

**Draft Meeting Summary**  
 WRIA 8 Technical Committee  
 August 14, 1:00 – 4:00 pm  
[King Street Center](#) - 201 S Jackson St., Seattle

Attendance

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Mary Bhuthimethee	NOAA/NMFS
Elizabeth Butler	Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
David Graves	Seattle Parks
Mike Lisitza	NOAA/NMFS
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8
Cleo Neculae	Washington State Department of Ecology
Kit Paulsen	City of Bellevue
Alison Pieper	Army Corps of Engineers
Rob Plotnikoff	Snohomish County
Allen Quynn	City of Issaquah
Ezekiel Rohloff	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Lauren Urgenson	WRIA 8
Carol Volk	Seattle Public Utilities
Katie Whitlock	Army Corps of Engineers
Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8
<i>Be'er Sheva Project Group</i>	
Jim Keller	Site Workshop
Jenny Frankl	Seattle Neighborhood Group
Bill Pickard	Rainier Beach Institute
David Graves	Seattle Parks

Meeting Summary

**1. Introductions/Updates**

We opened the meeting with introductions and reviewed the agenda. The Committee discussed updates from partners around the watershed.

**2. Technical Committee Purpose and Objectives**

The Committee reviewed a draft purpose statement and series of objectives. The purpose and objectives document will serve as a record of agreed upon Committee roles and responsibilities to communicate who we are and what we do.

*Discussion*

- Add statement of why salmon recovery is important to the purpose statement.

- Committee intends to be broader than Chinook, to consider issues important to multiple species.
- Objectives #3, 4, and 5 could nest under Objective #2.
- For Objective #4 re: Committee role on advising projects, policies, and regulations, the focus should be on implementation of the WRIA 8 Plan and not on the individual jurisdictional scale.
- In Objective #4, Committee should consider support for both 1) potential projects, and 2) funding projects.
- Consider developing a companion list of priority Committee topic areas.
- Consider including regular technical updates to the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council.
- Objective #6 seems duplicative – consider combining with #7.
- Consider rephrasing Objective #7, to state the Committee “provides a forum for coordinating, information sharing on projects and programs to inform...

#### *Next Steps*

- Lauren Urgenson, WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator, will incorporate suggested changes and send a revised document to the Committee for review.
- Request to send any additional feedback on the purpose and objectives document to Lauren by email (lurgenson@kingcounty.gov).
- We did not have time to review the annual work plan and will revisit this topic at a future meeting.

### **3. 2019 Stream Wood Survey**

Issaquah Creek and Evans Creek were not part of the 2018 baseline stream wood survey, which piggy-backed on the adult spawner surveys (neither creek is part of the spawner surveys). WRIA 8 is working with King County and WDFW to survey Issaquah Creek this summer, from SR18 to the mouth. The Committee discussed whether a wood survey on Evans Creek should be conducted.

#### *Discussion*

- WDFW fish presence maps indicate Chinook presence in the first 2.8 stream miles.
- Redmond plans to initiate restoration/relocation of lower Evans Creek in 2022/23.
- No ongoing work in Evans Creek to leverage for access, making that a significant challenge.
- Evans Creek is different than most other WRIA 8 stream systems. It is relatively low gradient and is not likely to transport wood.
- The wood volume goal may not match the stream conditions in Evans Creek.
- The Committee agreed it did not make sense to conduct a wood survey in Evans Creek this year, and that the tier designation for Evans Creek should be reviewed.

#### *Next Steps*

- We will revisit discussion of Evans Creek at our next meeting as part of a broader review of WRIA 8 tier criteria and their application.

#### **4. WRIA 8 Habitat Tier Map**

The Tier map in the 2017 WRIA 8 Plan update classified the upper Cedar River and portions of the watershed around the Cedar River as Tier 1. The Committee reviewed the Tier map and considered whether this classification should be adjusted.

#### *Discussion*

- Given uncertainty re: the tier criteria and their application, WRIA 8 staff will bring original tier criteria to a future meeting for review. We will revisit this topic to determine if tier designations for the upper Cedar River, Evans Creek, etc. should be adjusted and if so, how.

#### *Next Steps*

- Revisit discussion of habitat tiers and map at the next Committee meeting in the context of reviewing WRIA 8 tier criteria and their application.

#### **5. Lake Washington Ship Canal Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen – State of Knowledge Synthesis**

Addressing effects of elevated temperature and low dissolved oxygen in the Ship Canal on salmon migration and survival are a WRIA 8 priority. Lauren Urgenson presented a draft summary of existing data and information on temperature and dissolved oxygen impacts to salmon. The Committee discussed:

- 1) What's the most compelling story considering available data?
- 2) Are there key information gaps?
- 3) Project goals and objectives – When, where, how long, and by how much do conditions need to change?
- 4) Next steps

#### *Discussion*

- Additional resources to include in the data synthesis:
  - King County report on increasing lake temperature trends (indicating increase in temperature is climate change related and not just local conditions)
  - Corps water quality temperature and dissolved oxygen model
- What are drivers of temperature in the Ship Canal?
  - Discussion of acute temperature changes should consider episodic shock from runoff related to summer storm events – Ship Canal temperature may not be just influenced by the Lake WA thermocline.
  - Consider potential cold water inputs/sources – opportunities for built environment to cool water.
- As part of an adult salmon bioenergetics model, consider impacts of temperature on egg viability.
- Consider effects of temperature on disease susceptibility in goal development.

- Understand what depth Chinook use in Lake WA, and whether they are accessing cold water.
- Consider developing a time series of fish presence by life stage, to inform when temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions are important for salmon.
- This synthesis would be useful as a “best available science” document for partners to reference.
- Identify the specific purpose of this document and the intended audience?
  - Inform a common understanding of the issue
  - Gather and summarize available information in a single location
  - Engage and activate partners
  - Identify data gaps and key information needs

*Next Steps*

- Lauren will continue to draft the LWSC State of Knowledge Report with ongoing Committee involvement.

**6. Project Review – Be’er Sheva Park Shoreline**

The Committee heard a project overview for park enhancements—including shoreline and riparian improvements—along Lake Washington at Be’er Sheva Park. The park is the site of Seattle Public Utilities’ Mapes Creek Daylighting project, implemented with WRIA 8 support in 2014. The current project’s purpose is primarily to improve recreational aspects of the park, including removal of the existing bulkhead and enhancement of the public beach. The community group sponsoring the project presented the concept and design to the Committee for feedback on what and how salmon habitat restoration elements could be integrated.

*Discussion*

- All work currently proposed is located above the ordinary high water mark to avoid triggering permitting that might delay the project. However, the project team was open to design considerations below the ordinary high water mark if those elements increase the likelihood of securing salmon habitat restoration funding.
- Plan to remove the rock bulkhead and create a fish mix gravel beach – not intended to be a swimming beach.
- The design could be strengthened from a salmon habitat perspective in the following ways:
  - Consider opportunities to add thermal refugia along the shoreline.
  - Open up the mouth of Mapes Creek – remove the hard edge on the south side of the creek mouth and use plantings as a deterrent to human access into the creek.
  - Add pockets of vegetation along the beach – to establish overhanging vegetation as refuge and food source for fish.
  - Add wood/rock below ordinary high water mark to increase shoreline complexity, but avoid designing in a way that provides habitat for predators, like bass.

- Add additional infill plantings in the Mapes Creek riparian area to enhance existing plantings (especially willows).
- Streamlined and programmatic permit options may exist for this kind of habitat restoration work.

**7. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.**