

WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Meeting Notes

Department of Ecology Northwest Regional Office

July 20, 2017 3:10-5:16 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.	Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold	City of Kirkland
4.	David Bain	Sno-King Watershed Council
5.	Judy Blanco	Forterra
6.	Councilmember (CM) Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
7.	Alex Chen	City of Seattle
8.	CM Allen Dauterman	City of Newcastle
9.	Don Davidson	Washington Policy Center
10.	Jeannette Dorner	Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
11.	CM Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
12.	Mike Grady	NOAA Fisheries
13.	Garett Holbrook	King County
14.	Mike Mactutis	City of Kent
15.	Joe Miles	WA State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
16.	CM Hank Myers	City of Redmond
17.	CM Tom Odell	City of Sammamish
18.	Susan O'Neil	Long Live the Kings
19.	Deputy Mayor Dana Parnello	City of Maple Valley
20.	CM Mark Phillips	City of Lake Forest Park
21.	Stewart Reinbold	WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
22.	Charles Ruthford	Cedar River Council
23.	Jessica Saavedra	King conservation District
24.	Mayor Pro Tem Carl Scandella	City of Yarrow Point
25.	CM Jesse Solomon	City of Shoreline
26.	Ralph Svrjcek	WA Department of Ecology
Alternates Present		
27.	Kathy Minsch	City of Seattle
28.	Vivian Roach	WDNR
Others Present		
29.	Elizabeth Babcock	NOAA Fisheries
30.	Jessie Balbiani	City of Newcastle
31.	Gretchen Glaub	Snohomish County
32.	Peter Holte	City of Redmond
33.	Chuck Janovick	Nature Vision
34.	Kelli Jones	City of Kirkland
35.	Janne Kaje	King County
36.	Cailan Murray	WDNR
37.	Katie Olson	WDFW
38.	Kit Paulsen	City of Bellevue
39.	Larry Reymann	Environmental Science Center
40.	Jerallyn Roetemeyer	City of Redmond
41.	Jane Ruthford	Citizen

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42.	Susanna Stoike	Puget Sound Partnership
43.	Linda Grob	WRIA 8 Team
44.	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 Team
45.	Scott Stolnack	WRIA 8 Team
46.	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8 Team

Chair Andy Rheame opened the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meeting, inviting all attendees to introduce themselves.

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (Jason MK), Salmon Recovery Manager, announced the departure of Polly Freeman, Communications Specialist, listing the great outreach work and products she's been responsible for. Her temporary position ends in August, and he said we will likely come back to the SRC in the future to propose funding for additional outreach and communications support. Jason MK also thanked Linda Grob, Administrative Coordinator, for all her support and coordination work. He noted Linda has worked on the WRIA 8 team since Chinook salmon were listed in 1999 and she is the institutional memory for WRIA 8. Linda is retiring August 25. WRIA 8 will be hiring for the position as soon as possible.

Mike Grady reported he is leaving the SRC as NOAA's designated representative, due to a new assignment with NOAA. He praised WRIAs 8 and 9 as doing the best coordinated restoration work anywhere in the country. He introduced his replacement, Elizabeth Babcock, who will be the new NOAA representative to the SRC.

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes for May 18, 2017

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the meeting notes for the May 18, 2017 meeting.

3. Updates & Announcements

General Announcements:

Jason MK requested that SRC members review the Updates & Announcements handout, and he highlighted the following items:

- **Puget Sound Regional Update** – At the May 25, 2017 Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) meeting the Tribal Management Conference for Puget Sound proposed a series of “bold” actions/stronger priorities to include in the Chinook Implementation Strategy. The priorities lacked clarity, and Jason MK is on a subcommittee to refine and present the proposed revised actions at next week's PS SRC meeting.
- **WRIA 8 Representation at PS SRC** – John Stokes is currently the WRIA 8 representative to the PS SRC, but due to a standing conflict he can no longer attend. Diane Buckshnis has offered to be the WRIA 8 representative, and attended in the May 25 meeting to better understand the group.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved Councilmember Diane Buckshnis to serve as WRIA 8 representative to the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council.

Legislative Priorities Update –

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State: The state legislature needs to approve the capital budget by midnight tonight in order for the state salmon recovery funding programs (Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration [PSAR], Salmon Recovery Funding Board [SRFB] and Floodplains by Design) to have grant funds for this funding cycle. Jason MK said it is possible could approve a capital budget in 2018 if they do not get it done now.

- Susan O’Neil asked about the status of the state match for the federal Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). Jason Wilkinson (Jason W), Actions and Funding Coordinator, explained that an emergency designation may be possible if we don’t get the capital budget that would provide spending authority for 2017 PCSRF, but we would still need some state funding as match.

Federal: Jason MK said PCSRF is totally cut in the president’s proposed 2018 budget. In the meeting packet is a copy of the WRIA 8 letter signed by Chair Andy Rheume and Vice Chair John Stokes that was sent to the Washington State Congressional delegation requesting support for maintaining and funding PCSRF. The letter was emailed to each member of the delegation and to their chiefs of staff, and we received nearly 100% response. Jason MK said Mayor Rheume even got a phone call from Representative Derek Kilmer.

- **Ballard Locks Economic Impact Study** – The Ballard Locks is celebrating its centennial this year. At the same time its machinery and facilities are in poor and failing condition. The economic impact study, commissioned by the American Waterways Operators, Port of Seattle, and marine industry/trade groups, represents an excellent opportunity to build a partnership between maritime industry groups, commercial fishing groups, salmon recovery interests, and other stakeholders to advocate for funding for Locks repairs. John Stokes was part of the June 27 press event at the Locks where the study was publically released.
 - John Stokes commented that it was great to see all the groups together at the press event. They were mostly focused on the industrial/economic impact of the Locks, and it was important for us to be part of the story. He said it was also good to emphasize that he was from Bellevue, and the impact a failing Locks would have on the cities around Lake Washington. The other groups weren’t tuned into the disaster aspect of a failure.
 - Mike Grady said historically all the federal government and the Army Corps of Engineers were focused on was the number of boats going through the Locks and the maritime industry, which isn’t very big at the Locks, can’t compare to other areas around the country. When the Locks fail, they are likely to fail open. He said the Corps does not have a very robust response plan for a failure. The SR 520 Bridge can sink to 15 feet and would survive a Locks failure, but the I-90 Bridge will not. Light rail will start going on the I-90 Bridge in 2023, and a Locks failure will put at risk billions of dollars of transportation infrastructure. In a big seismic event the Locks will likely fail open, Lake Washington would drop 15 feet, and it would take eight months to refill and eight years to rebuild the I-90 Bridge. Mike said WRIA 8 and Lake Washington cities should work with Chris Gregoire’s Challenge Seattle Initiative, which has money and corporate sponsors, and present a proposal for rebuilding the Locks and take it to Washington, D.C.
 - Carl Scandella asked what type of seismic event we are talking about, and how many years out it would be. Mike Grady replied that he doesn’t know, but it could be tomorrow.
 - Tom Odell reported that the failing Locks was discussed at the Flood Control District (FCD) Board last week and Sound Cities Association (SCA) last month, and City of Kenmore Mayor David Baker is preparing a letter about it. CM Odell said we should work with the Puget Sound Regional Council and the City of Seattle to address the needs at the Locks.

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- Stewart Reinbold suggested also looking to work with large businesses, such as Amazon, Google, Boeing, Microsoft, even the Port of Seattle, that stand to lose a lot if the Locks fail. Jason MK said WRIA 8 will stay engaged on this topic. He said a briefing on the Locks economic impact study will be a September SRC meeting topic.
- **Salmon Counts at the Locks** – Twenty-five Chinook are through and 98,000 sockeye.
- **Lands Inventory** – Joe Miles reported that WA Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is inventorying lands in WRIA 8 and 9 where you could have public access, such as a kayak put in. He requested feedback on state lands that could use improved public access.

4. Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration – Project Subcommittee 2017 Grant Recommendations

Jason W, Actions and Funding Coordinator, reviewed the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee’s funding recommendations for SRFB and PSAR funding, and said the grant recommendations will come back before the SRC if the state budget results in modifications to available SRFB/PSAR funding. He noted that SRC member Mark Phillips participated on the Project Subcommittee for the SRFB grant round. Subcommittee’s field trip to project sites and ranking of the projects occurred May 4, 2017. The SRFB Technical Review Panel reviews the projects in December, when final approval of the grants also happens.

Total available 2017 SRFB/PSAR funding includes:

2017 SRFB & PSAR Grant Funds – WRIA 8	
2017 Funding Requested	\$983,300
2017 SRFB Allocation	\$391,711
Returned (PSAR) & Carryover (SRFB) Funds	\$590,934
Total Funding Available	\$982,645
<i>Difference</i>	(\$655)

Jason W explained that \$258,640 of the returned \$590,934 was awarded to a PSAR project in 2015 that was unable to move forward. The \$332,294 balance is SRFB funds obtained through trades with WRIA 7 and WRIA 10/12.

Jason W reviewed the two grant requests for \$983,300:

Project Name & Sponsor	Request	Recom.
Royal Arch Reach Acquisition (Seattle Public Utilities)	\$800,000	\$800,000
Issaquah Creek Instream Restoration at Lake Sammamish State Park (Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust)	\$183,300	\$182,645
Totals	\$983,300	\$982,645

The Royal Arch Reach Acquisitions proposal will acquire two parcels, which together total 11.88 acres. This acreage will add to the 14 acres of floodplain already purchased by Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). The larger of the two parcels has good riparian habitat and a side channel with fish use. The project will include the demolition of structures, in fee purchase, and some restoration work. \$800,000 fully funds this proposal.

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The Issaquah Creek Instream Restoration at Lake Sammamish State Park proposal is for design and permit consultation focused on instream restoration and large wood installation. It complements a 2017 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) awarded to Mountains to Sound Greenway to provide the majority of the funding for the design phase. If the state budget leads to less funding coming in, the award for Issaquah Creek would be reduced as long as the reduction does not exceed 10 – 15%. For a reduction greater than this range, the Project Subcommittee will be asked to consider whether a new SRC recommendation is needed.

Discussion:

- Ted Frantz asked for clarification of the returned funding amount. Jason W explained that the only part that is definitely available now and does not depend on the legislature passing a capital budget is the returned PSAR funds. CM Frantz asked what happens if only 50% of the funding comes in. Jason W said we will reengage the PSC to determine a path forward, and would come back to you at a future meeting for approval. Acquisitions are more time-sensitive, and while the options are not great, it wouldn't stop the Royal Arch project from moving forward.
- Susan O'Neil inquired if WRIA 8 could offer any of its CWM money as match if SRFB/PSAR funding isn't available. Jason MK said the feds may require that the match comes from the state. Susan said you could show your CWM match as state match.
- Jesse Solomon noted that the Royal Arch parcels are not enough to do the whole floodplain reconnection. Jason W said that is correct, but we eventually hope to get the other two parcels. He said things can change quickly with the two holdouts.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the provisional 2017 Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant recommendations.

5. Review Draft Plan Update

Jason MK said the process of updating the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan began with the Salmon Summit in February 2016. The Plan update will be an addendum to the 2005 Plan, and major changes in the update include:

- Two Chinook populations (Cedar River and Sammamish River) instead of three;
- New lifecycle-based conceptual model that prioritizes life stages to inform prioritization of actions, location, and timing;
- Numeric habitat goals for five key habitat elements versus no habitat restoration goals;
- Twenty new and updated recovery strategies that are now the driver of the Plan;
- Upper Cedar River Watershed designated Tier 1 because of significant Chinook spawning above Landsburg Dam since fish passage facilities were constructed in 2003;
- Revised and updated lists of 1) site-specific projects, 2) recommended land use actions, and 3) education and outreach action; and
- New Monitoring and Assessment Plan (MAP) to guide monitoring and reporting on implementation progress.

Jason MK briefly went over the sections of the Plan update. Recovery Goals (Section 2) includes new SRC-approved Habitat Recovery Goals, which have five key habitats and nine distinct indicators, are feasible and achievable, proxies for a larger set of habitat processes, and are near-term (2025) and long-term (2055). Current Status (Section 3) includes Chinook population status, habitat status, priority pressures, and new climate change projects and anticipated effects on WRIA 8 Chinook. Recovery Strategies (Section 4) includes 20 strategies that bring together other Plan update elements to guide

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actions, and Appendix E, quick reference information sheets describing each strategy. Implementation framework (Section 5) contains updated site specific projects (Appendix F), including the role of mitigation, updated land use actions (Appendix H), and updated education and outreach actions (Appendix I). Adaptive Management (Section 6) includes goal 'triggers' (halfway to achieving goals by 2020), effectiveness of projects, WRIA 8 committee process to assess information and develop recommendations for the SRC, and regular reporting (annually for fish #s, every five years for habitat conditions). The MAP (Appendix A) addresses implementation monitoring, effectiveness monitoring, habitat status and trends monitoring, Chinook status and trends monitoring, and emerging issues assessment. He listed all nine appendices, which he said will be linked separately on the WRIA 8 web page for comment.

Jason MK went over the review/approval schedule and dates:

- July 20 – Aug 18, 2017: Open review/comment period by WRIA 8 partners and interested parties.
- August 18: Comments due to WRIA 8.
- August 21 – September 13: WRIA 8 staff will integrate comments and produce a final draft.
- September 14: Distribute final draft Plan update to SRC for review as part of meeting packet.
- September 21: Approval of final draft Plan update at SRC meeting.
- End of September – March 2018: WRIA 8 ILA partners ratify 2017 Plan.

Jason MK said we are revising the template resolution that was used in 2005 for ratifying the original Plan. Federal government approval will include a WRIA 8 SRC letter to NOAA, with the expectation of a NOAA letter of acknowledgement and support for ongoing implementation.

Discussion:

- Elizabeth Babcock said NOAA will send a letter once the Plan update is approved, and is also planning to create a "live" webpage where you can put in your updates as chapters.
- Diane Buckshnis remarked that she is figuring out how to roll out the Plan update to the Edmonds City Council, and said she hoped WRIA 8 is not planning on asking the City of Edmonds attorney to approve it. Jason MK replied that is up to each WRIA 8 partner. CM Buckshnis said she didn't think the attorney needs to approve.
- Andy Rheume asked if there will be a final draft Plan update for SRC members to take to our councils. Jason MK said yes.
- Diane Buckshnis asked if the resolution would be for the approval from our council. Jason MK said it would be.
- Carl Scandella commented that we've now had 12 years since the 2005 Plan, and spent significant resources. He noted that nobody gave us a rule book for how to do salmon recovery. Jason MK responded that the Plan update should do that. He said we want to emphasize that the update doesn't replace the 2005 Plan but reflects new information. This is always looked to as a model.
- Hank Myers said he thinks City of Redmond staff are going to do an exceptional job presenting the Plan update to our council. He said he hopes the MAP will not provide an extra level of steps as we move forward. Jason MK said he thinks the MAP documents what we are already doing and not a whole new process.
- Jay Arnold said this is a great opportunity to educate our council, and he asked when Appendix H will it be out. Jason MK replied that it is out now as a separate appendix on the WRIA 8 webpage. CM Arnold asked how strict the recommendations are. Jason MK said they are not specific, like at the parcel level, and are intended to be guidance.

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- Diane Buckshnis noted that the previous approved resolutions were included in the final 2005 Plan. Jason MK noted that if 100% of jurisdictions don't approve the Plan update it will still be the approved WRIA 8 Plan.
- Ted Frantz asked if there will be a redline version to show changes to the Plan update. Jason MK responded that the WRIA 8 Team will compile a table of comments, but a redline version will not be provided.
- Tom Odell said his council is going to ask for the financial impact of some of the land use actions. Jason MK said there are none, it's just guidance.
- Mike Grady thanked Jason MK and team for the really great work. He said it might be helpful to have a small group come up with talking points for presenting the Plan update to the councils. Jason MK agreed, and said we will also put together a small Power Point presentation for the councils.

6. Success Story: Students Learn About Bear Creek Smolt Trap

Peter Holte, City of Redmond said this is a three-part project. Redmond has been taking staff members and the city council to look at the Bear Creek smolt trap. He said we wondered if there were kids who could walk from their school to the site to see the smolt trap, and he reached out to Nature Vision.

Katie Olson, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), explained that WRIA 8 is now our sole funding source for the smolt trap, which has been in Bear Creek since 1999. She said there are very few places in Washington where we have this setup, and we actually catch about 40% of the salmon because Bear Creek is very small. Bear Creek is also important because we pit tag fish at the smolt trap.

Chuck Janovick, Nature Vision, said Peter asked if we had students we could invite to see the trap, and we found a school within walking distance. Students didn't know anything about the creek, including that there were fish in it, and an opportunity like this builds awareness that they can take home to their families and others. He said we reached out to four classes of 4th and 5th graders, ended up with 100 students, taking 25 at a time over two days. The students loved walking over the bridge with no railing, saw lots of fish, and it was a huge success. We broke each class into two smaller groups, collected aquatic invertebrates, than Katie got to show them real fish.

Katie Olson said we started with little resident fish, and caught 19 species and one beaver. We had a brown headed catfish that jumped out of the tank onto the table, which was so exciting. We also caught stickleback, which are predators on Chinook. She said the students definitely made a personal connection.

Chuck Janovick said we first build a sense of awe, which can lead to life-long stewardship. Now students will talk about the field trip where they walked to the creek for years and years. Teachers found it very valuable and will want to do it again. He reported we were able to do it with a tiny budget, and he passed around thank-you cards from the students.

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Discussion:

- Dana Parnello asked what age range Nature Vision serves. Chuck Janovick said pre-K to 12.
- Hank Myers noted that Bear Creek is an urban stream and well accessible. He said he is hoping we can scale up the field trips, and knows we have seven electeds who would be interested in attending. Peter Holte said this was the pilot year.
- Katie Olson said WDFW lost funding, so she is not sure what will happen next year.
- Mike Grady asked if the Redmond school raises fish. Katie said they raised 100 Chinook, and students asked where their fish were in the stream.
- Katie said we are seasonably limited. Our trap is operating to the end of July, and we see the most fish and variety in April to May.
- Tom Odell asked if she sees any kokanee at the smolt trap. Katie said we caught a few. CM Odell said it might be good idea to put you guys together with the Kokanee Work Group's outreach and education group.

7. Next Meeting:

The next Salmon Recovery Council meeting is September 21, 2017, 3:00 – 5:15 p.m., Ecology's Northwest Regional Office in Bellevue.