

WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Meeting Notes

Department of Ecology Northwest Regional Office

July 21, 2016 3:10-5:27 p.m.

Members/Jurisdictional Staff Alternates Present		
#	Name	Affiliation
1.	Mayor Andy Rheaume, Chair	City of Bothell
2.	Mayor John Stokes, Vice-Chair	City of Bellevue
3.	Judy Blanco	Forterra
4.	Councilmember (CM) Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
5.	CM Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
6.	Mike Grady	NOAA Fisheries
7.	Garrett Holbrook	King County
8.	Cyndy Holtz	City of Seattle
9.	Antonia Jindrich	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
10.	CM Shelley Kloba	City of Kirkland
11.	CM Ryan McIrvine	City of Renton
12.	CM Tom Odell	City of Sammamish
13.	Susan O'Neil	Long Live the Kings
14.	CM Mark Phillips	City of Lake Forest Park
15.	Stewart Reinbold	WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
16.	CM Jesse Solomon	City of Shoreline
17.	Deputy Mayor Carl Scandella	City of Yarrow Point
Others Present		
18.	Kate Akyuz	King County
19.	David Bain	Sno-King Watershed Council
20.	John Engel	King County
21.	Rondi Nordal	Edmonds Stream Team
22.	Kit Paulsen	City of Bellevue
23.	Jerallyn Roetemeyer	City of Redmond
24.	Stacey Rush	City of Kirkland
25.	Joe Scordino	Edmonds Stream Team
26.	Jay Smith	King County
27.	Ralph Svrjcek	WA Dept. of Ecology (Ecology)
28.	Val Stewart	Edmonds Planning Board
29.	Stacy Vynne	Puget Sound Partnership
30.	Bill Way	Citizen
31.	Jean White	King County
32.	Linda Grob	WRIA 8 Team
33.	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 Team
34.	Scott Stolnack	WRIA 8 Team
35.	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8 Team

Chair Andy Rheaume opened the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meeting, inviting all attendees to introduce themselves, especially the new members.

Jean White, King County, announced that she is leaving her position as supervisor of the WRIA Teams to take a new job working in King County (KC) Parks as the government relations administrator for regional trails. She said she recruited most members of the WRIA 8 Team, and her email will remain the same. Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (Jason MK), Salmon Recovery Manager, thanked her for all her support

WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

July 21, 2016

of, and leadership on, salmon recovery. John Stokes said Jean has inspired a lot of city councilmembers in WRIA 8.

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes for May 19, 2016

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the meeting notes for the May 19, 2016 meeting.

3. Updates & Announcements

General Announcements:

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (Jason MK), Salmon Recovery Manager, requested that SRC members review the Updates & Announcements handout, and he highlighted the following items:

- **WRIA 8 Letter – SR 520 Bridge Demolition Work on Barges in Lake Washington:** The City of Kenmore was concerned about the impacts to salmon and water quality caused by the dirt from the bridge pontoon demolition at an industrial site in Kenmore. After the May SRC meeting Kenmore voted not to allow the demolition at the site, and settled with the WA State Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT) contractor to have the work done on floating barges in the lake. The SRC decided this warranted sending a letter to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), WSDOT, WA Dept. of Ecology (Ecology), and WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) stating our concerns about the impacts to Chinook and water quality in the lake. The Management Committee approved the letter, which went out on June 9, and we received a joint response from NOAA, WSDOT and Ecology on June 22. The response notes that the SRC's concerns have been addressed as part of a previous Endangered Species Act consultation and existing permits.

Discussion:

- Stewart Reinbold said WSDOT talked to cities about the rubbleization, and citizens made concerns known and no city ended up wanting it. Originally they hoped it would be easier to do the work at the north end of the lake. The plan now is to break up the pontoons south of 520 and spray continuously. He explained that when concrete is busted up it sucks up water like crazy. The concrete folds in on itself into basketball-sized pieces. Dark/gray water is waste water, clear water is clean, and the gray water goes to a Kenmore facility. WSDOT and the contractor agreed to hire an individual spotter to look for dust, thanks to concerns voiced by Councilmember Allen Van Ness from Kenmore and the SRC. Stewart said it will be into December before the rubbleization is finished.
- Mark Phillips commented that it seems like their letter said the contractor would release water back into the lake. Stewart Reinbold responded that that they are not allowed to release water into the lake. They have only had to make one trip to Kenmore with the gray water.
- John Stokes said WSDOT came to several mayors to discuss the rubbleization, and indicated there was a spill at first. Stewart Reinbold explained that they started the process at kind of a rush, using a foam pad with plywood on top. Every once in a while chunk falls in the lake, and they are now monitoring with a video camera.
- Diane Buckshnis inquired if WDFW will do a surprise audit. Stewart Reinbold said contractors hate surprise audits. We told them we would call an hour before we go out. If we surprise them with an audit it can be challenging for them to prepare things to get us on the boat.
- **WRIA 8 Draft Letter – Inviting Muckleshoot Indian Tribe to Coordinate/Participate in WRIA 8 Plan Update:** The Muckleshoot Tribe is a strong leader in salmon recovery, and in the letter WRIA 8 is

WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

July 21, 2016

inviting them to participate in the Plan update at a staff level or tribal council level. Jason MK noted that additional separate letters have also been drafted to the Suquamish Tribe, Tulalip Tribes, and Snoqualmie tribe.

Discussion:

- Ralph Svrjcek, Ecology, noted communication with Tribes is important, but can be sensitive. Jason MK commented that the letters are written to invite tribal participation on as they deem appropriate, recognizing tribes lack resources to participate in meetings and processes.
- Jean White said tribal participation on salmon recovery can be challenging, and King County has a tribal liaison to support communications. Jean noted that the Snoqualmie and Tulalip Tribes are at the table in the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, and helping fund the interlocal agreement for the Snoqualmie Team.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved sending the letters to the Muckleshoot Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, Tulalip Tribes, and Snoqualmie Tribe.

- **2016 Grant Round Status:** The KC Flood Control District (FCD) Board of Supervisors officially approved the SRC's recommended 2016 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant funding on July 11. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) will approve the SRC-recommended list for SRFB & Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding on December 7, 2016.
- **Chinook Book Ads about Salmon in KC Watersheds:** WRIA 8 helped develop a connection between the Chinook Book and KC to coordinate a multi-WRIA advertisement. The ad will be in the Chinook Book coming out in September.
- **Updated Action Agenda for Puget Sound Recovery Approved:** The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Leadership Council approved the 2016 update to the Action Agenda for Puget Sound recovery on June 29
- **Cedar River Council (CRC) Riverbend Meeting/Open House:** Next Tuesday, July 26, the CRC's meeting at the Riverbend Mobile Home Park Club House will include a project tour of the Riverbend site and a discussion of the wood logjams in the river that have closed a big section of the Cedar. Postcards are available on the meeting packet table.

Discussion:

- Ted Frantz asked if any of the wood at the Riverbend site has been placed. Jason MK said it has not, but some wood may have occurred naturally, as well as at project sites.
- Jesse Solomon asked if the wood has affected recreation or salmon. Jason MK said it has affected public safety. Tom Odell added it concerns people floating the river

4. Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Reduction and Potential Cuts to 2017 WRIA 8 Lead Entity Grant

Andy Rheame reported that we recently learned that NOAA is reducing the 2016-2017 amount of federal salmon recovery funding we receive through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). Jason MK explained that PCSRF supports capital project implementation and capacity to implement recovery plans in watersheds throughout the state. The WA Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) annually applies for PCSRF funding, which is competitive across six western states. He said WA usually gets the bulk of the PCSRF funding because we have organizations in place and strong watershed councils. But this year NOAA said WA would get less money, because the state puts too much money into capacity, which rates as their third priority after projects benefiting ESA-listed populations or tribal treaty fishing rights, and watershed-wide monitoring activities. A proposal submitted by RCO to SRFB in June would mean the WRIA 8 Lead Entity funding for July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 would be reduced

WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

July 21, 2016

by more than roughly \$14,000. Jason MK said he included a copy of the WRIA budget in the meeting packet to show how we could move money to support our work if we lose this funding. He said WRIA 8 staff will be part of discussions with other lead entities in Puget Sound and with the Puget Sound Partnership to develop an approach for applying the reduction for the August 11 SRFB meeting.

Discussion:

- Diane Buckshnis inquired about the part of PSAR being rolled over. Jason MK said PSAR capacity funding is rolling over. CM Buckshnis asked if he has considered adding a penny to our cost shares. Jason MK said he understands the reduction could be a one-year deal, and if not, we will look at other options.
- Ted Frantz asked for clarification that it's a \$6 million loss, so WRIA 8 would get \$60,000 less. Jason MK reiterated that it is approximately \$14,000 less, with the allocation going from \$60,000 to \$45,658. We have communicated to the state that they need to fund more of the projects, or we will lose federal money. For some WRIAs with only one staff the reduction equals losing half a FTE.
- John Stokes suggested it sounds like the reduction could possibly be more than \$14,000. Jason MK responded that he thinks \$14,000 is the worst case scenario. We could be asked by smaller watersheds to share some of our money, and if so, he would bring that back to the SRC.
- Tom Odell noted that things are great now politically, but they could get worse. He supported WRIA 8 doing some contingency planning.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved authorizing Jason MK to move forward with making budget and work plan decisions as a result of the reduction in the 2016-2017 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund allocation.

5. WRIA 8 Ten-Year Plan Update Status

Scott Stolnack, Technical Coordinator, began his presentation with fish numbers at the Ballard Locks. Historically only about 3% of the Chinook run has passed through the locks by this time, so it's too early to say much about Chinook numbers. Sockeye are 75% through the Locks, and the numbers so far are better than last year but still well below where they would need to be for a fishery.

Scott said PSP awarded \$105,000 to WRIA 8 to continue development of our monitoring and adaptive plan, including updating our recovery plan. One overarching need is to reduce complexity so that we can focus our efforts on the most important features. During Phase 1, also supported by PSP, ecosystem components and key ecological attributes and indicators were identified. Phase 2 involves, among other things, updating the conceptual model of the WRIA 8 Chinook salmon lifecycle. He said we previously couldn't easily explain specific bottlenecks, because our two salmon populations have different needs and different challenges depending on where they are in the watershed and in their lifecycle. Key premises of the conceptual model are:

1. Each life stage occupies specific geographies and residence periods;
2. Key stressors (priorities) vary by geography and life stage; and
3. Rationales for our actions and monitoring must account for 1 and 2.

Scott reported that we now have sufficient data to confirm that the stream rearing life stage is a bottleneck, and data are suggesting that the lake rearing stage is a bottleneck too. The whole process is about going through a logical train of reasoning to arrive at conclusions. Using this information, the WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) has performed a pressures assessment to determine exactly which pressures are contributing the most to these bottlenecks. It is a very time consuming process, and the TC will continue to review and make refinements to the pressure assessment.

WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

July 21, 2016

Scott explained that, per regional guidance, our recovery goals should be S.M.A.R.T. (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely). Fish goals, which will have no substantial change, are set by the co-managers, who look at the number of adults returning to determine the size of the Chinook run every year. He said the habitat goals weren't developed very extensively in the WRIA 8 Plan, and he thinks they may improve substantially with the work the Technical and Implementation Committees will be doing in the coming months.

Scott reported that WRIA 8 will be convening a joint TC/Implementation Committee (IC) workshop on Tuesday, August 16, to identify recovery strategies. SRC members are welcome to join. Other next steps for the TC include continuing to review the pressure assessment, drafting habitat goals with the IC, and finalizing indicators and monitoring recommendations. The WRIA 8 Team will then draft the Plan update narrative, which will be further reviewed by the SRC and committees.

Discussion:

- Carl Scandella commented that we now have 20 years of data, and he said he isn't sure we are making progress.
- Ted Frantz asked if the results are correlated with the Columbia River, because it sounds like they are seeing good returns. Scott Stolnack reported that results are not correlated with the Columbia or Fraser Rivers, because the salmon go out in the ocean in different areas.
- Ted Frantz asked how the pressure assessment scores are determined. Scott Stolnack explained that the TC members use their knowledge and published research to make their best professional judgement on each pressure. He said it is difficult, because it's impossible to be an expert on each subject, but collectively we feel the information is sound. He said that the conceptual model contains links to relevant information, and is meant to be continually improved.
- Mark Phillips said in scanning the pressure assessment table, there are different kinds of pollution pressures, and it looks like pollution impacts are rated lower. Scott Stolnack explained that some of that has to do with the timing for Chinook. Chinook do not spend a great deal of time in fresh water, unlike some other salmon species. We don't see the same pre-spawning mortality for Chinook as for coho, for example. While pollution can and does affect Chinook, other pressures are proportionately greater.
- Jesse Solomon asked if we looked at pike minnow predation in the Columbia, and how it compares to our streams and lakes. Scott Stolnack said the SRC recently funded year two of a lake predation study that David Beauchamp, University of Washington/USGS, is doing. WDFW just starting to think of managing predators in Lake Washington, and we now know that due to the lights situation it is likely that cutthroat are eating more Chinook.
- Tom Odell reported that the Kokanee Work Group is setting up a year-by-year pie chart. He asked about setting up a percentage chart for the Locks and comparing it to other rivers, instead of a count graph at the Locks. Scott Stolnack agreed that we could compare a Locks chart to Puget Sound, the Fraser, and other rivers, but the purpose of the graphic he displayed was to compare just WRIA 8 Chinook abundance over time.
- Jesse Solomon noted that we know we have an issue with predation, and that it is a problem. Jason MK responded that we are still trying to accurately quantify the problem, and this study will help us figure that out.
- Jason MK asked the Salmon Recovery Council to affirm the approach for the 10-year Plan update.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the WRIA 8 Ten-Year Plan Update approach.

WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

July 21, 2016

6. Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration Project Overview

Kate Akyuz, Ecologist, KC River and Floodplain Management Section (RFMS), reported that we identified Willowmoor/Sammamish River Transition Zone as a project in 2003, but it wasn't seen as critical until home owners started complaining about flooding. The transition zone has two rows of willows between two channels and a weir. The problem with the willows, planted by KC in 1990, was that they weren't being maintained. She said the study goals for the Willowmoor project were to ensure the transition zone's capability to provide sufficient lake level, flow conveyance, and downstream flood control; enhance habitat conditions in the river channel, tributaries and wetlands for Chinook and other species; and reduce costs, complexity and ecological impacts of transition zone maintenance.

Kate said the Willowmoor Stakeholder Advisory Committee was comprised of 22 folks, representing a range of interests and expertise. Five issues came out of the process that were critical to public and natural resource agency members on the committee: lake level control; impacts on Redmond's stormwater system; TMDL on the river; Chinook habitat (water quality, pools, cover and shade); and recreation interests (off-leash park, birding, boaters).

Kate said the Advisory Committee narrowed five alternatives for channel reconfiguration down to three:

1. Maintenance: Cuts a swath through the willows; no upfront cost by maintenance is expensive.
2. Widened Channel: Widens existing channel; plants a lot more trees; takes willows out of center of channel and plant willows on the left side of channel; modifies the weir for fish passage; includes pumped heat exchange of water.
3. Split Flow Channel: Splits river flow into two channels, with existing channel for flood conveyance and recreation, new side channel for habitat and fish passage; widens existing channel and weir; adds second weir to control flow into side channel; includes pumped groundwater.

Kate said Alternative 3 received the most support from agencies and cities, and was approved. The project cost is \$9.8 million for design and construction. The FCD funded the project through 30% design, added \$4 million in its 2016 budget, and The City of Redmond contributed \$150,000. She said we also received a SRFB grant of \$200,000, and have submitted a Floodplains by Design pre-proposal grant for \$5.5 million. Next steps include an on-going public process, final design, and securing implementation funding for final Willowmoor project implementation in 2020 or 2021. Kate noted that the entire Sammamish River is a Corps project, and we have to go through the whole Corps permitting process.

Discussion:

- John Stokes said the Cities of Redmond and Bellevue pushed on this project, and the \$4 million is just a place-holder. Next year when this project comes up again the SRC will have to really look at it, especially with the FCD Corridor Plan moving away from habitat for salmon. Willowmoor is a good success story because it was just languishing for a long time, and it will make difference from Bothell to Sammamish.
- Tom Odell announced that he will participate for the City of Sammamish, which he didn't think had participated so far. He said it seems like the side channel will warm up too much in the river. Kate Akyuz responded that we are looking at a couple of options with the split channel, such as a heat exchange, moving the weirs back, and a pumping groundwater solution. The Sammamish is a highly engineered river, and the river bed has been dropped six feet. She said we have not found a

WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

July 21, 2016

lot of analogs for what has occurred here, and have to look at engineered solutions. CM Odell inquired if the imported water will be aerated, and Kate said yes.

- Ted Frantz asked if Marymoor Park property is along the site. Kate Akyuz said it is, and KC owns the property.
- Mike Grady asked if there are any water right issues with the groundwater. Kate Akyuz replied that we can get a non-consumptive permit for the groundwater.

7. Cedar River Corridor Plan Status and Next Steps

John Engel, Cedar River Supervising Engineer, KC RFMS, said two years ago when he first spoke to the SRC at the start of the Cedar River Corridor Plan, he talked about a multi-benefit project which included flood and CMZ risks, habitat, and recreation. However, nine months ago the FCD Board directed us to just look at flood hazard reduction and recreation, eliminating habitat from consideration.

John reported on Corridor Plan progress to date, which includes a risk analysis, and technical workshops on flood and CMZ risks, habitat, and recreation. In a 10-year flood, not much is happening and most of the water stays in the banks. Above a 20-year flood there is flooding. He said we built a risk model for the flood hazard analysis, and our results identified 14 neighborhood problem areas, and 13 vulnerable bank erosion locations, and we are now developing projects for highest risk areas. For downtown Renton we built a 2D model to evaluate existing levees and floodwalls for a 200-year flood, and the results show they would provide up to a 100-year flood protection.

John said we also did a habitat characterization for reference, focused on juvenile Chinook, and developed a GIS model. The habitat characterization, which will be an appendix to the Corridor Plan, looked at floodplain-channel interactions, riparian conditions, and large wood presence. He said his hope is we will develop projects that benefit both flood risks and habitat, the best example of which is the Riverbend project. Next steps for the Corridor Plan include continuing property acquisitions with FCD approval, developing the capital investment strategy, and presenting it to the FCD next month. The capital investment strategy will go into the 2017 FCD budget, and we plan on scheduling some meetings with our partners.

Discussion:

- Cyndy Holtz noted that \$44 million projects have been identified in the Green River through the SWIF process, and she asked how that will impact projects on the on the Cedar getting funding. Around \$10 million is targeted for the Cedar. She said Seattle and KC have submitted a Floodplain by Designs grant for \$5 million, and KC has cued up projects with willing sellers, but none of the acquisitions have occurred. John Engel responded that we met with the KC Water & Land Resources directors this morning, and he reported that Jon Hansen, KC Ecologist, will be in touch with Cyndy. He said FCD has contributed \$4 million to the Cedar.

8. Success Story: Edmonds-Woodway High School Students Saving Salmon Water Quality Monitoring Report

Rondi Nordal, student and founding president of the Students Saving Salmon group at Edmonds-Woodway High School, reported that she started by working on Edmonds Pier signage and writing articles and presenting to the Edmonds City Council. This year with a lot more resources and coverage the Stream Team monitoring project began, and the students began collecting data on stormwater runoff. She said the Willow Creek Daylighting Project was a huge inspiration to the students, who were able to collect baseline data on Edmonds Marsh. Teams of three students each monitored 16 sites

WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

July 21, 2016

daily in Edmonds along the marsh and in three creeks, Shell, Shellabarger, and Willow. The teams monitored for water temperature, dissolved oxygen, dissolved metals, and fecal coliform, and enter information into the database within 24 hours for fact checking and to analyze trends. All temperatures were lower than the state water quality standard, and dissolved oxygen levels in the creeks were also good. Rondi said around the edges of the marsh we did have low dissolved oxygen, which may be due to reduced flow, but mostly met the standard in the center of marsh. Dissolved metals did not exceed the standards, but for fecal coliform we did sometimes see levels approaching 300, and are looking at what might be the cause.

Rondi explained that the teams will collect summer data, and pursue collecting turbidity, phosphorous, and other data to make the project more compatible with the state level monitoring program. She said she has personally benefited from this project, and has received a summer internship as a result. Her take away is that a project run by students can collect valid data, and we have been successful at making the data as good as possible. She said if we didn't have people willing to listen we would not have a program. The students' full Stream Team Monitoring Report can be found on the WRIA 8 web page: <http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/committees/1607/Edmonds-StreamTeam-MonitoringReport.pdf>.

Discussion:

- Mike Grady acknowledged Joe Scordino, Volunteer Project Lead, who formerly worked at NOAA. He said this is a great project, and NOAA should give the students its model to use. He said if Rondi wants an internship with NOAA to let him know. Rondi Nordal explained that she is interning with NOAA this summer.
- Carl Scandella commended the students' work, and suggested Rondi look at the Seattle Science Center, which has a great environmental program for students.
- Tom Odell also commended Rondi and the students' great work. He asked if she has figured out the source of the fecal coliform. Rondi said not so far, but we hope to look at more intense fecal coliform collections.
- Diane Buckshnis recognized Val Stewart, Edmonds Planning Board, who took a class through WRIA 8, and also Joe Scordino, who did a fabulous job with the students. She said the City of Edmonds will fund this program again.

9. Next Meeting:

The next Salmon Recovery Council meeting is September 15, 2016, 3:00 – 5:15 p.m., Ecology's Northwest Regional Office in Bellevue.