

WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum Meeting Summary

Renton City Hall

August 13, 2015, 4:05–6:35 p.m.

Members/Jurisdictional Staff Alternates Present		
1.	Councilmember (CM) Marlla Mhoon, Meeting Chair	City of Auburn
2.	CM Bill Peloza, Co-Chair	City of Covington
3.	Brian Anderson	The Boeing Co.
4.	CM Sally Bagshaw	City of Seattle
5.	Al Barrie	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group (MSFEG)
6.	Katy Buck	King County
7.	CM Kathryn Campbell	City of SeaTac
8.	Jay Covington	City of Renton
9.	CM Bob Edgar	City of Burien
10.	Dave Garland	WA Dept. of Ecology
11.	Matt Goehring	WA Dept. of Natural Resources
12.	Mike Mactutis	City of Kent
13.	Tyler Patterson	Tacoma Water
14.	James Rasmussen	Green Duwamish Alliance
15.	Stewart Reinbold	WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
16.	CM Dennis Robertson	City of Tukwila
Other Alternates Present		
17.	Noel Gilbrough	MSFEG
18.	Andrea Jindrich	MSFEG
19.	Kathy Minsch	City of Seattle
20.	Ron Straka	City of Renton
Other Attendees		
21.	Elizabeth Butler	Recreation and Conservation Office
22.	Christine Floschl	Seahurst Park Environmental Science Center
23.	Matt Knox	City of Kent
24.	Terry Lavender	Conservation Futures (CFT) Citizens' Committee
25.	Tara Luckie	Seahurst Park Environmental Science Center
26.	Joan McGilton	Citizen
27.	Ikuno Masterson	Regional Open Space Strategy
28.	Steve Roemer	City of Burien
29.	Jenna Wallis	City of Auburn
30.	Jean White	King County
31.	Christy X	Filmmaker
32.	Karen Bergeron	WRIA 9 Habitat Project Coordinator
33.	Linda Grob	WRIA 9 Administrative Coordinator
34.	Maureen Judge	WRIA 9 Communications Coordinator
35.	Elissa Ostergaard	WRIA 9 Planning & Stewardship Coordinator
36.	Doug Osterman	WRIA 9 Watershed Coordinator

Meeting Chair Marlla Mhoon opened the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) meeting, and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

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2. Approval of Meeting Summary

Bob Edgar asked about the contingent title change to “Watershed Director” for the Watershed Coordinator position. Dennis Robertson said it’s in process in the King County (KC) Department of Natural Resources & Parks Director’s Office to change the title to “Watershed Manager”.

The Watershed Ecosystem Forum unanimously approved the meeting summary for the May 14, 2015 meeting.

3. Green/Duwamish Watershed Regional Open Space Strategy & Integration with WRIA 9/Salmon Habitat Planning Implementation

Ikuno Masterson, Senior Planner, Regional Open Space Strategy (ROSS), said the ROSS is a collaborative effort to integrate activities underway to conserve and enhance the ecological, economic, recreational, and aesthetic vitality of four counties and eight watersheds across central Puget Sound. ROSS and its 35-member board will provide a framework to identify priorities for five key challenges where open space plays a critical role: climate change, biodiversity, social equity, human health, and economic health. She said the ROSS approach is to build a regional open space system, expand on analytical tools, build a regional community, advance the most important projects, and improve regional decision-making.

Doug Osterman, Watershed Coordinator, reported that he has shared with Ikuno everything going on in WRIA 9, and he expects ROSS will fill in the gaps and have synergy with our efforts. He said they know about our accomplishments to date and have them in their database, and coordinating with ROSS is something we will be working on over the next year.

Ikuno said a project objective for the Green/Duwamish Watershed Strategy is to evaluate and communicate the benefits of open space. It will include a GIS web portal to provide information on multi-benefits. The Green/Duwamish ROSS is one piece of the big ROSS umbrella, similar to ROSS’s done in the Sammamish and Pierce County, and the one being done now in the Snohomish.

Doug Osterman noted that analysis, equity and social justice (ESJ) are a justification for funding. Ikuno Masterson said there will be multiple benefits for a particular project, including how it benefits the underserved.

Discussion:

- Al Barrie inquired if there is tribal participation in the ROSS, because there are many tribes in the area with casinos and lots of money. Ikuno Masterson replied not yet, but Terry Williams is on the Executive Committee.
- Marlla Mhoon requested a ROSS definition of ESJ. Ikuno said the ROSS ESJ plan will be layered on existing WRIA plans. ESJ areas most in need are the same areas where the river needs the most attention, as seen on the GIS web portal map. For example, tree numbers are important because more trees are associated with higher incomes and longer lifespans. Life expectancy is ten years less in the 98108 zip code, and asthma rates are higher in Georgetown and South Park.
- James Rasmussen said the Duwamish is not just the most difficult place to do habitat, but it is a superfund site with ESJ issues, and one of the first areas that will be inundated by climate change.
- Jay Covington cautioned against repeating the work we’ve already done, because we don’t want to do a reorientation. He requested ROSS look at our work and our Salmon Habitat Plan. We know what we want to do and need \$600 million dollars to do it. He said there are so many groups studying this area it gets wearying, and no one wants to spend more time at meetings.

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- Dennis Robertson agreed, saying it's getting more than a little crazy and somebody in a leadership position has to recognize that.
- Sally Bagshaw said she hopes next year Seattle will bring together an environmental committee that will work on figuring out how to solve environmental problems (climate change, etc.) with what we already know. She said she thinks this is an opportunity for us to take a different approach. Doug Osterman asked if Seattle City Light would be involved. CM Bagshaw said she hopes so and also Seattle Public Utilities.

WRIA 9 Topics of Interest **2015 Capital Project Funding, Implementation & Lessons Learned:**

Karen Bergeron, Habitat Projects Coordinator, went over the lessons learned of several completed projects based on the WRIA 9 project technical review, including:

- Fenster Levee Setback: More attention needs to be paid to preserving trees on site during construction. Soil compaction is important, and an open house and community involvement are key. Large angular rock was revealed after the high flows and the project sponsor went immediately back the following week and removed the large rock using funds still remaining in the grant award
- Lones/Turley Levee Setback: Engage the agriculture community and local homeowners early on.
- Riverview Park: Kent might need to go back and tweak the site through adaptive management. The project could create holes for fish/holes for cooler water. The side channel has high salmon density, and is one of the best sites for juvenile fish connectivity. Use knowledge learned through this project to inform new projects downstream.
- Mill Creek – Leber Restoration: The project has the right arrangement of plant species, and Kent will look at adding more conifers depending upon survival

Elizabeth Butler, Recreation and Conservation Office, said WRIA 9 has a different project approach than other watersheds, with a pre-ranked list of projects and no solicitation of RFPs. She said she discussed the project process with Steve Roemer, Burien, and Matt Knox, Kent, two sponsors who received grants, and they applauded the way it works in WRIA 9 and not having to write grants over and over.

Discussion:

- Sally Bagshaw commented that we are all supposed to be cutting back water use by 10%. Tyler Patterson reported that the temperature is around 20°C in Little Soos Creek when 16°C is ideal. CM Bagshaw asked what we can do. Tyler responded we need more water in the river and shade.
- Maureen Judge, Communications Coordinator, announced we are crafting an Op Ed for WRIAs 8/9 and the Snoqualmie Watershed to raise awareness for the public using the great temperature/flow information that KC is producing.

Highlights of the 2015 Yellow Bus Tour (YBT):

Maureen Judge asked WEF members to take a 2014 WRIA 9 Collaboration & Accomplishments handout, which was prepared at that request of Dennis Robertson. She noted that the partners should have all received the link to the WRIA 9 implementation survey, which we would like returned by September. She singled out Mike Mactutis for Kent, and Tyler Patterson for Tacoma Water, whose surveys are already done.

Maureen reported that 56 people attended the Yellow Bus Tour, including staff from Senator Murray's, Representative Smith's and Representative Reichert's offices. Two of the great highlights of the tour were the team of kids from the Duwamish Valley Youth Corps at Waterway Park, and "swampthing" Mark Powell coming out of the river while they were speaking. The tour ended with the Duwamish Revealed

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cargo structure art installation. She requested folks send her suggestions for next year's tour. Everyone applauded Maureen for the hard work on the tour.

Discussion:

- James Rasmussen asked how projects can be included as accomplishments that are not WRIA 9 projects. He said he would like to get recognition for Brian Anderson for Boeing Plant 2. Doug Osterman explained it will all count towards the goals of the Salmon Habitat Plan.
- Dennis Robertson said let's redo the Collaboration & Accomplishments document to show everything that's happening, even projects not done by WRIA 9. Marlla Mhoon suggested maybe listing them as "other projects".
- Bill Peloza asked for clarification for what "conversations on beach dates" means under Education on the handout. Joan McGilton, Citizen, former Management Committee Chair, explained that they are part of the Beach Naturalists program, which trains volunteers to provide information/interact with the public on certain days.

Seahurst Park Shoreline Restoration Project Video:

Marlla Mhoon welcomed Tara Luckie, Executive Director, Environmental Science Center (ESC), who introduced the video "Local Treasure". Tara thanked the City of Burien and Steve Roemer of Burien Parks, Seattle Aquarium, WRIA 9, King County, The Army Corps of Engineers, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), and especially former Burien Mayor Joan McGilton, who played a huge part. The ESC's Salmon Heroes program is supported by WRIA 9 and the KC Flood Control District. She said the video is on our website: <http://envsciencecenter.org/films/>.

Discussion:

- Joan McGilton asked which schools are served by the ESC education programs. Tara Luckie said the Highline, Renton and Tukwila schools. All the Salmon Heroes programs are free or at a reduced cost, and transportation is provided. She said a lot of these kids have never been to the beach before and seen a salmon stream, and once they do they are very excited.

Marlla Mhoon and Bill Peloza presented Joan McGilton with a framed WRIA 9 "Chinooky" award and a giant chocolate salmon donated by Gosanko chocolates in Auburn.

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4. WRIA 9 Interlocal Agreement (ILA) Renewal

Doug Osterman announced that six cities have approved the 2016-2025 ILA. He asked staff to please return your cities' original signed ILA signature sheets to Linda Grob, Administrative Coordinator.

5. 2015 Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) and King County Parks Levy Grant Award Recommendations

Terry Lavender, Chair, Conservations Futures (CFT) Citizens' Committee reported on the committee's CFT and KC Parks Levy recommendations in WRIA 9. 46 applications throughout the county were recommended for funding, out of a total of 51 overall. The project list now goes to the KC Council, and then County Executive Dow Constantine for approval. She showed slides of several of the projects in WRIA 9, including South Covington Park/Jenkins Creek Trail (Covington), Lower Newaukum Creek (KC), Middle Newaukum Creek/Big Spring Creek (KC), and Soos Creek Park Addition (KC). She said the committee liked the Re-Greening the Green project (KC), which is matched by WRIA 9 and Boeing. The total amount awarded in WRIA 9 was \$2 million.

6. WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan Update Strategy

Using a wall-sized, hand-drawn diagram, Doug Osterman walked the WEF through possible approaches and schedules for the Salmon Habitat Plan update process through 2018.

Elissa Ostergaard, Planning & Stewardship Coordinator, followed the general introduction of the Plan update by Doug with a PowerPoint presentation of the drivers of the Plan update and products of the Plan

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update. She overviewed several gaps in our Plan that were identified through the regional Monitoring & Adaptive Management (M&AM) process:

- Some locations lack defined habitat targets:
 - No floodplain in Middle Green and Duwamish;
 - No large wood in Lower Green and Duwamish;
 - No width of riparian area in any subbasin;
 - No specific long-term targets for shoreline armoring.
- New scientific information will lead us to update the Plan’s Strategic Assessment and the management strategies and actions of the Plan, including:
 - Climate change and sea level rise;
 - Spawning and rearing habitat in Middle Green;
 - Water quality (contaminants and early marine survival; temperature).

Referring to the approach that Doug presented using the wall diagram, Elissa reviewed the process and responsible parties for updating the Plan:

Who	What
WRIA 9 Team, ITC, PSP	Identify update issues
Subject matter experts	Provide information/presentations to Team/ITC
Team, ITC, subcommittees	Develop recommendations based on new science
ITC members	Bring issues and topics back to their organizations for consideration
Team	Present recommendations to WEF for interim approval as part of update
WEF	Discuss, revise, and approve plan update

Elissa said changing priorities for conservation hypotheses will be vetted through the WEF and Implementation Technical Committee (ITC). WRIA 9 staff do not have extra capacity, so we need to figure out carefully how we update the Plan. Our plan was intended to guide salmon recovery in WRIA 9 for 10 years (2005-2015) and is chapter of the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan (the official federal document for recovering Chinook salmon), however, the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) and NOAA Fisheries have not to date provided clear information or deadlines. Nonetheless, we know from new scientific information and gaps identified in the 2005 Plan, that we can tackle plenty of topics we wait for guidance (and possibly funding) from PSP. There are several options for using the planning approach to update the Plan that Doug discussed earlier, including addendums (easy to implement, difficult to find the most updated information), taking it apart piece-by-piece and redoing it (easy to find updated information, more time and effort to update), or integrating changes into the existing Plan and its supporting technical documents (closest match to existing staff and other operating resources).

Discussion:

- Dennis Robertson asked what the deadlines are for the update. Doug Osterman said we have no mandated deadlines as of now, but in an ideal world we would be done in 2018. For the November WEF meeting we will come back with a more detailed timeline. CM Robertson commented that he liked the Plan revision option better than the addendum. He said he would like to have the “plan for doing the Plan” by the October 28 Management Committee meeting, noting that resources are limited.
- Jay Covington supported waiting on revisions until we see what we have. He said he wants us to continue what we’ve been doing, take advantage of what’s out there, and use best available science. We should use electronic means, streamline the review process, and he said he is willing to go with addendums.

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- James Rasmussen reported that when we first did the Plan, we decided to have a science plan, and had it reviewed by an outside technical group. He asked if that's what we will do again. Doug Osterman responded that we can probably do that again if the WEF wants a neutral science panel. We would have to estimate costs of supporting a science panel.
- Al Barrie commented that when we had the outside technical review, we discovered there is a lot we don't know, like temperature.

7. Public Comment

Katherine Campbell announced that the combined SeaTac-Tukwila Rotary has changed its name to Duwamish Southside Rotary.

Karen Bergeron said last year we received \$200,000 for Puget Sound Partnership Project Implementation Development Awards (PIDA), and the WEF approved a committee to review PIDA projects at the July meeting. She said we just learned WRIA 9's share this year is only \$14,000. We still have a committee, but it will review much smaller projects.

8. Wrap Up/Next Steps

Doug Osterman announced that the next WEF meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2015, 4:00 to 6:30 p.m., SeaTac City Hall. He said that this meeting was scheduled at SeaTac City Hall due to the Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee (SCAPIC) meeting that was scheduled for Renton City Hall. The SCAPIC meeting is usually Wednesday's and don't conflict with WRIA 9 meetings, but this year Wednesday is Veteran's Day, so the meeting is being held on Thursday night instead, taking our usual space in the Renton Council Chambers. Bill Pelosa asked Doug to look at a few scheduling options to enable members of WEF and SCAPIC to attend both meetings.