

**WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council
Meeting Notes
Bellevue City Hall
February 16, 2012**

Members Present

Dr. Don Davidson, Chair (Councilmember, Bellevue); Joan McBride, Vice-Chair (Mayor, Kirkland); Layne Barnes (Councilmember, Maple Valley); Denise DiSanto (WA Dept. of Ecology [DOE]); Bruce Dodds (Councilmember, Clyde Hill); Peter Donaldson (Friends of the Cedar River Watershed); Nancy Eklund (The Boeing Company); Don Fiene (Councilmember, Lake Forest Park); Ted Frantz (Councilmember, Hunts Point); Ava Frisinger (Mayor, Issaquah); Don Gerend (Councilmember, Sammamish); Brian Goodnight (Staff Alternate, Snohomish County); Bill Knutsen (King Conservation District [KCD]); Kirk Lakey (WA Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW]); Bart Masterson (Councilmember, Mill Creek); Hank Myers (Councilmember, Redmond); Mike O'Brien (Councilmember, Seattle); Eric Prince (Councilmember, Renton); Andy Rheume (Councilmember, Bothell); Chris Roberts (Councilmember, Shoreline); Gary Smith (Water Tenders/Trout Unlimited); Frank Urabeck (Citizen).

Alternates Present

Terry Lavender (Citizen).

Others Present

Hans Berge (King County); Rika Cecil (Shoreline); Diana Forman (Portage Bay Coalition for Clean Water); Erika Kinno (King County); Kathy Minsch (Seattle); Joan Nolan (WA Dept. of Ecology); Jerallyn Roetemeyer (Redmond); Stacey Rush (Kirkland); Jessie Shawner (Forterra); Ron Straka (Renton); David Tiemann (King County); Valerie Stewart (Edmonds); Linda Grob (WRIA 8 Team); Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (WRIA 8 Team); Scott Stolnack (WRIA 8 Team); Jean White (WRIA 8 Team).

Introductions

Dr. Don Davidson opened the meeting and introduced new Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) members Redmond Councilmember Hank Myers, Renton Councilmember Ed Prince, and Bothell Councilmember Andy Rheume. Jean White, Watershed Coordinator, announced that Joan Burlingame has stepped down from the Cedar River Council and will no longer be their representative. She sends everyone her regards.

Dr. Davidson invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

Public Comment

Bill Knutsen announced that KCD Board of Supervisors elections are coming up February 28 to March 16. The voting will be all online, and citizens can vote at county libraries. This year there is one candidate, an employee at the City of SeaTac. Bill also reported that the Mason County Conservation District suit was settled. The State Supreme Court ruled against the conservation district because it set the per acre assessment at \$0.00, while the statute establishing the district requires both per parcel and per acre amounts. He noted that KCD also doesn't have a per acre assessment, and we will be waiting to see what happens with the King County lawsuit.

Approval of Meeting Notes for November 15, 2011

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the meeting notes for the November 15, 2011 meeting.

Updates & Announcements

Jean White, Watershed Coordinator, went over the following announcements and committee reports from the handout. She also noted that the announcements and committee report from the cancelled January 20th meeting is a separate handout in the meeting packet.

Update:

- The just published new **Implementation Progress Report** captures WRIA 8's progress in the first five years since approval of our Salmon Habitat Plan. Jean thanked WRIA 8 staff and King County Graphics for putting it together, and she requested that SRC members take copies of the report with them from the meeting. The report will be mailed to every jurisdictional councilmember in WRIA 8.
- Jean thanked SRC members and staff for completing the **WRIA 8 Client Satisfaction Survey**, and noted that the survey report is included in the meeting packet.
- A short **meeting survey** was provided to each member, asking for input on meeting duration and start times. The results will help to determine future meeting times.
- The results of two **river management surveys** were just released by King County. In 2011, the King County River Management Survey contacted over 700 county residents by telephone to better understand their views about how rivers are managed and valued. Over 80% of survey respondents said rivers are extremely important, and they highly value habitat and flood protection and recreation. For the Independent Review of King County's River and Floodplain Management Practice, an independent expert reviewer looked at the following four practices: protecting public safety, preventing property damage from flooding, recovering salmon, and providing recreation. King County Department of Natural Resources is seeking feedback by March 2, 2012 on the survey findings.
- Over the past month the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee, Technical Committee, and Implementation Committee have been working on **refining grant scoring criteria** to better reflect the WRIA 8 Plan priorities. The updated criteria will be finalized by the beginning of March 2012.
- WRIA 8 comments on the **draft Puget Sound Action Agenda** were due February 3, 2012, and Jean reported that she worked with the Management Committee to review and finalize the comment letter (included in the meeting packet). She said our concern was over how salmon is fitting into the Action Agenda, and at a minimum section that the section focused on salmon should reference existing priorities called for in salmon recovery plans. Jean reported that the **South Central Action Agenda Caucus Group** approved a proposal to increase shoreline protection by having its staff review and inventory Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) updates, and identify barriers to implementation and model approaches that would be of assistance to jurisdictions updating their SMPs.

Discussion:

- Don Davidson commented that Puget Sound salmon recovery is part of Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) on paper. He said we've been working on salmon for ten years, and it's important for PSP to recognize the effort of local watersheds.
- Frank Urabeck discussed the upcoming gubernatorial election in the fall, and asked what the prospect is for continued support for PSP with a new governor. He noted that Governor Gregoire was very supportive. Dr. Davidson said he didn't know. Frank commented that neither candidate has expressed a view. Joan McBride responded that they do have a history on salmon. Ted Frantz said it might be in our interest to send the two candidates a letter from WRIA 8.

Committee Reports:

- Seven stories have been posted to the **new Green Shorelines blog**, which has a lot of followers. Peter Donaldson inquired if the Green Shorelines program includes marine shorelines. Jean replied that only Lakes Washington and Sammamish are included so far, but there is interest on the Green Shorelines Steering Committee in addressing marine shorelines. One idea is to have a marine shorelines guidebook as a companion to the Green Shorelines Guidebook Seattle developed for Lakes Washington and Sammamish.

Other Announcements:

- Jean reported that Councilmember Diane Buckshnis couldn't come today, but she wanted the SRC to know Edmonds received match for the Willows Creek Daylighting Project.

- Gary Smith announced that twenty concerned citizens of Lower Bear Creek have been meeting in Redmond with the Army Corps of Engineers. He said it looks like they will be starting to remove the dam in 2012. Artifact recovery delayed the restoration work.
- Jean noted that when Laurie Deveraux, Bellevue, gave a Success Story update on Kelsey Creek at the January 20, 2011 SRC meeting she reported that she didn't have any brochures left to leave with SRC members. Now Bellevue is doing the same program on Coal Creek, and she has dropped off extra brochures.

Looking at the Year Ahead

Jean White reported the ILA cost shares will be recalculated this year, without any big changes expected. There is a small annexation in Bellevue. At the March SRC meeting we are looking at having a presentation on river management, and at the May meeting we may have a discussion on SMP updates. Some jurisdictions have finished their updates, and some are still in the process. The July meeting could include the topic of salmon recovery in the face of climate change. She noted that we can't get Bellevue City Hall in September, so we may hold our meeting at the Issaquah Hatchery, with a tour of the hatchery as a possibility.

Discussion:

- Gary Smith commented that it seems like a timely idea to meet at the Issaquah Hatchery, because of the proposed fish passage project there. On the WRIA 8 Tour last October we saw some tough salmon that made it up to the Squak Valley project, but most salmon do not make it past the dam.
- Peter Donaldson said it might be interesting to hear from cities like Edmonds with substantial marine shoreline on salmon recovery in the face of climate change.
- Ted Frantz suggested adding the listing of orcas to the discussion of climate change, and the impact of the listing on salmon. Don Davidson proposed also including the listing of steelhead.
- Joan McBride suggested also having an update on the condition of the Ballard Locks. Jean White responded that we could have small updates on the Locks on an ongoing basis. She explained that she and Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz are following up with congressional staff, and King County had a briefing with the Corps' new Seattle District Colonel in late December or January. Bill Knutsen commented that the photo in this morning's Seattle Times of 80 barge loads of riprap being put in at the Locks for erosion control makes you wonder about the health of the Locks.
- Don Gerend reported that Sammamish completed its SMP. He mentioned issues arising from the ordinary high water mark at Lake Sammamish, and proposed also having a Kokanee workplan update from the Kokanee Work Group.
- Andy Rheume reported that Bothell is updating our SMP right now, and we are hosting our first public meeting next month. He said he would love to see a spreadsheet of what other cities have done with their SMPs.
- Peter Donaldson said it might be good to invite the "next generation" once a year to a SRC meeting when we are diving into an issue like climate change. He offered to help set it up, possibly for the July meeting.
- Ava Frisinger commented that she would be happy to talk with people about the diversion dam above the Issaquah Hatchery before the September meeting.

Implementation Committee Recommendations on Riparian Strategy & Partnering with the Watershed Report

Riparian Strategy:

Jean White reported that the Implementation Committee spent most of the last year talking about the riparian strategy, and partnering more formally on the Watershed Report with Friends of the Cedar River Watershed to help them find funding to add the salmon recovery story to the Watershed Report. She said she wanted to check in with the SRC to see if we are headed in the right direction on the riparian strategy, and seek approval to draft a WRIA 8 letter of support for the Watershed Report to help them get funding. The new focus on the riparian strategy came out of the findings of the land cover change analysis that

WRIA 8 conducted for the Summit, which indicates that, in aggregate, we are maintaining forest cover in rural areas, but losing it in urban areas. In addition, when we looked at riparian areas (the last line of defense), we are losing too much forest cover and gaining impervious surfaces along streams.

Jean explained that we appear to be losing riparian forest due to: 1) many small actions by many streamside property owners – the “thousand cuts”; and 2) new developments which were vested/grandfathered under old regulations. She said the Implementation Committee recommends a two track response:

- Track 1– Do what we can now to address “thousand cuts” or actions by private property owners: assess what is already being done and identify gaps; develop messages and tools for encouraging protection; translate for lay-persons Bear/Evans TMDL data showing benefits of forests on reducing temperatures; partner with STORM group on messages around tree planting.
- Track 2 – More analysis of the problem: develop a strategy to address vested/grandfathered development sites; investigate drivers for loss of trees by “thousand cuts”; look at status of tree ordinances and CAO/SMP updates; develop strategy for motivating property owners to protect riparian areas.

Jean provided a caveat: we can begin to do what we can on the riparian strategy work with existing funds and staff, but to implement the strategy in a more meaningful way requires other funding/grants and partnerships.

Discussion:

- Bill Knutsen commented that the most expensive project for KCD is riparian planting, which costs about \$80/square foot.
- Don Davidson said the Bellevue Open Space/Greenway Project is going to open up four streams and do protection on corridors. As something redevelops you can start thinking about how much we can recapture.
- Joan McBride said she thinks this is the right track for a riparian strategy, which is a key area of concern for urban cities.
- Don Gerend asked if other cities are looking at the transfer of development rights (TDR) within the city. Don Davidson noted that there are people who think you can transfer outside the city, and Bellevue wants to transfer within the city. Dr. Davidson said one of the things Bellevue does is incentive zoning. Jean White responded that we should add incentive zoning to the riparian strategy, because right now I don't think we've captured regulatory incentives in the strategy.
- Mike O'Brien reported that Seattle has set ambitious goals to re-green the city, but that has competing interests and tradeoffs. We have a lot to do on low impact development (LID) and TDR.
- Don Fiene said incentives are important. Stormwater and forest canopy could be tied to incentives for property-owners and become part of the discussion.
- Peter Donaldson suggested we begin visualizing the aerial footage, historic and current. Show the historical photos to teachers and coach them on the message. He said the code word is to visualize strategies and not just bury them in policy.
- Don Davidson said we are doing good work, but maybe not enough. Bellevue has more trees now. When you look at historical photos in the urban area, everything was logged, and now the trees are growing up.

By head nod vote the Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the Implementation Committee recommendations on the riparian strategy.

Partnering with the Watershed Report:

Jean described the Watershed Report videos that Peter Donaldson produces with high school students from 13 school districts. Students analyzed data from all WRIA 8 cities. Peter is interested in adding a new Watershed Report segment on salmon recovery in WRIA 8, and is seeking letters of support to help them seek funding.

Discussion:

- Ted Frantz asked if the videos are available on YouTube. Peter Donaldson explained that they are available on on-line. He said he will send Jean White the link.
- Don Davidson remarked that the political atmosphere hasn't totally bought in to what we say around this table. To achieve goals we need to reach beyond the choir and secure new sources of funding. The Watershed Report could help us do this.
- Peter Donaldson commented that there is a real opportunity to put together group of 25 teachers to forward the riparian/salmon message. Each teacher reaches 100 students.
- Ted Frantz said he liked the idea of having an annual summit to have students and teachers meet with us.
- Peter Donaldson noted that a letter of support would be very helpful for approaching foundations. Frank Urabeck said he is also looking at getting a letter of support from the Cedar River Council.

By head nod vote the Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved writing a WRIA 8 letter of support for the Watershed Report, and partners agreed to help Peter Donaldson work with teachers to incorporate the salmon recovery message into school curriculum.

Preliminary Findings from Habitat Status & Trends Monitoring

Hans Berge, Senior Environmental Scientist, King County, reported that WRIA 8's monitoring program has three components: spawner surveys; fry/s/molt trapping; and PIT-tagging. He explained that we will present this report annually to the SRC for the next three years. The purpose of the project is to provide status and trends data and analysis to see how the WRIA 8 Plan is working, evaluate assumptions related to hydrology, biology, and riparian conditions across a range of land cover and land use types, and evaluate methods and develop metrics to assess the health of Puget Sound streams. Hans said we received seed funding from WRIA 8 in 2009, and were awarded an EPA grant for four more years of work in 2010. Before the monitoring program we had mismatched data sets, and realized a better approach was to look at things co-located in space and time. By understanding underlying mechanisms we hope to be prescriptive, and also look at the evaluation of metrics that have been used.

Partners in the WRIA 8 monitoring program include DOE, Region 10 EPA Sentinel Sites Project, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the WRIA 8 SRC and jurisdictions. Hans explained that DOE is housing our data and training King County crews and USFWS staff working with us on the sampling. He said the monitoring work focuses on ten WRIA 8 sites selected from the much larger Sentinel Sites Project being studied across Puget Sound for climate change effects. We began monitoring in 2009, received the EPA grant in 2010 when we started more project management, and had everything up and running in 2011. 2012 is the check-in point when we start looking at results, and in 2014 the project ends.

Hans explained that in addition to using ten sentinel sites, 50 WRIA 8 sites were selected by doing a stratified random design. At each site flow, land use/land cover, biological indicators, and aquatic and riparian condition are measured. He reported that the first year we only looked at Tier 1 streams, but with the EPA grant we started to also survey Tier 3 streams.

Hans detailed the four project hypotheses: if impervious cover influences hydrology, then urbanized streams with impervious cover connected to streams will experience higher peak flows than systems with less connected impervious area; if hydrology influences stream biological conditions, then BIBI and FIBI metrics will be lower in streams that exhibit flashy flows caused by more connected impervious cover; if land use type influences fluvial geomorphology, then frequency of pools will be different in each land use type; and if the WRIA 8 Plan is successful, then pool frequency will increase in basins where restoration actions are prescribed. He explained that BIBI is a metric calculated for streams looking at aquatic macroinvertebrates, and was developed in the late 1980's for this area. BIBI is always used as surrogate for salmon and fish, and we decided why not use fish instead of bugs (FIBI). He said it was surprising

how many people questioned using fish to look at fish. We don't discount the bugs, because both are important indicators. Monitoring methods are hydrology, geomorphology, biology, and remote sensing.

In summary, Hans reported we are in year three of the five year study, sampling 57 sites annually. The percentage of pools is considered good for ~1/3 of the sites, Tier 1 streams are in the "fair" to "good" categories, there is a wide range of FIBI across the watershed following patterns across tiers similar to BIBI, flow is a work in progress, and land cover change analysis shows losses in the UGA. Deliverables in 2015 include the final report to EPA and the report on the status and trends of 50 stream reaches across WRIA 8.

Discussion:

- Hank Myers inquired if averages have been done for all creeks in 2009, 2010, and 2011. Hans replied that we haven't done that, but could.
- Ted Frantz asked, in terms of the big picture, does the study factor in weather changes. Hans said that's part of hydrology.
- Don Fiene inquired how much funding is at risk for the rest of the next five-year period. Hans explained that the program is covered for the next three years. Jean White asked what happens at the end of the EPA grant. Hans said we are looking now at funding options for year six.
- Chris Roberts inquired if five years is sufficient to get a good baseline. Hans replied it is for status, but not for trends, adding we would be better off picking sites that are better indicators and focusing on them.
- Andy Rheaume questioned the sentinel sites. Hans explained that there are a range of sentinel sites, and all are affected only by climate. They are not really reference sites, but EPA is trying to isolate climate conditions.
- Don Fiene asked if this study is unique in the U.S. Hans replied that a Chesapeake Bay project is similar, but they haven't been able to pull all the pieces together. Councilmember Fiene suggested maybe licensing out our study methods as a source of funding.
- Jean White reminded the SRC that we used ILA deferred funding for the first two years of the habitat status and trends monitoring, which is part of the reason we received the EPA grant. We also contributed grant-writer time.

Success Story: Conservation Futures Projects in WRIA

David Tiemann, Project Manager, King County, reported that he staffs the Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) Citizens Committee, of which Terry Lavender is Chair. He reported that CFT puts money on the ground, and he went over a selection of the lands purchased in WRIA 8 with CFT funding that have benefits for salmon, including property at the following locations: North Creek headwaters, Swamp Creek headwaters, Bellevue Open Space/Greenway, Issaquah Creek headwaters, Lions Club Creek, Elliott Bridge area of Cedar River, and Upper Bear Creek.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is March 15, 2012, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Bellevue City Hall.