue.