

WRIA 9 Implementation Technical Committee
Draft Meeting Summary – June 21, 2017 9:00-12:00
Tukwila Community Center, Meeting Room B

Attendees: Kerry Bauman, King County; Karen Bergeron, WRIA 9; Jeff Cordell, UW; Jeanette Dorner, Midsound Fisheries; Larry Fisher, WDFW; Chris Gregersen, King County; Kollin Higgins, King County; Abby Hook, PSP; Josh Kahan, King County; Matt Knox, City of Kent; Katherine Lynch, City of Seattle; Kathy Minsch, City of Seattle; Joan Nolan, Ecology; Jessica Olmstead, WADNR; Mike Perfetti, Tukwila; Jen Rice, King County; Beth Tan, City of Renton; Jason Toft, UW

Habitat Goals – Abby Hook

Abby presented the latest version of the habitat goals document, which incorporates feedback from the version that was emailed to the ITC on June 8th. Abby focused on reviewing all the input and comments since that version.

Prior to reviewing the document, Abby provided some context for the document and explained what it is and what it is used for. She clarified that “necessary future conditions” come straight from underlying assumptions from the 2005 plan that 66% of habitat function will support recovery. When that is applied to goals like shoreline length or floodplain area, it’s a really large number. Politically, it’s not clear that this is even possible- that’s why these are called “necessary” versus something like “desired” future conditions which is much different. It’s basically providing a backdrop for recovery. Kerry mentioned that these necessary future conditions are based on best available science regarding what the species needs to recover.

Abby also gave some context for the goals document from a regional level. PSP has developed regional indicators, and held workshops to help develop these indicators. Currently, Phil Roni and Cramer fish sciences are working on developing field protocols in conjunction with these indicators. Workshops will also be conducted for remotely sensed indicators and developing protocols for these. There is much difficulty in both quantifying the amount, as well as developing targets for some of these goals (e.g. floodplain area).

Next, Abby clarified that our habitat goals are a separate issue from our monitoring priorities, since there has been some confusion between the two. The 10 year goals are different from monitoring priorities, so why would we compile these goals if they aren’t consistent with the monitoring priorities? These goals are the gauges that we use to then make adaptive management decisions. These goals will serve as a background to future monitoring priorities and allow us to make adjustments to the monitoring priorities as needed. Following the meeting, Abby changed the verbiage in the document from “goals” to “targets” to better reflect the intended meaning.

Abby presented the most recent version of the goals document and began by addressing each of the comments listed on the goals document, then incorporated ITC input into the document as the group worked through it. These comments, as well as ITC input, are included in the 6/21/17 version of the habitat goals document which will be sent out to the ITC. It was suggested that we add a comment column to the document, as well as change it to landscape.

Once the comments were addressed, the group discussed the best method for presenting this to the forum. In its current format, the document is too dense for forum review. How do we repackage it? The group agreed that we need to clearly articulate that the necessary future conditions, which are supported by best available science, are important but also recognized that these are different from desired future conditions. It was suggested that we group the document by type of indicator rather than subwatershed for ease of following. For example, we would list goals for large wood, and then list each indicator by sub-basin. It's clear that we should create an ITC subgroup to package this for the WEF. Kathy M volunteered, and it was suggested that Tyler would be a good candidate as well.

Proceeding forward with the habitat goals, Doug would like to introduce the document/concepts at the August meeting, but give the forum time to ask questions and become familiarized before moving to approve it in November. Regarding the current version of the document, Chris will send out what the ITC developed during the meeting. We are requesting a 2 week review period for this document before moving on.

Densities of Juvenile Salmon at Restored Sites in the Duwamish Transition Zone – Jason Toft

Jason presented his findings from UW's 2016 work, which was focused on sampling fish at shoreline restoration projects in off-channel areas of the Duwamish to assess the presence of juvenile salmon in the transition zone and how they use restored sites. Specific details about Jason and Jeff's work can be found in the presentation and associated report, which will be sent to the ITC.

There were four main findings from the work that are discussed in depth in the report:

- 1) Densities of wild Chinook and chum salmon had overall significant site effects. This agrees with previous studies showing that juvenile Chinook and chum salmon are most numerous along shallow-water intertidal areas, and thus should be most influenced by shallow shoreline habitat types, including restored habitat.
- 2) Although density trends of juvenile wild Chinook and chum salmon were higher at restored off-channel sites than armored and vegetated main channel strata, they were not significant when analyzing the seven sites that had these three strata. However, there were site-specific significant differences. Higher densities of wild Chinook salmon at the two most upriver restored sites at Codiga Farm and North Wind's Weir.
- 3) Among the seven off-channel restored sites, there were significantly different densities of juvenile wild Chinook salmon.
- 4) Within off-channel restored sites, juvenile wild Chinook salmon had significantly higher densities in the main restored sections than in interior sections. Jason did mention though that bird exclusion material and other project fencing leftover from construction may have had an effect on this, and in the future recommended that funding be set aside for site cleanup.

The ITC mentioned that this report did not look at fry earlier in the year, or nighttime use- both of which may differ significantly. Because of this, fry and nighttime use of the interior project areas could be actually be higher than what was observed during sampling. Kollin asked if there was any chance of revisiting the Herring's House site to do some adaptive management to make it more fish friendly? Several reports have pointed out that there is low fish use of this site and it's presumed to be due to the small entrance channel.

Funding Updates – Karen Bergeron

No major updates to speak of, the state budget hasn't been passed so we're still in the air for PSAR. The CWM round currently has some alternates listed in case PSAR large cap doesn't go through, since without these some CWM won't have match funding. CWM is through KCD, and is usually approved mid-July but is delayed this year. Though late, this does give us a chance to wait for the state budget to come out before we move forward with KCD. Also, WRIA 9 is in the process of filling Elissa's position- they have received applications and will be calling for interviews in July.

Climate Change Paper- Kollin Higgins

Kollin is working on finalizing the white paper for climate change. Elissa and Jessica Engel have both left since this began, so Kollin is wrapping up the final details. Kollin will be sending out the new language, but had the following questions for the ITC:

- 1) New language to reflect comments from some ITC members (changed and will be sent out)
- 2) Summer hydrology section- someone changed the language here but Kollin would like to keep the original language, any thoughts on this? Group was unsure, will check with Tyler.
- 3) Replace the air temperature increase and stream temperature increase figures with one adaptive figure from UW that shows predicted increases in stream temperatures for the Green River.
- 4) "Climate change: combining forces" figure was added into the sea level rise section. This is a summary graphic for climate change in general, which seemed very busy. Kollin would like to remove this.

Also Kollin gave a quick update on the fish paper- he is still working on finalizing the document and incorporating the remaining comments. With Elissa's absence the habitat goals document has been the main priority.

Round Robin Updates- all

- Chris G – gave a quick update on King County's juvenile salmon monitoring. They have just wrapped up their monitoring work for the spring, which focused on several restoration and flood risk reduction projects on the Green, Snoqualmie, and Cedar Rivers. Stay tuned for results.
- Kollin H- This spring has been an odd year for juveniles. Record high outmigration, featuring smaller fish at this time of year, cooler water, and good rearing flows with minimal flushing flows, and also high adult escapement last year.
- Kerry B- Received a CWM grant for Lower Russel habitat area "B" last year. That is close to 60% design. Right now they finished up collecting fish use data for Lower Russel, Teufel, and a reference area in the middle Green- which will be paired with projects going on in the lower Green to help give us a baseline. Also, a day vs. night comparison was done, and she mentioned that she is happy to share this data.
- Jen R- Working on Teufel mitigation to place 85 logs in the river and plant over 1000 trees in the north end of the site for shade. Originally, the log portion of the project would be this summer with planting next summer, but it now appears both are delayed until 2018.

- Kathy M- Parks is close to finishing design for the Lowman beach project. They have had a couple of public meetings, but adjacent neighbors to the north were opposed and thought it would impact their beach. The larger community supports the project though.
- Joan N- The PLA is moving through but they are still having issues with EPA funding but luckily they're finding other sources. Soos is moving along also, and the last public meeting was in March. They're still working on a QAPP which will go out for comment.
- Jeff C- First phase of the seawall will be completed in Elliot bay with enhancements on the will w/ a daylighted deck. UW will be conducting the fish monitoring (they also did pre construction) by snorkeling, and also potentially hydroacoustic cameras. This technology is a combination of a camera and sidescan sonar, which works day or night and in turbid water to record fish. These run ~\$80,000 for a newer unit, but they may be able to get an older unit for ~\$20,000. He will send us info.
- Bet T- Renton is continuing with gravel maintenance/removal on the lower Cedar.
- Jessica O- DNR is currently accepting input for sites that are good candidates for access improvements, so if anyone has any ideas right now that DNR is currently requesting input. Jessica will send us the request, and the applications are due in September.
- Jeanette D- LLTK has the Green the Green grant for Soos creek restoration at a couple of sites. They are meeting with the Green River Coalition and developing plans for planting this coming winter. They also received another grant for additional work on Soos creek as well as the Duwamish. Funding is for just under 1000 trees to plant, and will utilize this as an outreach and action project. They also have project on Longfellow creek, working with multiple partners on flood reduction funding from king county, and though that's the primary objective, there is opportunity for multi benefit project to fix culverts and parks property for restoration potential. Finally, just an update that on Monday federal funding for enhancement groups was being held by the federal government, and luckily they were just notified this morning that the funding was approved.
- Matt K- Kent is continuing with permits to move the road out of the right-of-way at the Downy project. This will be the first step to future restoration.
- Mike- Tukwila is doing preliminary feasibility for fish passage at Gilliam creek. Also, they're continuing with Riverton flapgate. There has been concern about water quality, so they're working on being proactive to see how they can address water quality within these systems.
- Jason T- Up in Snohomish co, they are removing armoring along railroad tracks on the beach at Howarth Park, and also adding sediment- which UW will be monitoring.