

WRIA 9 ITC Meeting Summary  
September 19, 2018 | 9 am -12 pm

**Attendees:** Josh Kahan, Karen Bergeron, Katie Beaver, Matt Goehring, Mike Perfetti, Kathy Minsch, Matt Knox, Kerry Bauman, Sophie Chang, Antonia Jundrich, Jessica Olmstead, David Casey, Jen Rice.

**Lower Green River Corridor Plan**

Matt explained that the FCD expects WRIA 9 to develop and submit 4<sup>th</sup> alternative during scoping process. WRIA 9 staff is engaging Lower Green cities to explore habitat opportunities and develop an alternative that can be supported across WRIA 9 partners. Results of these discussions will be brought back to and discussed at future ITC meetings. With respect to the Habitat Plan update, future subwatershed breakout groups to discuss policies and programs will be delayed to focus on the LGRCF process. Matt Knox appreciated WRIA 9's approach to pursuing a consensus recommendation.

**Habitat Plan Update- Watershed-wide Policies**

IN1: Matt highlighted that is not really an implementable policy and suggested removal. Group discussed the refugia concept was connected to "core areas" theory discussed during original plan development. WRIA 9 has never really moved forward with the core areas approach and the idea has largely been rolled into new lexicon and the overarching strategic approach to recovery. Although the group discussed potentially removal of the policy, the group agreed to revise policy based on new concepts and existing goals/targets.

IN 2: State law has address the shoreline exemption issue and provides local discretion at the SMP level. Policy not longer relevant and can be removed.

IN 3: Matt introduced revised Shoreline Stabilization Policy. Groups agreed to strike "nonstructural" from first sentence and reincorporate "bioengineering" into example techniques. Matt will revisit concept to mirror existing SMP guidance on armoring. Also, need to define "primary structure" within a footnote and include references to WDFW MSDG and Integrated Streambank Guidelines.

New Levee Setback Policy: Revise title to levee and revetment setback policy. Need to define setback based on toe and river processes. Remove "voluntary" from last sentence and include language about shoreline alternatives to incorporate revegetation and LWD (maximize natural features) when true setback not possible. Need to explore planting bench policy. Also discussed complication around a potential riparian buffer policy. WRIA 9 has not evaluated individual jurisdiction buffer requirements. Policy could speak to supporting expansion of vegetation within existing legal established buffers.

New Multi-benefit Floodplain Management Policy: Add "community flood risk reduction" to the numerical list of benefits.

Mitigation Policy: Policy revision based on mitigation policy adopted by the forum in response to Chinook Winds acquisition. Suggestion to strike second sentence about net improvement. Suggestions to clarify that need to improve coordination with mitigation proposals to ensure projects are consistent with salmon plan goals/projects. General support for policy that mitigation can provide contribute to improvements in critically needed areas, but needs some clarification/refinement. Matt will revise policy and bring back to ITC.

IN4: Incentive Programs Policy is duplicative of existing watershed-wide program. Group supported removal.

IN5: Matt revised existing parks and grounds maintenance policy to incorporate salmon safe program policies and the potential for jurisdictions to pursue salmon safe certification. Revisions provide jurisdictions more concrete examples of salmon safe BMPs. Shoreline recently became the first city in the region to become a salmon safe city. Can policy include more than just parks and maintenance? David Casey stated that Maple Valley would be interested in such a certification. If interest existed, WRIA 9 could sponsor a jurisdiction to become salmon certified.

IN6: Public lands sale/exchange policy. Matt revised existing policy to broaden the scope to include privately owned open space and critical areas. Group supportive, but suggested keeping existing language about critical areas and shorelines.

Group suggested developing new fish passage policy in light of recent Lower Green River tributary monitoring data.

#### **Tree Planter Viewer**

Removed from the agenda due to technical complications with the user interface. Will bring back to the ITC at a later date.

#### **Teufel Nursery Mitigation Site Tour**

Jen Rice and Kerry Bauman led a tour of the FCD mitigation site located in Kent. The group tour the recently completed installation of a large wood structure and regrading of the shoreline. The site will be revegetated this fall.