

WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes
Department of Ecology Northwest Regional Office || November 16, 2017 3:10-4:58 p.m.

Members Present		
#	Name	Affiliation
1)	Mayor Andy Rheaume, Chair	City of Bothell
2)	Elizabeth Babcock	NOAA Fisheries
3)	Tor Bell	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
4)	CM Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
5)	Don Davidson	Washington Policy Center
6)	CM Bruce Dodds	City of Clyde Hill
7)	CM Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
8)	Noel Gilbrough	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group (MSFEG)
9)	Joe Miles	WA State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
10)	Kathy Minsch	City of Seattle
11)	CM Salim Nice	City of Mercer Island
12)	Deputy Mayor Dana Parnello	City of Maple Valley
13)	CM Mark Phillips	City of Lake Forest Park
14)	Charles Ruthford	Cedar River Council
15)	CM Jesse Salomon	City of Shoreline
16)	Mayor Pro Tem Carl Scandella	City of Yarrow Point
Alternates Present		
17)	David Bain	Sno-King Watershed Council
18)	Alex Chen	City of Seattle
19)	Jeannette Dorner	MSFEG
20)	Garrett Holbrook	King County
21)	Bill Knutsen	King Conservation District
22)	Susan O'Neil	Long Live the Kings
Others Present		
23)	Joanna Buehler	Save Lake Sammamish
24)	Danika Globokar	City of Sammamish
25)	Maggie Glowack	City of Seattle
26)	Peter Holte	City of Redmond
27)	Kelli Jones	City of Kirkland
28)	Mike Lisitza	NOAA
29)	Megan Moore	King County
30)	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 Team
31)	Cailan Nealer	WDNR
32)	Kit Paulsen	City of Bellevue
33)	Larry Reymann	Environmental Science Center
34)	Scott Stolnack	WRIA 8 Team
35)	Ron Straka	City of Renton
36)	Bill Way	Citizen
37)	Megan Webb	King County
38)	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8 Team

I) Call to Order / Introductions

SRC Chair Andy Rheaume called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm.

II) Public Comment

Bill Way and Joanna Buehler, citizens living on Lake Sammamish, each voiced concerns on the “Dock and Pier Integrated Restoration and Permitting” program on today’s meeting agenda. They are concerned the program is an “abandonment” on enforcing mitigation and preservation efforts on private shorelines on Lakes Washington and Sammamish, which are important to juvenile salmon.

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III) Approval of Meeting Notes for September 21, 2017 (Decision)

Diane Buckshnis motioned to approve the SRC meeting notes for September 21, 2017. The meeting notes were approved unanimously.

IV) Updates & Announcements

- **Puget Sound Partnership:** Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz discussed Puget Sound Partnership's current call for near-term action (NTA) proposals. The goal is to identify potential projects related to Puget Sound recovery. Jason said salmon recovery projects on the Four-Year Work Plan will be captured in the 2018 Action Agenda, but individual salmon projects will not automatically be considered NTAs. WRIA 8 staff have submitted proposals on the Ballard Locks infrastructure repairs, Ship Canal temperature, and Sammamish River temperature, but there may be other topics to consider. He noted that NTA funding tends to not support capital projects, but projects of a more programmatic and regulatory nature.
- **2018 SRC Meeting Schedule:** Jason M-K reviewed the enclosed 2018 SRC meeting schedule. Meetings will be at Mercer Island Community Center, except May's meeting, to be held at Kirkland City Hall. Normal day and time are unchanged. Jason thanked Mercer Island Councilmember, Salim Nice for helping coordinate this arrangement.
- **WRIA 8 Plan Update and Common Resolution for Partner Ratification:** Jason M-K said the finalized Plan update is being distributed digitally as well as to SRC members and local government partners in hard copy. The common resolution, available in today's meeting packet, is recommended for jurisdictions to use to ratify the plan update by March 2018. Jason will formally email a Word version of the resolution by next week. He noted that the project list has been revised by Jason Wilkinson and project partners, to make projects more specific and clear. The project list is intended to be a working list and updates will be made periodically.
- **WRIA 8 Letter re: Locks Priority Repairs:** Jason M-K said a revised draft of the WRIA 8 letter is included in today's meeting packet. He said many suggestions from the September meeting discussion were incorporated. The letter was sent to the Washington state Congressional delegation, and good feedback is being received thus far. It was asked if the Alaska Congressional delegation as well as impacted businesses had received the letter. Jason said he would look into this.
- **WRIA 8 Annual Salmon Tour:** Jason M-K praised the recent tour, saying there had been unseasonably good weather and the tour had been enjoyed by all. He stressed while there was good attendance from various partners, there is still a need to get more state/federal legislators to attend. He said one idea for future tours is to offer more targeted/smaller events, with larger tours every other year. Such a schedule would allow projects to visibly mature. He requested SRC feedback on options. Chair Andy Rheaume noted only two local elected officials attended the tour, which may signal this is not convenient for them, and that there should be more in-depth discussion on this matter.
- **Fish Returns:** Jason M-K reported that fish counts indicate 2017 has been a good year for Chinook in WRIA 8 and the Cedar River in particular, as this was possibly the river's second largest run of Chinook since 2000. He said this should serve as a reminder that ongoing restoration efforts can make a difference.

V) Routine Consent Agenda Decision Items (Decision)

- **Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Funding Guidance:** Jason M-K directed attention to the consent agenda items presented in a memo in today's meeting packet, which describes and recommends "status quo" funding guidance from the SRC for Flood Control District CWM funding allocation.
- **Four-Year Work Plan Update Recommendations:** Another memo in the meeting packet described three recommended project additions to the Four-Year Work Plan by the Technical Committee.

A motion was made to approve the Routine Consent Agenda items. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Chair Rheaume suggested including approval of prior meeting notes as "Routine Consent Agenda" decision items in the future, as this seems to streamline the meeting process. There was general consensus approval for this idea.

VI) 2018 WRIA 8 Legislative Priorities (Decision)

Jason M-K reviewed 2018 state and federal legislative priorities for Puget Sound Watershed Health and Salmon Habitat Recovery, for the WRIA 8 partners. The list is included in today's meeting packet. Jason highlighted several changes between this list and prior versions.

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At the federal level, the main addition was requested funding support for infrastructure updates and repairs at the Ballard Locks. On the state level, additions included: 1) a request from the Implementation Committee to include the Stormwater Financial Assistance Program; 2) a blanket statement that regulatory protections for habitat areas will be supported; 3) exploration of legislative opportunities to provide immunity from liability for entities that place large wood as part of restoration projects; and 4) consideration of support for stronger restrictions or a ban on non-native salmon net pen aquaculture in Puget Sound. Jason noted that King County is also considering a ban of net pens in its SMP implementation; he is tracking this development.

Mark Phillips suggested adding a federal “green” infrastructure bill, offering tax incentives to entities for green designs for stormwater and other aspects. Jason requested Mark send him information on the bill so he can follow up.

Diane Buckshnis motioned to approve the legislative priorities as listed. Ted Frantz seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

VII) Dock and Pier Integrated Restoration and Permitting Program (IRPP) for Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish (Presentation)

Elizabeth Babcock introduced a presentation on the new IRPP, a collaboration between National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and King County, to conserve and protect shorelines on Lake Sammamish and Lake Washington from man-made structures and developments. The program was designed in response to a desire to streamline the paperwork process and increase return on conservation investments. Mike Lisitza, an NMFS contractor for NOAA, said the question they asked was how to have a more programmatic approach to this with conservation benefits attached. He noted though this program has only been in place since June 2017, early results are very promising.

Mike explained that WRIA 8, with 2,700 docks on Lake Washington and 900 on Lake Sammamish, represents 40% of the program’s workload. His task is to set up a program to efficiently handle this load while accounting for state and local regulations, as well as procedures from US Army Corps of Engineers and local tribes. Development projects falling under this program include new docks and dock repairs, repairing and pulling back bulkheads, and new/replaced boat lifts. He said these projects, with the exception of some Parks projects, have been primarily residential in nature.

His solution was a voluntary exchange program: applicants must comply with minimum project standards, pay a fee, or implement another form of mitigation/conservation to offset their impacts. A main example given was that if someone’s pier is too low and casting sharp shadows on the water (which impacts salmon migration habits), they must either bring their dock into compliance, pay conservation fees, or plant more vegetation in a designated area.

Mike further explained that since its start, the program has had 80 applicants, 30 of whom are approved so far. Efforts have resulted in almost 1,000 square feet of over-water cover being removed, including: elevation and narrowing of walkways, and pulling back bulkheads from the ordinary high water mark to create “pocket” beaches. Nearly \$54K in conservation fees is currently due to King County. He described the program as a success so far. Elizabeth noted that in terms of efficiency, paperwork had been reduced from the usual 7-10 page letter or 25 page opinion, to a single page form; turnaround time on the application process has been condensed from six months to a few weeks.

Megan Webb of King County’s Mitigation Reserves Program (MRP) explained the MRP and its role with the IRPP. She said MRP is a federally authorized program, with an inter-local agreement with NMFS to collect fees involved in the IRPP application process, such as consent decrees, administrative proceedings, and directives.

She said \$2,550 in conservation fees have been collected from Lake Washington to date. Fees from Lake Sammamish are part of a \$38K total pending collection due to awaiting a Corps permit. The fees are being utilized to: prioritize projects with regulators and tribes; and for acquisitions, implementation, and supplemental funding, all for lake shorelines and tributaries up to the first road crossing point. She said funding allocation is prioritized based on what can be done in the lakes that is good for the fish. Funds from Lake Washington will go to Lake Washington projects, and Lake Sammamish funds will go to Lake Sammamish projects.

Discussion and questions followed, largely concerning implementation of the fees and the receptiveness of people to participating in the program. Mike explained the fees are based on square footage, with higher fees for larger size classifications. He also said fees were determined by finding a “sweet spot” between incentivizing participation, and making non-compliance unappealing. He said that while some people do opt to pay the fee, most prefer to look at what they can do to reduce that fee. Regarding enforcement of participation, he said much of this is dependent on the level of shoreline permitting required by a jurisdiction, but that WDFW does more site visits and he’d have to consult with them further. He noted there are plans for follow-up and monitoring to ensure participants are holding to requirements.

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VIII) Recommended Investments in Technical and Programmatic Priorities

Jason M-K reviewed a series of proposed recommended investments for technical/programmatic priorities, using a \$185K balance in existing carry-forward funds in the 2018 WRIA 8 budget. The list included 1) Tier 1 and 2 stream wood surveys at \$60K, 2) Cedar/Sammamish river wood surveys at \$30K, 3) Phase 1 of a Ship Canal temperature study at \$25K-50K, and 4) hiring of part-time staff to conduct outreach and communications services at \$50K. He asked the SRC for their feedback on these recommendations.

Scott Stolnack, WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator, confirmed the allocation figures were budgeted based on projected salaries of full-time employees (FTE), but that there is potential to partner with other agencies to share costs and reduce WRIA 8 contributions. There was some discussion about how wood in the rivers would be classified and documented. Mr. Stolnack said that all wood is classified according to nine designated size classes, but that volume is only one of 2-3 key indicators used. He also stated aerial surveys, due to canopy cover and other visibility problems, are not an accurate way to track wood amounts. Jason reiterated that the intent is to seek partnerships to cost-share the wood surveys among multiple partner entities.

Jason explained the Ship Canal temperature study is meant to more clearly define the long-known problem (of high water temperatures in the canal impacting salmonids) and consolidate pertinent information to put further pressure on the Corps of Engineers to address the issue. Charles Ruthford asked if this was simply re-packaging the same issue as before and whether this would prompt any more action. Jason replied that the Corps has shown stronger motivation to act when matching funds have been identified. He also said the likely timeframe for this particular proposal is one year, perhaps sooner if needed. Jason thanked the SRC for the feedback and noted that staff would revise the recommendations and bring them back to the Council for decision in January.

IX) Success Story: Forest and Fins Education Program (Presentation)

Tor Bell presented on the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust's (MSGT) "Forest and Fins" student education program. He noted that MSGT includes nearly all of WRIA 8, and was founded on a principle that this landscape is an excellent opportunity to provide environmental education. In the late 1990s MSGT developed four educational curricula, one of which is called "Forest and Fins."

The program offers students the opportunity to go deep into the topic of what makes healthy salmon habitat, and be "junior scientists": taking samples, assessing stream quality, measuring, and more. Additional field trips also focus on weed removal and tree planting. Students get up to 10 field hours in a month-long period. They are also given workbooks to complete, which are later graded. The program stresses the importance of exposing students to environmental issues so they can pass the knowledge on to parents and others.

The "Forest and Fins" program involves an introductory lesson, in-class lesson, field study trip, and stewardship events. Tor explained that many of the 6,000 students who have been through the program since 2010 are struggling in science and have not had many outdoor experiences. Many are also enrolled in their school's free and reduced lunch assistance program, which made it important to offer the program to schools at a low cost. The program is offered in partnership with WRIA 8 school districts and other entities, and visits areas such as Tiger Mountain and Lake Sammamish State Park.

Tor said the program is a great opportunity to educate kids, and thanked WRIA 8 for its support.

X) Next Meeting

The next SRC meeting is January 18, 2018, 3:00 – 5:15 pm, at the Mercer Island Community Center.

The November 16, 2017 meeting of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council adjourned at 4:58 pm.