

WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Meeting Notes

Department of Ecology Northwest Regional Office

May 18, 2017 3:10-5:15 p.m.

Members/Jurisdictional Staff Alternates Present		
#	Name	Affiliation
1.	Mayor Andy Rheäume, Chair	City of Bothell
2.	Mayor John Stokes, Vice-Chair	City of Bellevue
3.	David Bain	Sno-King Watershed Council
4.	Councilmember (CM) Elaine Barber	City of Issaquah
5.	Tor Bell	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
6.	CM Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
7.	Alex Chen	City of Seattle
8.	Bea Covington	King Conservation District
9.	Don Davidson	Washington Policy Center
10.	CM Bruce Dodds	City of Clyde Hill
11.	Nancy Eklund	The Boeing Company
12.	CM Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
13.	Mayor Don Gerend	City of Sammamish
14.	Noel Gilbrough	Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group (MSFEG)
15.	Mike Grady	NOAA
16.	Terry Lavender	Citizen
17.	Joe Miles	WA State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
18.	CM Hank Myers	City of Redmond
19.	Joan Nolan	Ecology
20.	Susan O'Neil	Long Live the Kings
21.	Deputy Mayor Dana Parnello	City of Maple Valley
22.	CM Mark Phillips	City of Lake Forest Park
23.	Charles Ruthford	Cedar River Council
24.	Mayor Pro Tem Carl Scandella	City of Yarrow Point
25.	CM Paula Waters	City of Woodinville
Alternates Present		
26.	Jeanette Dorner	MSFEG
27.	Cyndy Holtz	City of Seattle
28.	Vivian Miles	WDNR
Others Present		
29.	Tom Beavers	King County
30.	Kelli Jones	City of Kirkland
31.	Janne Kaje	King County
32.	Cailan Murray	WDNR
33.	Kit Paulsen	City of Bellevue
34.	Jerallyn Roetemeyer	City of Redmond
35.	Jane Ruthford	Citizen
36.	Ron Straka	City of Renton
37.	Megan Webb	King County
38.	Linda Grob	WRIA 8 Team
39.	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 Team
40.	Scott Stolnack	WRIA 8 Team
41.	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8 Team

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Vice-Chair John Stokes opened the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meeting pending Chair Andy Rheaume's arrival, inviting all attendees to introduce themselves.

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes for March 16, 2017

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the meeting notes for the March 16, 2017 meeting.

3. Updates & Announcements

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (Jason MK), Salmon Recovery Manager, requested that SRC members review the Updates & Announcements handout, before highlighting several items:

- **Legislative Priorities Update** – On the state side, the Governor's, Senate and House proposed budgets for salmon recovery capital funding programs were all less than we had hoped:

State Funding Program	Agency Request/ WRIA 8 Support	Governor's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR)	\$80,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$30,000,000	\$40,000,000
Salmon Recovery Fund	\$55,300,000	\$30,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$19,771,000
Floodplains by Design	\$70,000,000	\$20,338,000	\$20,300,000	\$51,000,000

Jason MK said it's not too late to make calls to state legislators. On the federal side we are assured to have the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) at a \$65 million funding level for 2017 due to the continuing resolution to fund the federal government through September, but funding and the program's existence is in question for 2018. WRIA 8 is requesting a 2018 PCSRF funding level of \$80 million and is asking for the SRC's approval to send a letter to members of Congress, including the state's Congressional Delegation to request support for PCSRF at the \$80 million level.

- Don Gerend said he has a meeting with Congressman Dave Reichert in a few weeks and would like information for the meeting. Jason MK said he will get that to him.
- Noel Gilbrough reported that at last week's WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum meeting we heard that republicans are also supportive of PCSRF. Jason MK responded that it has strong support from the Alaska, Washington, Oregon & California congressional delegations, which include a number of republicans. So there appears to be strong bi-partisan support.
- Hank Myers added that our success is important to emphasize as part of requesting support for the program.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved supporting an \$80,000,000 2018 funding level for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.

- **Letter to King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors** – A letter sharing WRIA 8's recently-approved Cedar River habitat goals and supporting their inclusion in the Flood Control District's (FCD) Corridor Plan for the Cedar had to go out quickly to meet a deadline. The Management Committee reviewed and approved sending the letter. Chair Andy Rheaume signed the letter on behalf of the SRC, and members are encouraged to contact the FCD Board directly to share their support.

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- **2017 State Salmon Recovery Conference** – Eight hundred professionals from all around the state attended the biannual Salmon Recovery Conference in Wenatchee April 25 to 27. There were many great presentations on a variety of important topics, including climate change. Jason MK said the conference happens every two years.
 - Noel Gilbrough said he went to the conference, and the hardest thing was picking which presentation to attend out of the eight that were happening at the same time.
- **New Ballard Locks Smolt Slide** – WRIA 8 partnered with the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) through matching federal funding using the annual fish in monitoring grant provided to King County, to install a prototype smolt slide to improve juvenile salmon fish passage through the Locks. The new slide is easier to install, safer for migrating salmon, and replaces outdated sensors for detecting fish passage. The slide has a much gentler slope that doesn't stun salmon when they hit the water, which contributes to them getting eaten by predators such as heron.
 - Mark Phillips asked if this is the same process that guides them to the spot. Jason MK said the water current from the pull of the entrance to the slide guide juvenile salmon to the slide.
 - Ted Frantz asked about the cost. Scott Stolnack, Technical Coordinator, said WRIA 8 provided an in-kind match using the 2016 fish-in monitoring grant to King County to support the Corps \$300,000 for the slide design and construction.
- **E-news** – The next E-news will be going out in mid-June. Please send topics to Polly Freeman, WRIA 8 Communications Specialist.
- **Salmon Field Guide, Kitsap Edition** – Jason MK reported that we paid to reprint this salmon handbook because it is an excellent general information resource on salmon. Each SRC member was given a copy.

4. 2018 WRIA 8 Budget & Work Plan

Budget:

Jason MK said on May 2, 2017 the Management Committee (MC) met to discuss the proposed 2018 WRIA 8 budget (first presented at the March SRC meeting), and recommended its approval. The 2018 budget's base revenue is \$642,949: the \$581,291 ILA partner total, which reflects an estimated 2.50% CPIW increase, and the \$45,000 reduced Lead Entity grant amount. Additional revenue includes a \$48,987 annual estimate in PSAR project development grant funding (dependent on state legislative approval), \$5,490 in Salmon SEEson sponsorship, and a carryover amount of \$168,037 (leveraged from external grants, such as PSAR project development grants and the PSP Plan Update grant, and cost savings from staffing changes). The total 2018 revenue is estimated at \$849,463.

Jason MK went over expenditures, which include \$638,765 for staffing salary and benefits (\$479,679 for 3.5 staff and \$159,086 for overhead and all its supports) and \$26,223 for supplies and services. The 2018 budget does not include Polly's education and outreach (E&O) term-limited position, which ends in August. He said we are proposing to use the resulting \$184,476 balance of additional expenditures to support technical and programmatic priorities that emerge from the Plan update process.

Work Plan:

As in past years, the 2018 work plan is organized by topic, deliverable/outcome, and staffing per function:

- WRIA 8 SRC & Regional/State Coordination (PSP, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, WA Salmon Coalition, etc.). Staff: Jason MK, Jason Wilkinson (Jason W), Actions and Funding Coordinator, and Administrative Coordinator position.

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- Support Plan Implementation, which includes the WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (IC), grant rounds (CWM and SRFB), habitat project tracking, securing funding for Plan implementation (Legislative outreach), and E&O work. Staff: Jason MK, Jason W, and Administrative Coordinator position. Jason MK noted that Polly’s body of work is included in red here to show what you get now versus what goes away in 2018 without funding (E&O strategy, WRIA 8 E-news, press releases, project/program factsheets, etc.).
- Technical Coordination, which includes the WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC), monitoring and adaptive management coordination: Staff: Scott Stolnack, Technical Coordinator.
- Administration, which includes team management and hiring, team meetings, budget, ILA billings/reports, and grant billings/reports. Staff: Jason MK, Administrative Coordinator position.

Discussion:

- Charles Ruthford noted that the budget is organized around projects, and he asked if WRIA 8 also designs projects, like Jon Hanson does with King County (KC). Jason MK explained that we work with, and provide funding to, project managers, but WRIA 8 staff do not directly develop and manage projects.
- David Bain asked how involved the WRIA 8 Team is with NOAA reviews. Jason MK said WRIA 8 was not involved in the most recent NOAA Five-Year Status Review. The time before that there was more involvement.
- Jason MK thanked the MC members who were involved in reviewing the budget and developing a recommendation for the SRC’s consideration.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the 2018 WRIA 8 Budget and Work Plan

5. 2017 Cooperative Watershed Management Funds – Project Subcommittee Recommendations

Jason W said he will be presenting on the CWM grants and will be coming back in July with the SRFB grants. He acknowledged members of the Project Subcommittee (PSC), who he said worked very well together but had a challenging time this year with twenty good project proposals, not all of which could be funded. In particular he noted the SRC members on the PSC: Diane Buckshnis, Mark Phillips, and Tor Bell. This year’s ranking process included a field trip to visit project sites, in-office presentations for programs, and a day of discussion/ranking.

Jason W explained that KC FCD provides CWM funding specifically for salmon recovery. Eligible activities are habitat restoration, protection/acquisition, monitoring/investigations, and E&O. Consistent with past years, in November the SRC approved the WRIA 8 funding guidance, with a maximum amount of \$300,000 for monitoring, \$96,000 for outreach and education, and the balance for restoration and protection projects, with up to 15% of the project total for riparian-only. This table shows the available 2017 funding and amount requested for project proposals:

2017 CWM Grant Funds	
2017 CWM Funding Requested (20 proposals)	\$4,461,191
2017 CWM Allocation	\$1,646,361
Returned & Carryover Funds from 2016	\$732,984
Total Funding Available	\$2,379,345
Difference between Requested and Available Funds	(\$2,081,846)

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Jason W said the PSC thought all this year's project proposals were solid, high quality projects. Some projects were provided partial funding because the PSC wanted to provide funding to as many projects as possible. The twenty proposals in ranked order with funding recommendations are:

Habitat Restoration & Acquisition Project Funding Recommendations			
Rank	Project Name & Sponsor	Request	Recom.
1.	Bird Island Shoreline Enhancement (WA Dept. of Natural Resources)	\$616,247	\$583,142
2.	Royal Arch Reach Acquisition (Seattle Public Utilities)	\$362,700	\$362,700
3.	Bear Creek Doyle Restoration (King County)	\$50,000	\$25,000
4.	Issaquah Creek Instream Restoration at Lake Sammamish State Park (Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust)	\$165,790	\$165,790
5.	Bear Creek Large Woody Debris at Keller Farm (City of Redmond)	\$679,325	\$340,000
6.	Middle Bear Creek Natural Area Additions (KC)	\$500,000	\$200,000
7.	Laughing Jacobs Creek Reroute Feasibility & Alternatives Analysis (Trout Unlimited)	\$201,062	\$100,000
8.	Wayne Sammamish Community Project (Forterra)	\$1,000,000	\$0
9.	Bear Creek Watershed Instream Restoration Feasibility & Conceptual Design Development (Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group [MSFEG])	\$60,658	\$0
Totals		\$3,635,782	\$1,776,632

Riparian Habitat/Stewardship Project Funding Recommendations			
Rank	Project Name & Sponsor	Request	Recom.
1.	Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action: Renton (Forterra)	\$71,220	\$71,220
2.	Bear Creek Watershed Riparian Improvement (Forterra)	\$124,095	\$81,312
3.	Holder Creek Riparian Restoration (KC)	\$165,000	\$57,000
4.	Redhook Brewery Sammamish River Riparian Restoration (MSFEG)	\$71,913	\$0
Totals		\$432,228	\$209,532

Monitoring Funding Recommendations			
Rank	Project Name & Sponsor	Request	Recom.
1.	Adult Chinook (Fish In) Monitoring (KC)	\$55,072	\$55,072
2.	Juvenile Salmon (Fish Out) Monitoring (WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife)	\$244,900	\$244,900
Totals		\$299,972	\$299,972

Education & Outreach Funding Recommendations			
Rank	Project Name & Sponsor	Request	Recom.
1.	Beach Naturalists (Seattle Aquarium)	\$13,200	\$13,200
2.	Mountains to Sound Greenway Forest & Fins Education Program (Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust)	\$16,000	\$16,000
3.	Cedar River Salmon Journey (Seattle Aquarium)	\$38,500	\$38,500
4.	Salmon Heroes: Improving Stewardship Behaviors through Science-Based Field Studies (Environmental Science Center)	\$10,000	\$10,000

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Education & Outreach Funding Recommendations			
Rank	Project Name & Sponsor	Request	Recom.
5.	Salmon-Safe Accelerator for the Sammamish Valley (Stewardship Partners)	\$15,509	\$15,509
Totals		\$93,209	\$93,209

Jason W said overall the proposals represented a nice distribution of tier one projects in the WRIA. This table shows the summary of funding recommendations by category:

2017 CWM Grant Cycle	
Category	Recommended Funding
Restoration/Acquisition Projects	\$1,776,632
Riparian Habitat/Stewardship Projects	\$209,532
Monitoring/Studies	\$299,972
Education and Outreach	\$93,209
Total Recommended Funding	\$2,379,345
Balance Remaining	\$0

Discussion:

- John Stokes said it is good to see \$300,000 for monitoring. Scott Stolnack commented that we fully use the money, all of which goes to fish-in/fish-out monitoring, but we could use more. After we finish the Plan update we will see more monitoring proposals that we can use funding for. He said the amount of CWM money goes up every year by inflation, but the monitoring portion does increase.
- Andy Rheame asked if we don't have our own monitoring funding in the ILA budget, and if this is other money for monitoring. Jason MK explained that we do not have money for monitoring in the ILA budget. WRIA 8 and KC have gotten grants to do the work, and we have only spent our own money on monitoring by special consent by the SRC.
- Diane Buckshnis praised the PSC as a well-working machine. She said Jason (W) and Jason (MK) do a great job. Tor Bell seconded her statement about the PSC, and called it a great working process.
- Ted Frantz asked if projects can go forward with only partial funding. Jason W explained that in the case of the Holder Creek project, which only received funding for the fence (\$57,000), both parts need to happen in concert, and they will have to secure additional grants for the full amount (\$165,000). He noted that CWM funding is reimbursement-based and good for three years.
- Charles Ruthford asked if putting up fencing without doing the planting leaves the Holder property open to invasives. Jason W said the fence will keep out livestock.
- Janne Kaje reported that we have an agreement with the KC Agriculture Program for the Holder riparian restoration, because the next door neighbors have grazing rights to the property. KC needs to do the fencing and planting at the same time, and the county won't force out cows if we are not doing the planting. He said this is sturdy and robust fencing. This particular parcel is owned by WA DNR but KC intends to purchase it from WA DNR by the end of 2017 per the terms of a lease King County holds on the property. Under King County ownership, the property will have a higher level of protection, and King County will continue to allow grazing under the existing grazing lease.
- Hank Myers inquired about the general location of the Bear Creek riparian project. Jason W explained it is south of Paradise Valley, down through the unincorporated area and into the City of Redmond. The

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area was mapped last year, and work was primarily focused on Bear Creek. With this new funding, Forterra will expand work into Cottage Lake Creek as well.

- Don Gerend said the Kokanee Work Group has done some great programs, and asked if they would be eligible for E&O funding. Jason W said if a proposal takes a multi-species, holistic approach it should be eligible for funding. Jason MK said the proposed objectives would have to also have a Chinook focus and not solely focus on kokanee.
- Dana Parnello asked if the Royal Arch Reach project has an assigned purchase and sell agreement. Cyndy Holtz replied that SPU has a cooperative seller, and will have a purchase and sell agreement in about a week.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the Project Subcommittee recommendations for the 2017 Cooperative Watershed Management funds.

6. King County 2018 Conservation Futures and Parks Levy Citizens Committee Funding Recommendations

Terry Lavender, Conservation Futures Tax (CFT)/Parks Levy Citizen's Committee Chair, announced that the committee just finished its funding recommendations. She said CFT is a small part of our taxes, and the committee makes funding recommendations after going to every proposed project and meeting with applicants. The KC Executive approves the project recommendations in November, and funding is available in January 2018. Projects with a shortfall can request funding from projects not going forward. WRIA 8 projects recommended for \$2,995,000 in total funding are: Cedar River – Mouth of Taylor Reach (\$235,000); Cottage and Cold Creek Natural Area (NA) Addition (\$585,000); Elliott Bridge Reach (\$280,000); and Middle Bear Creek NA Additions (\$450,000). Terry also went over several jurisdictional projects that are not specifically WRIA 8: Wayne Golf Course – Front Nine/Back Nine Projects (\$370,000); Issaquah Creek Waterways (\$350,000); Juanita Heights Park Expansion and Trail (\$250,000); SPU property Acquisition (Five Acre Woods) (\$375,000); and Thornton Creek NA: Little Brook (\$100,000). She added that there was also \$2 million in nearshore money awarded in KC.

Discussion:

- Andy Rheaume reported that \$4.5 million is still needed towards the purchase of the whole Wayne Golf Course amount of \$12 million. Terry Lavender said the CFT funding supports the part of the property that are intended to be used for other uses, beyond habitat restoration.
- Hank Myers inquired about the location of the Middle Bear Creek project. Terry explained that it's a half-mile upstream of 116th and general directly west of the Bear Creek Country Club.

7. WRIA 8 Plan Update: Status of Project & Programmatic Actions Lists.

Jason MK said he's been working on the Plan programmatic actions list with Polly, and Jason W has been updating the project list. The draft Plan update will be brought to the SRC for review at the July meeting, will be on the agenda for approval at the September meeting, and between the end of September and January 2018 members will work to seek ratification of the Plan update with your cities. He noted, as a reminder, that the Plan update is not an overhaul of the 2005 Plan, but will include 20 new and revised recovery strategies and newly adopted habitat goals to guide implementation of salmon recovery.

Project List Update:

Jason W held up volume two of the 2005 Plan, the majority of which is over 600 site-specific projects. The process for updating the project list involved a lot of housekeeping—removing duplicate references and completed projects. We also proposed to sponsors that we remove vague project

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references from the project list in order to capture them more appropriately with the recovery strategies in the updated Plan. He said we held a series of seven meetings in December to February with subbasin groups, and in those meetings we walked through the 600 projects on available lists to update them and refine them, as well as solicited new project ideas. The result is an updated list that will be closer to 300 projects. We will still have a Four-Year Work Plan process each year through which sponsors can propose new projects for the list as new concepts emerge, and we will have a web-based mapping tool for the projects based on iMap.

Land Use Actions List Update:

Jason MK said there are over 300 land use actions in the 2005 Plan, which were organized by watershed sub-basin. For the Plan update recommended land use actions will be organized around major land use categories. We won't repeat actions in each area, since the majority of actions apply watershed-wide. The streamlined list is now in the hands of the IC and will be an appendix to the Plan update.

Education and Outreach Actions List Update:

Jason MK said WRIA 8 staff met with education and outreach (E&O) staff from partner jurisdictions and organizations to pare down the long list of E&O actions. We are also using information from the results of the 2009 and 2015 programmatic implementation surveys, 2009 E&O gap analysis, and feedback from the 2016 WRIA 8 Salmon Summit.

Discussion:

- Don Gerend commented that the original Plan had 1,000 actions and a start-list, and he asked if the start-list will also be updated. Jason W explained that we are not proposing a start-list because we now have habitat goals as part of the Plan update, which are a better method of tracking projects.
- Andy Rheume asked if there will be more than a one-week meeting packet review for the draft Plan update. Jason MK said the SRC will have between July and September to review the update.
- Diane Buckshnis suggested attaching the March SRC meeting notes when the Plan update review is emailed out. Jason MK said we will write a cover memo for the draft Plan update.
- Hank Myers asked if the WRIA 8 E&O actions will be available to others. Jason MK said we will put them up on the WRIA 8 website, and he asked members to let him know if they have ideas to getting them out more broadly.
- Diane Buckshnis inquired if the team will be visiting city councils with a Plan update show and tell. Jason MK said we would be willing to do that as asked. Ted Frantz suggesting maybe providing a few slides for city councils to view.
- Andy Rheume remarked that stormwater affects this WRIA more than others. Our plan is to spend billions and billions of dollars in this watershed and never see a benefit, and we need to do something on stormwater. He said we once hoped that PSP was going to do something on stormwater but they're not. Jason MK said the Plan update is intended to make a clearer connection between salmon recovery and stormwater management.
- Diane Buckshnis said the City of Edmonds did pass stringent stormwater codes this year with Ecology. Andy Rheume said we just follow development around with no rhyme or reason.
- Noel Gilbrough said he dreams about the "perfect 10" home development, and his goal is to figure out how to make a development invisible to the system. We have an enormous problem with stormwater.

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- David Bain said our goal seems to be no-net loss, which only means we stay where we are now, with salmon runs endangered and whales with nothing to eat. He suggested saying we want 3% improvement every year.

8. Success Story: Elliott Bridge Reach Mitigation Project (Cedar River)

Megan Webb, KC In-Lieu Fee Program Manager, said the 11.5 acre Elliott Bridge Reach off-channel habitat and floodplain reconnection project is adjacent to the City of Renton, and is one of the pearls on a string that add connectivity on the river. Elliott Bridge spans both banks of the river, and by 2009 people on the right bank were very willing to never live there again due to repeating flooding.

Tom Beavers, KC Cedar River Basin Steward, reported that the right bank properties were purchased with King Conservation District (KCD) and CWM funding, and left bank properties were purchased with CFT and KCD funding. Additional funding came from SRFB and FEMA. In all 14 parcels were purchased.

Megan said the In-Lieu Fee Program allows developers to pay a fee to KC to satisfy compensatory mitigation requirements, which the county then uses to purchase property. The program, authorized in 2012, has brought in \$19 million to do work on highly degraded projects. She said on the left bank we excavated the backwater channel, enhanced and established the wetland, planted wood, and did riparian and native plantings. Since construction in 2015 salmon have been sighted. Elements of the right bank project included floodplain reconnection, wetland establishment, large wood planning, buffer enhancement and native plantings, and we have adult Chinook on the site.

Megan said Elliott Bridge reach has multiple benefits, including salmon, flood, and increased habitat. KC will do ten years of monitoring and maintenance, and earn credits back from WSDOT as we show the project is successful. There are perpetual restrictions on the property, and the river is being allowed to spread out where the houses once were. Lessons learned include: mitigation can support restoration objectives; we need to understand and address the secondary effects of instream structures; clear plans and specs are necessary; and ground water and river stage data are critical to design. She said often a mitigation project is in a static environment, but because the Cedar River is not static we had to be malleable.

Tom reported that he tended to be leery when WSDOT approached him about five years ago about doing mitigation, because in the past they wanted to do hard instead of soft projects. He said Megan worked well with the interagency review team to facilitate the approach. KC has a much larger vision for the Elliott Bridge reach and has proposed setbacks for the right and left levee banks. He said eight years ago we were unsuccessful in purchasing one of the Elliott Bridge reach properties, but now the owner is again interested and the CFT award will help move the purchase and setback forward.

Discussion:

- Don Gerend asked if salmon are spawning in the backwater channel. Megan Webb said she wasn't sure yet, but salmon do seem to be in the mouth.

9. Next Meeting:

The next Salmon Recovery Council meeting is July 20, 2017, 3:00 – 5:15 p.m., Ecology's Northwest Regional Office in Bellevue. Andy Rheame reported that Jerallyn Roetemeyer, City of Redmond, is retiring, and this is the last SRC meeting she will be attending.