

# WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Meeting Notes

Department of Ecology Northwest Regional Office

March 19, 2015 3:00-5:15 p.m.

<b>Members/Jurisdictional Staff Alternates Present</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
1.	Councilmember Larry Phillips, Chair	King County
2.	Councilmember Andy Rheaume, Vice-Chair	City of Bothell
3.	Councilmember Jay Arnold	City of Kirkland
4.	Councilmember Eileen Barber	City of Issaquah
5.	Dick Bonewits	Cedar River Council
6.	Councilmember Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
7.	Councilmember Vince Cavaleri	City of Mill Creek
8.	Dr. Don Davidson	Long Live the Kings
9.	Councilmember Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
10.	Dave Garland	WA Dept. of Ecology (Ecology)
11.	Mike Grady	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin. Fisheries
12.	Antonia Jindrich	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
13.	Peggy Marcus	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
14.	Kathy Minsch	City of Seattle
15.	Councilmember Hank Myers	City of Redmond
16.	Councilmember Tom Odell	City of Sammamish
17.	Councilmember Dana Parnello	City of Maple Valley
18.	Councilmember Mark Phillips	City of Lake Forest Park
19.	Janet Prichard	Friends of the Cedar River Watershed (FCRW)
20.	Steward Reinbold	WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
21.	Councilmember Carl Scandella	Town of Yarrow Point
22.	Gary Smith	Water Tenders
23.	Richard Sowa	Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery
24.	Councilmember John Stokes	City of Bellevue
25.	Councilmember Allan Van Ness	City of Kenmore
<b>Additional Alternates Present</b>		
26.	Joan Nolan	Ecology
<b>Others Present</b>		
27.	Josh Baldi	Ecology
28.	Alison Bennett	City of Bellevue
29.	Rika Cecil	City of Shoreline
30.	Denise DiSanto	Snohomish County
31.	Councilmember Mary Elmore	Town of Yarrow Point
32.	Cindy Holtz	City of Seattle
33.	Darcie Larson	Seattle Aquarium
34.	Stacey Rush	City of Kirkland
35.	Charlotte Spang	FCRW
36.	Jean White	King County
37.	Polly Freeman	WRIA 8 Team
38.	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 Team
39.	Scott Stolnack	WRIA 8 Team
40.	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8 Team

Chair Larry Phillips opened the meeting, and invited all attendees to introduce themselves. He welcomed new members Councilmember (CM) Vince Cavaleri, City of Mill Creek, and CM Dana Parnello, City of Maple Valley.

# WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

March 19, 2015

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Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (Jason MK), Watershed Coordinator, introduced Polly Freeman, Communications Coordinator, as note-taker for this meeting, filling in for Linda Grob, Administrative Coordinator, who is on vacation.

## 1. Public Comment

Josh Baldi, Washington Department of Ecology Regional Director, welcomed the group to Ecology's Northwest Regional Office. Josh explained that he was part of the Shared Strategy group and Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) before joining Ecology, so he understands salmon recovery priorities and issues well. He noted the strong emphasis on projects, and said we're failing to protect existing habitat through regulatory programs. There's a greater need to look at programs that protect habitat – planning, incentives, using the full suite of tools to protect – and we need to encourage and support local governments to do a better job. He said he plans to sit in and listen to SRC meetings from time to time. Larry Phillips thanked Josh for hosting and coming to talk to the SRC.

Larry Phillips recognized John Stokes and Janet Prichard and their work with the Friends of the Cedar River Watershed (FCRW), and offered them the opportunity to announce that FCRW will be closing its doors. John Stokes thanked Larry for the opportunity to make the announcement, and explained he has been with FRCW for five years. FCRW has great programs but struggled during the recession, and it became clear the organization would no longer be able to carry out its mission due to a lack of funds. He said we have worked out how to continue FCRW's important programs, so we are excited about that. The programs are just changing venues, and will continue to operate.

Janet Prichard acknowledged CM Stokes as FCRW's Board President during this transition. She emphasized that though FCRW is closing its doors, we have found homes for our programs. Judy Blanco at Forterra will assume leadership of the Cedar River Stewardship in Action program and volunteer restorations. Charlotte Spang has coordinated the Cedar River Salmon Journey for many years and will continue with the program under the Seattle Aquarium. Darcie Larson, Aquarium Community Engagement lead, is here today as well. Janet thanked WRIA 8 for the support and friendship over the years.

Larry Phillips thanked FRCW for all the great work they accomplished and the positive messages they promoted in the community.

## 2. Approval of Meeting Notes for January 15, 2015.

<p><i>By head nod of the Salmon Recovery Council the meeting notes for the January 15, 2015 meeting were entered into the record.</i></p>
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## 3. Updates & Announcements

Jason MK elaborated on several items from the WRIA 8 Update handout:

- **Puget Sound regional update:**
  - The **PS SRC** is focused on supporting salmon recovery priorities in the 2015-17 legislative session which are well-aligned with WRIA 8's legislative priorities. PS SRC is also continuing to focus on advancing the regional and watershed-based monitoring and adaptive monitoring work, including identifying common marine and freshwater indicators.
  - The **South Central Action Area Caucus Group** has focused on advancing local priorities for Puget Sound recovery and has worked with other Local Integrating Organizations around

# WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

March 19, 2015

---

Puget Sound to encourage the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to consider focusing funding more directly on local priorities as part of developing a new funding model to guide federal funding for Puget Sound beginning in 2016.

- **2015 Legislative Priorities:** Letters were sent to all 42 state legislators in WRIA 8 to share our state legislative priorities. Currently, the focus is on the capital budget, which we expect the House of Representatives to release by the end of March. On the federal side, the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) is coordinating a Puget Sound Day in Washington, D.C. on March 25, to share Puget Sound recovery priorities with the Washington State Congressional delegation and some federal agency managers.
  - Jay Arnold discussed his recent trip to D.C. and meetings he had with the Congressional delegation. He said he met with Senator Patty Murray's staff and Senator Maria Cantwell and her staff to talk about designating Puget Sound as a Great Water Body. Feedback from the senators' staffs was that this designation would require opening up the Clean Water Act to add Puget Sound, which is not something they want to do in the current Congressional environment. Instead, they suggested using an administrative approach, which the President has the authority to do. Regarding critical infrastructure improvements at the Ballard Locks, Sen. Murray's staff said she's well aware of the issue and needs, and that she brings the issue up with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) whenever she meets with them. There are other failing Corps facilities, like Howard Hanson Dam and Mud Mountain Dam, that the Corps considers higher priority than the Locks, and the Congressional delegation is not currently encouraging the Corps to change their prioritization of facility improvements.
  - Ted Frantz asked what it would mean for Puget Sound if it is designated a Great Water Body. Jason MK explained that if Puget Sound is a Great Water Body it would become a line item in the budget and get a lot higher rate of funding. Now it's just an annual EPA appropriation and is more at risk in the budget process.
- **Ballard Locks stakeholder meeting:** The Corps hosted a meeting on March 4 to share information about the status and condition of the Locks with a variety of stakeholders. Jason MK said several WRIA 8 representatives were there, as well as marine industry representatives and Congressional staff, which was good to see. It was a good first step at building a broader constituency to support the needed improvements at the Locks. He said he hopes the Corps continues to reach out to share information with stakeholders, and he asked the Corps for the presentation from the meeting to share with the full WRIA 8 membership and interested parties.
  - Peggy Marcus said we appreciated WRIA 8's support in getting a good turnout. We had a good turnout for the day meeting, fewer folks at the evening session, which is a good first step.
  - Larry Phillips remarked that building a constituency on the Locks is going to be really important. He asked Jay Arnold about the meeting with Senator's Murray staff on this. The message from the Corps is that this is really important, so there seems to be a disconnect. CM Phillips said let's get local people speaking up on this. We've been in the queue for a long time, and we need additional emphasis.
  - Jay Arnold mentioned that the Cascade Water Alliance is pushing the other two priorities, and he asked if we should build a similar effort.
  - Diane Buckshnis agreed that it's really important for us to focus on the Locks. We all know what needs to be done, and we should write a letter.
  - Don Davidson noted that Tacoma has a piece of the action because of their water supply, and he suggested we could build a really nice coalition.

# WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

March 19, 2015

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- Mike Grady said it would be good to get a subset of folks together to address the economic impacts of the Locks problems. We could focus that group on what the effects would be of a draw down on the economy of the region.
- **Letter of support for City of Bothell capital budget request to acquire Wayne Public Golf Course:** Letters were sent on behalf of the SRC to the House Capital Budget Committee and the Senate Ways and Means Committee to support the City of Bothell's request for funds to acquire the Wayne Public Golf Course along the Sammamish River. Approximately 4,500 feet along the Sammamish River could be acquired and restored, which would be regionally significant. Jason MK said we went through the Management Committee because of the short time frame, and sent the letters to the two legislative bodies. A copy of the letter is in the meeting packet.
  - Don Davidson commented that this property will be better as wetlands than a golf course.
  - Andy Rheume agreed, and reported that the owner gave Bothell 45 days to buy the property. CM Rheume said Bothell can't make that timeline, and we are asking the state legislature for help but are not extremely hopeful. Hopefully we can make the purchase work because otherwise it will go out to sale. It is between 88 acres, and would be a beautiful restoration site. Half of the property is under conservation easement, and \$5 million would buy the whole property.
  - A question was asked about the alternative if state money doesn't come through. Andy Rheume replied that Bothell is looking into other funding opportunities.
- **Addressing use of mitigation funding to implement salmon habitat restoration projects:** Another letter in the packet was written to address Muckleshoot Indian Tribe (MIT) comments that King County's proposed mitigation at Elliott Bridge Reach should not be counted as progress towards implementing WRIA 8 Plan restoration goals. Jason MK explained that restoration at this site on the Cedar is actually not in the WRIA 8 Plan so would not count towards restoration progress. He said how to account for mitigation work in the implementation of the WRIA 8 Plan is a policy matter the SRC should consider as part of the Ten-Year Plan Update process.
- **Returning grant funds from the Fish In/Fish Out (FIFO) monitoring programs:** Jason MK reported that we just found out we will be getting some returning grant funds from the FIFO monitoring programs from the last two years. We don't know how much or when, but we want to let you know so we can have a conversation about how to re-allocate those funds, perhaps to other technical needs, or to go back into the pot for projects.
- **Presentations to WRIA partner local governments:** Jason MK has done 11 presentations to partner jurisdictions, nine more are scheduled, and a few more need to be scheduled. Jason MK asked SRC members to let him know if they want to schedule a presentation, which he said have been going really well.
- **Lake Sammamish kokanee fry release event:** The event is April 24, 2015, 12:00-2:00 P.M., and Andy Rheume as SRC Vice-Chair will represent WRIA 8. Jason MK said he will attend as well, and he noted that it is at Lake Sammamish State Park this year.

## 4. King County WRIA 8 Service Provider Client Satisfaction Survey Results

Jason MK reported that the summary of the 2014 survey responses is in the meeting packet. He said we received a lower number of responses than in the past (only 15 this year). The proportion of folks mirrors previous surveys, with the majority being local government staff and electeds. There were good scores on providing service. Responses to how successful the overall WRIA 8 partnership is in implementing recovery were more mixed, and he said he thinks that's fair given the limited resources available to date. We received one poor rating in securing funding. The responses to what is the most valuable service we provide included coordinating funding, broader communication and collaborative implementation, and

# WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

March 19, 2015

---

working to prioritize needs across the watershed. Responses to whether the team allocates resources appropriately were “yes” across the board.

Comments submitted via the survey include:

- “What are the stories of other salmon recovery efforts? What can we learn from them?”
- “Do more work in Snohomish County.”
- “There’s lots of scientific and technical expertise in Seattle; let’s bring those folks to this group.”
- “WRIA 8 is “the best group in the country.”
- “What are the marketing/communication tools you would use?” Jason MK mentioned that the factsheets, newsletters, and progress reports got the most votes, and we will continue in that vein.

Jason MK commented that this is our annual feedback loop, and if the SRC is content with that we do not have to hire a consultant to do an independent survey per the interlocal agreement.

Discussion:

- Diane Buckshnis noted that there was 0% response from landowners and citizens, which she said was sad. Jason MK explained that the target audience is active participants in WRIA 8, so the pool of potential responders is limited and has not been distributed broadly to the public. He said if we were reaching out particularly to citizens, he would be more concerned about that number of responses. But that would also require a different survey.
- Mark Phillips remarked that the scores on outreach and education are less than sterling, and he asked about the last question about marketing and products. Jason MK replied that, unfortunately, outreach and education activities are not regularly funded work, and WRIA 8 is unable to provide that service on a regular basis.
- Mark Phillips said the factsheets seem kind of a dry way to convey our messages, and he asked if we can try to develop more imaginative tools. Jason MK explained that we continue to try to provide the best outreach and education service we can with the tools that we have.
- Dana Parnello said he was not sure about 15 people responding as a good basis for drawing too many conclusions. He mentioned that the web is much less relevant, while mobile apps are trending. He said we could provide real time information to people depending on where they are in the watershed, and he suggested doing some creative things with school districts.
- Diane Buckshnis commented that Jason MK did a wonderful job with his presentation to the Edmonds City Council. She said it would be great for him to come annually. This was a great way to share information with the council and citizens.
- Hank Myers mentioned that in regard to public outreach, he would like to be able to link to one individual article instead of whole e-newsletter.
- Kathy Minsch said Jason MK did an excellent job presenting to Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Utilities and Neighborhoods Committee. He covered both WRIs 8 and 9, and CM Sally Bagshaw was very interested in the situation with the Locks. Kathy said she really likes the factsheets, which are colorful and interesting.

## **5. Budget Principles & Terms for WRIA 8 Memorandum of Understanding/2016 Budget & Work Plan**

### **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):**

Jason MK reported the SRC’s feedback on the MOU was included in the Management Committee’s (MC) budget recommendations. Section II, Budget Principles and Terms of the MOU strikethrough version is new material, basically reflecting the budget principles used to develop the budget recommendation. He said this section says that for 2016 and every subsequent biennium, partner costs will not exceed the Consumer Price Index for Wages (CPIW). If costs ever did exceed CPIW, the MOU enables the service provider or ILA partners to have a conversation to address the budget gap.

# WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

March 19, 2015

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Larry Phillips remarked that the MC had a spirited conversation and settled on this verbiage. Diane Buckshnis commented that she was pleased that we are tying this to CPIW. Jason MK said it provides partners with certainty about costs.

***ILA partner members of the Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the Management Committee's recommendations with regard to changes to the WRIA 8 Memorandum of Understanding, and for this MOU to go forward as a draft for partner review.***

## **2016 Budget:**

Jason MK presented the Management Committee's budget recommendation. He explained the base and additional revenues. The level of additional revenue has not been determined, so we may have more money than indicated. In terms of expenditures, staff costs and overhead are broken out separately, and now reflect King County's (KC) true costs on a per staff basis. Jason said we buy technical services from the KC Science Section, and overhead for that is factored into the total overhead. Supplies and services reflect the traditional amounts, although additional funds were included for printing in anticipation of the Ten-Year Plan Update. The computer support cost per staff has actually gone down.

## Discussion:

- Diane Buckshnis asked for clarification on overhead. Jason MK explained that KC doesn't calculate overhead as a percentage of salaries and benefits, but as a true cost on a per staff basis.
- Don Davidson said WRIA 8 staff has been innovative over time to fund all the work they have on 3.5 FTE's. CM Phillips responded that the credit goes to staff.
- Jean White, KC, thanked the SRC, and said the county appreciates being able to continue this work.
- Jason MK noted that the meeting packet includes graphs and additional information on WRIA 8 program revenues and costs and capital funds we anticipate for projects. The bottom line is that we are doing very well with the resources we have but we're falling short of our goal due to limited resources.
- Vince Cavaleri asked how cost share amounts are calculated per city. Jason MK explained that the cost share is a proportional formula based on the assessed value, population and area by square mile for each jurisdiction. He said he will send everyone the updated cost share table for 2016 so each jurisdiction has it for their budget staff.

***ILA partner members of the Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the 2016 WRIA 8 Budget.***

## **2016 Work Plan:**

Jason MK reported that the 2016 work program includes major deliverables for all work areas. New this year is a staffing column to denote the percentage of each FTE's staffing time by deliverable. He said doing this exercise made him realize how much work is done with limited staff and resources. Staff time added up reflects 3.5 FTE's, and topics and deliverables are largely the same for this year. A major new item for 2016 is the Ten-Year Plan Update, which we expect will start at the end of the year and extend through 2016. Jason said 3.5 staff are not going to be able to do the update on their own, and we will call on support from jurisdictional staff. He emphasized that in some cases SRC members will need to actively support such a request for their jurisdiction's staff to participate.

# WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

March 19, 2015

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## Discussion:

- Tom Odell asked if WRIA 8 was contemplating hiring consultants to help with the update. Jason MK said he does anticipate hiring support to manage the plan update, and will likely propose using additional revenues to hire a consultant in addition to jurisdictional partner technical and policy staff support.
- Diane Buckshnis questioned if the .5 FTE for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) and Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant work was really enough time for these important activities. Jason MK agreed that is a tremendous amount of work for Jason Wilkinson (Jason W), Actions and Funding Coordinator, who does a great job.
- Don Davidson commented that we should all congratulate ourselves because all the jurisdictions loan staff, like fish biologists, to help with this effort. Jason MK agreed we get lots of support from those staff.
- Dick Bonewits remarked that when he looks around this room, he sees people who have been here more than 14 years, and he is impressed how far we have come. He said this work plan is a great piece of work and demonstrates sophistication. He emphasized the collegial atmosphere is a tribute to the SRC.
- Mike Grady said he has been both an elected representative and an agency stakeholder representative to the SRC, and he has been pushing the federal government for years to take notice of this group. For those that are new to the funding package, you'll notice that everyone is contributing even if we don't all see something in our own backyard. You really don't find that elsewhere in the country.

***ILA partner members of the Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the 2016 WRIA 8 Work Plan.***

Larry Phillips thanked all the SRC members for their ongoing participation in the WRIA 8 ILA. When we started out on this journey, there was a serious Chinook decline and then the Endangered Species Act listing. Other jurisdictions around the country had their fates determined by a federal agency or a court, and we tried something that hadn't been done before, to do our own Conservation Plan, submit it through the agencies, and hold off the heavy-handedness of the federal government. Consent decrees are expensive; we've been very good at holding that off to date.

Jason MK thanked everyone for the comments. He noted there will be more information later this year on the amount of available additional revenues and proposals for how it might be used.

## 6. Three-Year Work Plan Updates

Jason W reported that the Three-Year Work Plan is a smaller subset of the WRIA 8 Plan Comprehensive List and the Ten-Year Start List. The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) and Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council use the Three-Year Work Plan, and it supports regional policy and technical decision-making and legislative funding requests. Every year we solicit updates to the work plan and review them with the Technical and Implementation Committees. He said technically we are not required to do it this year, but we wanted to do it as we normally do to give folks a chance to get on the list. We are looking at moving the updates to later in the year to match up with PSP's new reporting requirements and schedule.

Jason W explained that Technical and Implementation Committee recommendations are outlined in the table included in the packet. Projects move onto the Three-Year Work Plan as they are ready to go, or move off if they are completed, or some factor affects their implementation so they won't be able to happen within three years. He said we often elevate projects from our Start List to the Three-Year Work

# WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

March 19, 2015

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Plan, but we also listen to proposed projects that are consistent with the WRIA work plan that aren't on the Start List. We are also pulling some projects off the list that are complete or inactive for the near future. One that's been on the list for a few years is now active, and we are capturing the way that project is currently envisioned.

This year's Technical Committee Three-Year Work Plan recommendations are:

## **Additions:**

- Meadowdale Beach Park Barrier Removal (Start List and Three-Year Work Plan);
- Sammamish State Park Restoration (Start List and Three-Year Work Plan);
- Bear Creek Reach 6 – Protect Undeveloped Properties (Three-Year Work Plan);
- Bear Creek Reach 6 Restoration (create new sub-project, add to Comprehensive List, Start List and Three-Year Work Plan); and
- Evans Creek Riparian Restoration at Sportsman Park (create new sub-project, add to Comprehensive List, Start List and Three-Year Work Plan).

## **No Action Recommended:**

- Lyon Creek Fish Barrier Removal; and
- Hidden Lake Dam Removal.

## **Remove or Update Descriptions:**

- 218<sup>th</sup> Place Side Channel Protection (remove completed project);
- South Lake Washington DNR Shoreline Restoration (remove completed project);
- Mouth of Mapes Creek Restoration (remove completed project);
- Lower Bear Creek Restoration (remove completed project);
- Hooven Bog Acquisition (remove completed project);
- Enhance Flows at Lower Rock Creek (remove completed project); and
- Transition Zone Restoration (change name to "Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration" and update project description).

## **Non-Capital Priority:**

- Increase Best Management Practices (add CO39 to clarify scope of existing Three-Year Work Plan action).

## **Discussion:**

- Hank Myers said this list is great for decision making. He asked if there is a comprehensive list of projects that are coming on and going off the list. Jason W replied that we do have the full Three-Year Work Plan, but it's in tiny print. CM Myers commented that it would be good to have something we can go to the public with to say here's what we've finished and here's what we're able to take on now. That would be something to help us tell the story and our accomplishments. Jason W replied that we have that information and could package it up. Jason MK said he has been telling that story in his ILA presentations. We have also captured this type of information in our five- and ten-year Progress Reports.
- Don Davidson said the Three-Year Work Plan can look different from the Ten-Year Start List because we look for opportunities. Projects are phased for acquisition, design, etc. If you look parochially you may not see something in your own backyard, but you have to look at the watershed as a whole.
- Dick Bonewits proposed not recreating a list of projects, but try to satisfy the request with an existing report and get value out of what we already have. We only need to go back four-five years. We already have the full Three-Year Work Plan as an 11"x17" chart, and staff could bring copies of the old reports that are organized that way.
- Andy Rheaume said communicating this information through a map that is kept current would be a great resource. He asked how the City of Bothell can get acquisition of the Wayne Golf Course project on the Three-Year Work Plan. Jason W explained that normally it is an annual process, with the Technical Committee reviewing proposed projects in January/February before they are brought

# WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

March 19, 2015

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before the SRC. PSP is changing their Three-Year Work Plan schedule so will reexamine our schedule later this year. He said we haven't figured out the exact timing yet, but it could maybe be late summer, and he noted that Bothell staff are on his project email list. CM Rheaume inquired if council members are also on that email list. Jason W explained that typically staff level sponsors are on the list, but moving forward we can broaden the list. He said the Habitat Work Schedule is designed to be some of what's being requested with the map, but it's not always the most user-friendly.

- John Stokes supported the idea of the map. He said one question he had is about cooperating with other groups, such as coordinating with the Flood Control District on Willowmoor.
- Diane Buckshnis complimented WRIA 8 on the completed projects, and said she would like to have a copy of the nuts and bolts Three-Year Work Plan. Jason W explained that it is posted on the WRIA 8 web page, and he will send her the link.
- Larry Phillips reported that the Cedar River Council is interested in the Rock Creek project. Jason W said the project is in the City of Kent's 50-year Habitat Conservation Plan, which guides actions in that area of the watershed so the project in the WRIA 8 Plan has essentially been pre-empted. He also noted that the Kent is not going to be actively pursuing it.
- Tom Odell reminded the SRC that the City of Sammamish owns a good chunk of the upper Evans Creek Watershed, and would be happy to work with you. It's just upstream/outside the City of Redmond, south of Union Hill.

***The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the Three-Year Work Plan updates.***

## 7. Fish In/Fish Out Monitoring Summary

Scott Stolnack, Technical Coordinator, reported that for Fish In/Fish Out monitoring we look at different Viable Salmon Population (VSP) variables:

- Abundance: Number of fish; hatchery versus natural-origin.
- Productivity: Population growth.
- Spatial Distribution: Where they are located Tier 1, Tier 2, etc.
- Life History Diversity: Early vs. late migration timing; age structure of adult returns.

He reminded the SRC that WRIA 8 has two Chinook salmon populations (Sammamish and Cedar) and is divided into tiers: Tier 1 (core places and good habitat, important migratory areas); Tier 2 (habitat marginal or good, but episodic Chinook use; and Tier 3 (smaller streams, urban areas, pretty built out). Scott said we want to turn Tier 2s into Tier 1s.

Scott explained that to figure how many fish we have, people float or walk the river weekly to do live counts and count the redds. They sample the carcasses, checking fish scales for age, and carcass location in the river. He said the sampling work is done by a big partnership of WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), Muckleshoot Indian Tribe (MIT), and KC. Redds appear lighter because fish agitate with their tails to build nests, washing some of the algae and sediment off the gravel. Since around 2000, hatchery fish in our watershed have a clipped adipose fin, and that's how we can tell hatchery origins.

Scott described charts showing adult salmon returns. He noted that we've had ups and downs, and see some improvement but we're not done yet. There is a 73% increase in Chinook abundance on the Cedar, but 2014 itself was not such a good year. One year doesn't tell the whole story (good or bad) we just have to continue the work that we're doing. The Sammamish escapement info basically reflects Bear and Cottage Lake Creeks, where we don't have a lot of the larger up and down fluctuations as with the Cedar. He said we reached our ten year goal once in 2012, but we basically have a 48% decrease in abundance from 2007-2014.

# WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

March 19, 2015

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Scott reported that the goal for productivity is to increase the number of juvenile migrants. Usually we focus on habitat, which is what we have some control over, and that means juvenile salmon. WDFW installs smolt traps in Bear Creek and the Cedar, trapping 24/7 from January to June in all weather conditions, which is expensive. The larger smolts are when they leave, the better their chance of returning. He explained that one productivity measure we use is the egg to migrant survival rate, and we have met our ten year goals every year for the past five years. Bear Creek has late-season migrants which stay in the creek longer, which we factor into our goals. In the Cedar we've seen a 205% increase in productivity from 2007-2014. In Bear/Cottage we're seeing an 86% increase for that time period while we're still seeing abundance go down.

Scott said the spatial distribution goal is to maintain or increase the distribution of Chinook spawning. In Tier 1 areas we have fish and we're continuing to have fish, but in Tier 2 areas there are not a lot of patterns to discern, and some data is missing. Landsburg Dam is a success story: since 2003 Chinook passage has been allowed into 17 miles of the upper Cedar River above the dam. He said this area should now be a core Tier 1 area. The goal for diversity is to increase the proportion of the late season migrants. He said we're seeing more fish and more late-season migrants, but the proportion has declined.

Discussion:

- Ted Frantz asked if all migrating fish are measured, or how do they extrapolate numbers. Scott explained that they trap only a portion of the width of the river, and extrapolate from what they get out of that section to the entire population.
- Larry Phillips remarked that now that passage is open above Landsburg, we should begin to see that benefit to the species.

## **8. Success Story: NOAA Green Infrastructure and Shoreline Restoration Plan at Sandpoint Campus on Lake Washington**

Mike Grady reported that NOAA's role in overseeing large projects like replacement of the 520 bridge is to keep them from harming, killing or harassing fish. Lots of the mitigation projects for the 520 bridge construction came from the WRIA 8 list of projects. NOAA also noticed that we are supposed to "green up" the federal government and set a good example. Using guidance from the Green Shoreline guide book, he said he helped NOAA Facilities figure out how to comply with the requirements, briefed high level managers on a proposal for turning NOAA's "art walk" into a science walk to protect the environment and fish habitat, and worked on building community partnerships.

Mike explained that all the stormwater from NOAA's 120-acre campus drains directly to the lake without treatment, resulting in KC fines of \$175,000 every year, which in 20 years without treatment will cost NOAA \$7.3 million. The site also has over 35 acres of impervious surfaces. NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) has tested sediments and effluent, and NOAA, EPA and other grant proposals have been written to address it.

Mike said there is 3,100 feet of riprap along NOAA's Lake Washington shoreline. When the Sand Point military base was converted, they tore up the tarmac and put the asphalt in the shoreline. Per PSP, NOAA needs to remove bank hardening and fix stormwater. He remarked that we have every invasive plant and species you can think of on our site plus nutria, and are in complete non-compliance with ESA on those issues. Volunteer restoration projects are ongoing, designs are complete, and we'd like to take the 3,100 feet of our shoreline and create green shoreline demo projects with stormwater treatments.

# WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

March 19, 2015

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Mike reported that NOAA spends \$530,000/year on energy for our vintage buildings and systems, and \$250,000 on oil and gas for our vehicles. We could create solar arrays to charge electric cars and trucks. Meanwhile we're looking at ways to increase our efficiencies and possibly do community solar the way the Aquarium does. He proposed treating NOAA's stormwater through natural systems before it gets to the lake to save fines, and create shoreline habitat for the fish. We want to go after grants to do this and we will come to WRIA 8 for its helps. He encouraged SRC member colleagues to do the same thing in all of their backyards. There is a lot of funding and technical know-how for how to do this.

Discussion:

- Larry Phillips asked Mike if he has considered requesting KC reimburse NOAA the money paid in fines for direct discharging stormwater if those funds were invested in the project. Mike said he had not, but is interested in discussing the option further.
- Ted Frantz asked if there is a timeline for implementing this plan. Mike explained that we should have a budget of \$3-5 million by the end of September. The solar piece is contingent on the credits program being extended, and implementation on the stormwater/shoreline piece will start within a year. He said we also got a grant to build interpretive kiosks along the trail, with technology like "Q" codes on your phone so you can take the tour and get information from the kiosks as you go along.

## 9. Next Meeting

The next SRC meeting is May 21, 2015, 3:00-5:15 p.m., at Ecology's Northwest Regional Office in Bellevue.