

# WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Meeting Notes

Bellevue City Hall

November 20, 2014 3:05-5:20 p.m.

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<b>Members/Jurisdictional Staff Alternates Present</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
1.	Councilmember Larry Phillips, Chair	King County
2.	Eric Adman	Sno-King Watershed Council
3.	Councilmember Jay Arnold	City of Kirkland
4.	Councilmember Eileen Barber	City of Issaquah
5.	Mayor Bruce Bassett	City of Mercer Island
6.	Dick Bonewits	Cedar River Council
7.	Councilmember Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
8.	Marci Chew	City of Mill Creek
9.	Dr. Don Davidson	Long Live the Kings (LLTK)
10.	Mike Dixon	Alderwood Water District
11.	Councilmember Bruce Dodds	City of Clyde Hill
12.	Nancy Eklund	The Boeing Company
13.	Marian Ericks	Snohomish County
14.	Councilmember Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
15.	Dave Garland	WA Dept. of Ecology (Ecology)
16.	Noel Gilbrough	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group (MSFEG)
17.	Mike Grady	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Fisheries
18.	Bill Knutsen	King Conservation District (KCD)
19.	Peggy Marcus	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
20.	Kathy Minsch	City of Seattle
21.	Councilmember Hank Myers	City of Redmond
22.	Councilmember Mark Phillips	City of Lake Forest Park
23.	Steward Reinbold	WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
24.	Councilmember Jesse Salomon	City of Shoreline
25.	Councilmember Carl Scandella	Town of Yarrow Point
26.	Gary Schulz	WA Assoc. of Sewer & Water Districts
27.	Gary Smith	Water Tenders
28.	Richard Sowa	Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery
29.	Councilmember John Stokes	City of Bellevue
30.	Frank Urabeck	Citizen
31.	Councilmember Paula Waters	City of Woodinville
<b>Additional Alternates Present</b>		
32.	Antonia Jindrich	MSFEG
33.	Terry Lavender	Citizen, Alternate for Gary Smith
<b>Others Present</b>		
34.	Rika Cecil	City of Shoreline
35.	Kit Paulsen	City of Bellevue
36.	Brandy Reed	KCD
37.	Jerallyn Roetemeyer	City of Redmond
38.	Stacey Rush	City of Kirkland
39.	Ron Straka	City of Renton
40.	Ralph Svrjcek	Ecology
41.	Jacques White	LLTK
42.	Jean White	King County
43.	Bruce Wulkan	Puget Sound Partnership
44.	Linda Grob	WRIA 8 Team

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45.	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 Team
46.	Scott Stolnack	WRIA 8 Team
47.	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8 Team

Chair Larry Phillips opened the meeting, inviting all attendees to introduce themselves.

## 1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## 2. Approval of Meeting Notes for September 18, 2014

***By head nod of the Salmon Recovery Council the meeting notes for the September 18, 2014 meeting were entered into the record.***

## 3. Updates & Announcements

### General Announcements:

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (Jason MK), Watershed Coordinator, elaborated on several items from the WRIA 8 Update handout:

- **Draft Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSSRC) Letter Regarding Lead Entities:** The draft letter supports the lead entities in Puget Sound, points out their structures vary significantly, and asks Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) to recognize they do far more than develop habitat restoration project lists as required by RCW 77.85.
- **WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Tour:** Forty people attended the very successful October 10 Salmon Recovery Tour. The tour started at the Ballard Locks, where participants learned about infrastructure improvement needs and traveled down into the Pump Plant to look at the vintage machinery with Peggy Marcus, Army Corps of Engineers staff. Other sites on the tour were the nearly-completed Mapes Creek daylighting and reconnection project on Lake Washington, the completed Issaquah Hatchery Dam removal project, and the in-progress large scale restoration project on Lower Bear Creek.
- **Letter from the U.S. Department of Interior:** Nancy Faegenburg, King County Rivers Section, received a letter from the Department of Interior announcing an award of technical assistance for the Cedar River Corridor Plan. WRIA 8 had written a letter of support for King County's proposal for this assistance.
- **New WRIA 8 E-Newsletter:** The first e-newsletter went out October 16, and we hope to eventually send them out bi-monthly, on the months when the SRC is not meeting. We will continue to improve the format and distribution method. Please send story ideas and photos to Polly Freeman, Communication Coordinator, at [polly.freeman@kingcounty.gov](mailto:polly.freeman@kingcounty.gov).
- **Cedar River Floodplains by Design Proposal:** King County and Seattle Public Utilities jointly submitted a Cedar River floodplain acquisition and restoration proposal in response to the Department of Ecology's request for proposals. The Floodplains by Design grant program was successful in the last legislative session, and WRIA 8 has submitted a letter of support for the Cedar River proposal. The ranking process produced a list of 14 projects that were submitted as part of the legislative funding request, and the Cedar River proposal ranked seventh.
- **Salmon SEEson Program:** Salmon SEEson is winding down, and highlights for this year include: over 1,000 people coming out over six days on Bear Creek when volunteers were on-site; 9,600 visitors speaking with Cedar River Naturalists (there are now 116 Naturalists) about Cedar River salmon on the river and at the Locks; and the Duwamish Alive coordinator reporting that families have been visiting North Wind's Weir to see fish this year, which is new for them and attributable to being part of Salmon SEEson for the first time.

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- **Compendium of Stormwater Research References:** Mike Grady provided this handout as a result of questions about stormwater on the Salmon Tour. Mike commented that agriculture is not the only problem for salmon in the rivers and Puget Sound; stormwater is also critical. The smoking guns are our cars. He encouraged SRC members to use the stormwater research list as a resource.
- **Habitat Protection and Restoration Factsheet:** This science factsheet (included in the meeting packet) was part of the Salmon Tour packet. Among other information, it shows that final salmon return numbers are lower than normal.
- **Invitation to Tour the Dewatered Ballard Locks:** Peggy Marcus will lead a tour of the Locks next Tuesday, November 25, while they are dewatered, which allows us to get down into the bottom of the Locks and filling culverts. Jason requested that people let him know by Friday, November 21, if they are interested in attending tour.

## 4. King Conservation District 2015 Work Plan Proposal

Brandy Reed, King Conservation District (KCD), reported that KCD's 2015 work plan includes a new system of rates and charges and a new work program. She thanked everyone on the KCD Advisory Committee who met and helped develop the proposal, the result of which will be \$3 million in new investments in regional natural resource management priorities in King County over the next five years.

Brandy said KCD and the Advisory Committee identified three top regional needs:

- Expand the region's green infrastructure on private lands to mitigate climate change, address water pollution and flooding, and increase quality of life for dense urban neighborhoods;
- Restore private shorelines and habitat along freshwater creeks, streams, rivers and wetlands, and on marine shorelines to provide critical habitat for salmon and other wildlife and to mitigate flooding; and
- Build a sustainable, equitable, and resilient regional food system.

These regional needs became the basis for KCD's three-part five-year Work Program, approved by the King County Council on November 17:

- **Rural Small Lot Forestry and Urban Tree Canopy Development Program:** For the rural component KCD's work with King County will bring services and offer technical assistance to small forest owners of less than or equal to five forested acres. Companion work will occur in the urban forestry area, where KCD will work with residents and neighborhoods to preserve our green infrastructure and the urban canopy of up to 15 jurisdictions.
- **Shoreline and Riparian Habitat Program:** Over two-thirds of King County marine and fresh water shoreline is owned by private landowners. KCD will work with small property owners to provide education through one-on-one technical assistance, project implementation support, workshops, and classes. KCD will also work to collaborate with WRIA 8 on common goals.
- **Regional Food System and Sustainable Agriculture Program:** King County farmers produce less than one-third of the raw foods consumed in the county. KCD will work to address obstacles to local food access by improving storage facilities, production/packing centers, and creating distribution and marketing opportunities, and try to key into this with the eaters.

Brandy reported that each program has its own timeline, which she went over briefly. She said John Stokes, City of Bellevue Councilmember, chaired the Advisory Committee, and Bill Knutsen and Kathy Minsch were also on the committee. Brandy said KCD will have continued collaboration with partners, and will look to how they can help WRIA 8 meet salmon recovery plan goals through

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healthy rural and urban forests, clean water and improved fish and wildlife habitat, and local food initiative.

Discussion:

- Bill Knutsen said without John Stokes and the great Advisory Committee facilitator this work program wouldn't have come about. KCD started this journey in 2005 to have a \$10 assessment, were then forced to go to rates and charges, and it has been a long journey to get to this point.
- John Stokes commented that he liked the statement on collaboration. The Advisory Committee was a working committee, and will continue to be active. It is a good community/regional effort, and he thanked Larry Phillips for supporting them on the County Council.
- Kathy Minsch reported that Mayor Ed Murray was very supportive of this effort. She said Christy True and John Taylor of King County were also instrumental, and she called the Advisory Committee one of the most positive groups she's been involved with.
- Mark Phillips inquired how implementation will work. Brandy Reed explained that the Member Jurisdiction Grant Program is still in place, and they still have grants going on. Other grant programs include the Large Grant Program, where small landowners can apply for grants, and the Food Program.
- John Stokes added that this new work program will go from mid-year 2015 to mid-year 2020.
- Jesse Salomon asked how the Regional Food System initiative will fit with WRIA 8. Brandy Reed explained that the strongest nexus with the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Plan is the Shoreline and Riparian Habitat Program.
- Don Davidson joked that once he got off the Advisory Committee it was very successful, and he offered congratulations to everyone on the committee. Brandy said Dr. Davidson was very helpful on the committee before he left.

Jason MK said he is excited to see how WRIA 8 can collaborate on the work program implementation strategy with KCD. John Stokes said KCD staff did a fabulous job and is ready to take this on.

## 5. Draft WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding

### Lake Sammamish Kokanee Recovery:

Jason MK said our Salmon Recovery Plan is a chapter of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan and focused on recovering Chinook salmon. When the Plan was being developed the WRIA 8 Steering Committee recognized that recovery actions for Chinook inherently benefit habitat needs for multiple species, including kokanee. Two joint kokanee/Chinook projects subsequently have been identified and made it into our Ten-Year Start List.

Jason noted that the current interlocal agreement (ILA) focuses on implementing the Plan for Chinook recovery, and does not specifically address Lake Sammamish kokanee. At the September SRC meeting a suggestion was made to consider including recognition of/specifically addressing kokanee recovery in the draft 2016-2025 ILA. A status quo option and three additional options were presented to further this discussion, which can continue at the January 15 meeting.

### **Kokanee Options:**

- **Option 1 – Status Quo:** Do not directly reference Lake Sammamish kokanee recovery; coordinate with the Kokanee Work Group where it makes sense and where Chinook/kokanee priorities overlap.

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- **Option 2:** Maintain status quo coordination with Kokanee Work Group; include a WHEREAS statement in the ILA recognizing efforts in the watershed to protect and restore habitat for multiple species, specifically including kokanee, and stating WRIA 8 will seek opportunities to coordinate with these other efforts where priorities align.
- **Option 3:** Add kokanee recovery as part of WRIA 8's scope/mission in the ILA with existing cost-share resources.
- **Option 4:** Add kokanee recovery as part of WRIA 8's scope/mission in the ILA and increase the annual cost share to provide staffing/capacity resources to cover additional scope.
- **Additional Consideration:** As part of any of the above options, encourage jurisdictions/groups working on kokanee recovery to come up with their own ILA or technical services agreement to generate additional resources.

## Discussion:

- Diane Buckshnis asked if we can amend the ILA at any point in time, like next year if we decide on a kokanee option now. Jason MK explained that we can do that and try an option out for a year. Councilmember (CM) Buckshnis mentioned that we do have a surplus in the budget this year. Jason MK said we have used that surplus.
- John Stokes said Bellevue had a conversation with Sammamish and Issaquah folks last week about kokanee, and are talking about getting Redmond involved as well on a working group of jurisdictions. He said he thinks it's important to get a strong working group going, which could be done with several of these alternatives. CM Stokes explained that the group could look at the things we should be doing better in Lake Sammamish. Ecology said anything we do with Chinook would benefit kokanee and vice versa.
- Jean White, King County, noted that King County is very committed to the kokanee work, and clarified that WRIA 8 would not be supplementing David St. John's county salary.
- Hank Myers remarked that it was a very impressive kokanee fry release, work he hopes we can continue. He said he liked Option 2.
- Eileen Barber said the Issaquah Hatchery has very been involved with kokanee, and she said it is important the all communities around Lake Sammamish come together. She supported looking at the kokanee options in January.
- Noel Gilbrough commented that he would like to know how much this would cost.
- Gary Smith said he also supported Option 2, adding he thinks it can be beneficial to both species.
- Dick Bonewits mentioned that he has been involved with WRIA 8 work since 1997. The SRC is much different than the group we started with, and there is a lot of interest in suburban cities now, and better coordination with the King County Flood Control District (FCD). He said he is concerned about mission creep, and increased costs for King County. Work on kokanee needs to come alongside our chinook efforts, and there needs to be a coordinating plan which we can all see. He supported Option 2.
- Jesse Salomon remarked that he is also concerned about mission creep. He said he would have to be convinced by more data about how money would be spent before he could support more than Option 2. Jason MK explained that the joint benefit with Chinook would be at the creek mouths. Kokanee spawn largely on the lake shore, and also in small creeks.
- Kathy Minsch said she could see Seattle getting behind Option 2, but there is so much money needed and more work to do for Chinook, that she didn't see the city supporting money for kokanee.
- Don Davidson said he supported moving forward with how WRIA 8 currently coordinates with kokanee recovery. Steelhead and coho are coming down the pike, so we need to be clear about our focus and how to support multi-species.

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- Bruce Bassett said he supported Option 2.
- Marci Chew said she supported Option 2, even though Mill Creek won't see kokanee up that far.
- John Stokes said kokanee are only in Lake Sammamish, and Option 2 and having kokanee supported by this group would be an improvement. He said he would like to wait for more data in January, but could vote on Option 2 now.
- Hank Myers mentioned that the reason we are talking about this today is we have a lot of non-profits involved now, and could have more money available for kokanee with WRIA 8/SRC recognition.
- Carl Scandella commented that he read the Kokanee Work Group mission statement from 2007, and he asked what progress has been for the species. Jason MK said we had a kokanee presentation at the last meeting, and asked if anyone from the work group could provide some information.
- Kit Paulsen, City of Bellevue, explained that the Kokanee Work Group has been working for a number of years, and wants to hold the line on extinction. The work group is working on habitat enhancements and hatchery implementation and are starting to look at the acquisition of property. Kokanee don't migrate, require smaller streams for spawning, and there is a lot of synergy with Chinook efforts.
- Steward Reinbold said kokanee were on their way out until the Issaquah Hatchery brought them back. The work group has been very active, and there is a lot of support for kokanee around the lake. Even some support from the SRC would be great, and anything done at the mouths benefits both species.

Larry Phillips summarized the discussion, saying there is a lot of support for the kokanee work going on, recognition of the SRC would be important, there is a lot of support for Option 2, and we will also be revisiting this topic in January. He said there is also some concern for mission creep, and it seems like we should table this for now and look at it again in January. Kathy Minsch mentioned that the January timing would help with the ILA renewal. Jason MK agreed it would.

## **ILA & Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Renewals:**

Jason MK explained that we will be looking at the potential options for a provisional 2016 budget and work plan at the January 15 meeting, and the Management Committee will make a 2016 budget/work plan recommendation in support of the MOU for the March 19 SRC meeting. Meanwhile, presentations to ILA jurisdictions will begin, ILA partners will begin seeking feedback on the ILA and MOU from their jurisdictions, and we hope to seek approval of both documents at the July meeting.

Jean White announced that King County is currently working on the ILA renewal. She said King County did some analysis, and the county would like to continue as the service provider, have another ten-year ILA, and possibly have a cross-WRIA assessment in five years. She mentioned that the Yakima Watershed has an ILA and also a non-profit arm, and has been very successful getting funding and visibility. Finally, she noted that King County wants to get full cost recovery as service provider for the WRIA program in the renewed ILA.

Decision:

- Don Davidson mentioned that the federal government and the state are the other partners. He said we have to see how the new group in power considers environmental issues. The timeline for the ILA renewal fits with that.

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- Dick Bonewits commented that several of us were at the Tuesday night Cedar River open house, at which Jean White mentioned people did not know what “WRIA staff” meant. This brought up where we need more public outreach. We should have people like Jean review presentations, and we need to get rid of acronyms and terms that the public doesn’t know/are not in the public discussion. We need to explain things in English, need more effective outreach, and it’s something the whole county needs.
- Hank Myers said there are two issues here: is the ILA ready to take back to jurisdictions, and is the MOU ready to take back as well. Larry Phillips said once the SRC decides on the draft ILA it is ready to be taken to jurisdictions, but the MOU is not ready yet.
- Diane Buckshnis said the five-year assessment could be interesting, and asked if it would be peer-reviewed. Jean White responded that she would like input from the SRC but is now thinking of hiring a consultant and looking at branding. As a branding example, the Lead Entity Advisory Group became the Washington Salmon Coalition. CM Buckshnis asked again about peer review. Jean said we would like your input. The peer review could be jurisdictional staff, or even the University of Washington. She reiterated that branding is very important.

## **ILA Renewal – Changes Since November Meeting:**

Jason MK pointed out the additional “Whereas” statements recognizing climate change, and the importance of kokanee recovery, plus also better wording about adding public agencies. He said we looked at changing the budget to biennial instead of annual because lots of cities are going to biennial budgets. However, the King County attorney reviewed it, and said if you have even one city on an annual budget the wording should be left as-is.

### Discussion:

- Jay Arnold mentioned that there are lots of big annexations, but also lots of small ones, and he inquired what the order of magnitude of annexations is to increase a cost share. Jason MK replied that the SRC can designate that.
- Kathy Minsch remarked that Seattle also caught that.
- Gary Schulz asked if it is a voluntary membership for public agencies to join. Jason MK said yes, and the SRC would have to approve any proposed addition.
- Mark Phillips commented that he is still concerned about agencies joining and the statement addressing it. Jason MK responded that he thinks it gives the SRC greater flexibility for determining the cost share for agencies that want to join. In the Snoqualmie Watershed, the Snoqualmie Tribe joined the ILA, and in WRIA 9 Tacoma Public Utilities came on board.

Larry Phillips asked if there was any objection to having the draft ILA ready to go out to jurisdictions for review. There were no objections. It was noted that the draft ILA was sent out electronically in the meeting packet email.

## **MOU Renewal:**

Jason MK commented that the SRC didn’t need to go through the MOU too much now, because it will be discussed more in January. He said it is mostly on the agenda so members can see this companion piece to the ILA and become familiar with it ahead of future discussion.

## **5. Salish Sea Juvenile Salmon Marine Survival Project**

Scott Stolnack, Technical Coordinator, introduced the presentation, and commented on the Chinook salmon lifecycle. He said we in WRIA 8 talk mostly about the salmon in the freshwater environment

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because that's where our work is mostly focused, yet salmon spend around six months in the watershed but three years in the ocean. Our Chinook spend most of their time in marine waters.

Jacques White, Long Live the Kings (LLTK), said he trained as an oceanographer, and has worked around the area for 28 years, the last four years at LLTK. The Salish Sea Marine Survival Project got going at a conference in Portland four years ago, and combined with an ongoing Canadian project a few years later. He reported that around the 1980's there was a precipitous decline in the numbers of all three salmon species (Chinook, coho and steelhead) returning to our rivers, with steelhead declining the most. Survival rates would go up (elsewhere) when marine conditions improved, but Puget Sound numbers stayed bad. Other declines were noted in Fraser sockeye salmon, herring spawning locations, forage fish and some marine fishes, and giant kelp and eelgrass. At the same time there were improved numbers for harbor seals, white-sided dolphins, harbor porpoises, and Fraser pink salmon, strait water temperatures increased by 1°C, and human population and development expanded.

Jacques defined the marine survival project as a multi-disciplinary, ecosystem-based program to determine the primary factors affecting the survival of juvenile salmon and steelhead in the Salish Sea marine environment. It includes 150+ scientists and technicians and 40+ partners, and will require \$20 million in combined public and private investments. LLTK and the Pacific Salmon Foundation are coordinating the five year project, and the funding campaign has begun. The objectives are to advance wild salmon recovery and sustainable fisheries by figuring out: what has happened since the 1980's; can we improve the situation for juvenile salmon and steelhead; and can we improve the accuracy of adult return forecasting with early marine survival data to better manage fisheries effectively. The process involves comprehensive, collaborative research planning (through 2014), coordinated, systematic research (2014-2017), and with research results to management by 2018.

Jacques said problems being looked at are temperatures/warm waters, predation, and the effects of hatchery fish. He noted that when temperatures go down in the ocean they are still high in Puget Sound. Marine survival hypotheses include:

- A. Bottoms up processes that drive Chinook, coho, and forage fish prey availability have changed and salmon aren't able to compensate – what are time and space scales of effects?
- B. Top-down processes contributing, primarily more predators makes the situation worse – if survival is determined in the first few months, what are the proximate causes of mortality?
- C. Other factors may compound the problem:
  - Microbes and disease;
  - Toxics;
  - Habitat degradation (role of estuaries?).

Jacques went over the project research approach, which is: track salmon; identify critical growth periods and divers of growth; analyze predators, disease, toxic chemicals, etc.; and do models and trends analyses to pull pieces together and tell the story. Planning for the first two years of research is complete, 19 of 35 proposed actions have been implemented, and we've had a very successful year of field work. Canadian scientists are also working in multiple environments, and Canada and the U.S. are each committed to raising \$10 million over five years. So far Canada has raised \$7.25 million, the U.S. \$4.25 million, for a total of \$12 million. The project is anchored by a \$5 million/five year grant from the Pacific Salmon Commission.

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Jacques noted that the marine condition is another issue that we need to address for salmon recovery, but we don't want to devalue the work you are doing in the freshwater. Both are equally important.

Discussion:

- Don Davidson inquired if one theory needs to cancel out another one. Jacques White responded that there has been a shift over time from diatoms to smaller food, and food web issues, toxic issues, and predation issues are all ganging up on the fish.
- Don Davidson asked how much we calculate in climate change. Jacques White explained that it is hard to know how climate change will play out in our lifetimes. He said it could be that obstructions in the jet stream are causing the very cold conditions in New York.
- Frank Urabeck said he agreed that we can do all we can on the habitat side, but he also wondered if for sockeye, there is any reason to believe their survival is also not affected by marine conditions.
- Ted Frantz asked if the project will also look at harvest. Jacques White said no. The Canadians did look at harvest, and found that salmon decline correlated with marine conditions, not harvest.
- Bill Knutsen said this is a powerful message that has to be relayed over and over to the rural community.

## 6. Success Story Video: Rainbow Bend Levee Setback and Floodplain Restoration Project

Jason MK introduced the Rainbow Bend video, which the SRC helped pay for. Much applause ensued.

Discussion:

- Larry Phillips said this is a great video and project. We have developed a good message when people ask if we've recovered salmon, and we are not in the same world of hurt as 20 years ago. We need some success stories, and a common language, like we needed to have with a particular individual at Tuesday's Cedar River meeting.
- Dick Bonewits remarked that he saw three presentations today, and there is one slide on predation we need to incorporate into every message. Introduced non-native species need to be removed, which he said he's been talking about for 20 years. Dick said we also need graphics on toxic chemicals like we saw today in our outreach program.
- Hank Myers asked how we can get the video. Jason MK said the direct link is <http://vimeo.com/111058132>.

## 7. Next Meeting

The next SRC meeting is January 15, 2015, 3:00-5:18 p.m., at Ecology's Northwest Regional Office in Bellevue.