

WRIA 9 Implementation Technical Committee
Draft Meeting Summary – September 20, 2017 9:00-Noon
King Street Center, North Wind Meeting Room

Attendees:

Kerry Bauman, King County	
Katie Beaver, King County (new!)	Alexis Kleinbeck, King County
Karen Bergeron, WRIA 9	Matt Knox, City of Kent
Jeanette Dorner, MidSound	Josh Latterell, King County
Larry Fisher, WDFW	Kathy Minsch, City of Seattle
Matt Goehring, WRIA 9 (new!)	Joan Nolan, Ecology
Kollin Higgins, King County	Doug Osterman, WRIA 9
Abby Hook, Hook Environmental	Mike Perfetti, City of Tukwila
Josh Kahan, King County	Scott Powell, Seattle City Light
Leah Kintner, PSP	Jennifer Rice, King County

Green River Otolith Study—Kollin Higgins

Kollin summarized the 2015 report showing the otolith work by WDFW. We accidentally attached the draft 2016 data to the meeting agenda instead of the finalized WDFW 2015 report. Please do not forward on the 2016 draft that was attached to the prior meeting materials as WDFW is still working out some of the details and we had not meant to share that document just yet.

The data showed:

- The fry that out-migrate and rear in the Duwamish in the first three months (Jan – Mar) have not survived to return to spawn in anything but small numbers
- Approximately 60% of juveniles leaving are the fry-type.
- The low survival of the fry type rearing in the Duwamish may be due to 1) contamination or 2) lack of habitat in the Duwamish (with the assumption that they are not putting on enough growth before going out to Puget Sound)
- Contamination effects may be delayed. Exposure to contamination may not cause direct fish kills, but the fish may have a higher mortality in Puget Sound from secondary impacts due to the contamination.
- Fry migrants spend up to three months in the Duwamish; parr tend to spend 1 to three weeks in the Duwamish
- Yearlings are the least abundant but have the highest survival to adulthood
- Not a lot of capability to produce parr; based on Anderson's report it's very clear that there's not a lot of habitat capacity to produce parr
- The majority of the yearlings in the 2015 data were hatchery fish.
- In the past yearling Chinook have been found to overwinter in Mill Creek (Auburn) and Mullen Slough. These are larger tributaries with no flapgates.

- Chris Gregersen will be looking at juvenile chinook use of tributaries in Lower Green River in 2018 using Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding in 2017. This is funding allocated by the WRIA as part of the monitoring funds.
- Based on this information, the tributaries to the Lower Green may take on a greater importance. As an example, Johnson Creek in Tukwila may take on a higher significance for restoration. It's had restoration work done on it but currently has a flapgate on it.

Habitat Goals Update- Abby Hook

The process started in March/April 2017 with Abby working with Elissa Ostergaard to identify goals and targets in any previous WRIA 9 documents, including the Necessary Future Conditions, WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan, etc. There was a tremendous amount of information

- An overview was presented to the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum in August 2017
- The information is complex and includes climate change, fish usage, and water temperature.
- Would like to prepare technical summaries of the technical papers
- Plan to go to the Forum members and ask for review of the package of information with their technical staff
- Not sure what will occur at the November Forum meeting. The goals document might be ready for approval or there might be some "sticky wickets"
- The meetings with the jurisdictions likely to occur in October, but may go into January 2018
- These products have been reviewed by the ITC; Abby is proposing an executive summary of these documents. Matt emphasized that at this stage, we're just looking at existing goals
- The road show is about sharing information, reviewing the goals and getting input about whether the goals need to change
- We may need to emphasize meetings with certain jurisdictions because of staff changes and capacity or issues
- There is a question of if the white papers should be completed/approved before meeting with the jurisdictions
- Kollin said he hoped to have feedback by the next ITC meeting on the fish white paper. How hard or strongly worded should technical recommendations be? There are conflicting goals for land use in the Lower and Middle Green sub-watersheds. In the Middle Green there is a conflict of King County agriculture policy with salmon recovery policies. This conflict needs to be addressed at the County.
- Doug said that we need solid recommendations from the science in order to make a request for policy changes
- Recommend outreaching to the Port of Seattle
- Kathy Minsch is comfortable with the technical recommendations but concerned about using the strategies and actions in the climate change paper.
- Kollin said that these are technical recommendations for possible strategies and actions. Kathy requested changing the label of table 2 to "Technical Recommendations". Kollin will change the name of the table and send out

- Status of technical papers Climate Change paper – have received technical comments, assumed complete and approved with requested change to table title
- Water temperature paper- have received technical comments, assumed complete and approved
- The contaminants paper will come back, hopefully at the next technical committee for review
- Kollin will bring a new version of the fish paper to the next technical committee meeting

Effects of Salmon Habitat Policy on Shoreline Development in an Urbanizing Watershed – Alexis Kleinbeck

This work was sponsored by the WRIA through a CWM grant to allow the ITC to use the amount of nearshore fill as the metric to track the Tier 1 Conservation Hypothesis Nearshore 2. Alexis presented her efforts to map changes in shoreline fill features:

- For areas with “green” shorelines, do we want to track those separately? For areas like Seahurst Park, it’s not now restored to a natural shoreline (acknowledging that this is a huge improvement compared to the armoring that was previously there), but it was improved/enhanced.
- Leah said that this is a regional issue of how to account and track soft shoreline armoring projects
- Leah recommended sharing this work with Jennifer Griffith, the Shoreline Armoring Strategic Initiatives lead for Puget Sound Partnership
- Alexis said that minor developments added up and detracted from the good that was done by restoration projects, etc.
- There was some natural accumulations of sedimentation and natural erosion
- Results
 - Net gain of 107,318 square feet
 - Loss of 76,235 square feet of intertidal habitat
 - Gain of 183,553 square feet of intertidal habitat

Porter Restoration Update – Josh Latterell

Josh’s presentation focused on showing the construction project that is currently underway and what is happening on the ground. The Porter Restoration project is part of a big corridor of habitat restoration at approximately River Mile 34. It’s part of the same reach as Auburn Narrows and the Soos Creek Natural Area. Below is a link to the project webpage:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/animals-and-plants/restoration-projects/porter-levee.aspx>

Project prioritization – updating criteria – Karen Bergeron

Karen presented the status of the final Cooperative Watershed Management grant list. The list that was approved by the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum included Lower Green Acquisitions as an alternate project. The parcel is no longer available for restoration so the funding (\$882,000) will go

towards the Downey Farmstead Restoration project. Another \$120,000 will also go towards the project for the utility relocation. There was also \$250,000 allocated for acquisition in the Lower Green subwatershed to purchase lands for the purpose of revegetation.

The state budget for capital projects has not been approved so it is uncertain when the Riverton Creek Flapgate project will receive Salmon Recovery Funding Board funds. The Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration projects that were approved in 2016 for 2017-2019 biennial funding are also waiting for a final state budget to be approved.

Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, October 18, 9 am – noon at the Tukwila Community Center