

**Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA 9)
Implementation Technical Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2021 | 9:30 am – 11:30 am**

Attendees:

Matt Goehring, WRIA 9
Suzanna Smith, WRIA 9
Kollin Higgins, King Co.
Katie Beaver, King CO.
Kerry Bauman, King Co.
Josh Kahan, King Co.
Monica Walker, King Co.
Meara Heuback, Kent
Rowena Valencia, Kent
Collin Ray, Army Corps

Brandon Parsons, American Rivers
Laura Marshall, Eco Northwest
Antonia Jindrich, Mid Sound Fisheries
Mike Perfetti, Tukwila
Heidi Watters, Tukwila
Kathy Minsch, Seattle
Jessica Olmstead, Ecology
Larry Fisher, WDFW
Evan Lewis, King Co.

Fish Barrier Removal Board draft Southern Resident Killer Whale Chinook barrier list

Kollin Higgins (King Co.) provided an overview of the WDFW statewide effort to develop a list of fish passage barriers that impact Chinook salmon. This effort is part of the recommendations of the Orca Task Force. Kollin provided a review of the methodology and provided an overview of preliminary comments submitted by WRIA 9 staff. WRIA 9 staff will be distributing the list of barriers to partner jurisdictions for review. Following feedback, WRIA 9 plans to submit additional comments to WDFW.

King County Fish Barrier Removal Program

Evan Lewis (King Co.) provided an overview of the King Co. effort to prioritize barriers for removal that are within King County jurisdiction. Prioritization criteria have been developed and are currently being refined and tested based on results in select basins. Evan outlined how the prioritization effort includes barriers not maintained/owned by King Co. that are located downstream of King Co. barriers. Sequencing will be critical to maximizing habitat gains and the concept of transferability is being explored with partners to accelerate efforts to address the barriers that would open up the most/best available habitat first. County prioritization effort is expected to be completed by ~ July. There is potential to apply the methodology across WRIA 9 to encompass barriers beyond the scope of the Co. owned barriers.

Economic Outcomes of Floodplain Restoration – Phase 2 Update

Brandon Parsons (American Rivers) and Laura Marshall (Eco Northwest) provided an update on the WRIA 9 funded effort to assess economic implications of floodplain restoration. Phase 2 goals are to identify, highlight, and communicate the benefits and fiscal contributions of floodplains that have the greatest value and are the most relevant and pervasive in the Puget Sound Basin through case studies. They provided an overview of outreach/surveys efforts and

the process used to identify/select regional case studies. Preliminary case studies include Sumner's White River Restoration (Industrial), Issaquah's Confluence Park (Urban), and the Tolt River in Carnation (rural residential). During discussion, Reddington Levee Setback in Auburn was highlighted as a potential case study in WRIA 9 that should be explored. Brandon and Laura agreed that they will follow-up with project sponsors and bring it up with the steering committee.

Round Robin Updates:

- Matt Goehring was hired as the WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Mgr. A solicitation is forth coming for the Technical Coordinator Position.
- Kathy Minsch, SPU, announced she is retiring at the end of April.
- Suzanna Smith, WRIA , provided an update on the grant applications submitted for the 2021 WRIA 9 CWM Grants.
- Alexandra Doty, PSP, provided an update on Puget Sound Day on the Hill. The remote event will be held on Fridays, 1-230pm April 23-May 21.

WRIA 9 ITC web page: <http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/committees/ImpleTechCmte.aspx>