

**WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council
Meeting Notes
Bellevue City Hall
May 17, 2012**

Members Present

Dr. Don Davidson, Chair (Councilmember, Bellevue); Joan McBride, Vice-Chair (Councilmember, Kirkland); Eileen Barber (Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery); Layne Barnes (Councilmember, Maple Valley); Tor Bell (Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust); Dick Bonewits (Cedar River Council); Susan Boundy-Sanders (Councilmember, Woodinville); Diane Buckshnis (Councilmember, Edmonds); Denise DiSanto (WA Dept. of Ecology [DOE]); Peter Donaldson (Friends of the Cedar River Watershed); Nancy Eklund (The Boeing Company); Don Fiene (Councilmember, Lake Forest Park); Ava Frisinger (Mayor, Issaquah); Brian Goodnight (Staff Alternate, Snohomish County); Bill Knutsen (King Conservation District [KCD]); Kirk Lakey (WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife [WDFW]); Hank Myers (Councilmember, Redmond); Mike O'Brien (Councilmember, Seattle); Larry Phillips (Councilmember, King County); Ed Prince (Councilmember, Renton); Carl Scandella (Councilmember, Yarrow Point); Gary Smith (Water Tenders); Frank Urabeck (Citizen); Allan Van Ness (Councilmember, Kenmore); Tom Vance (Councilmember, Sammamish).

Alternates Present

Don Gerend (Councilmember, Sammamish); Terry Lavender (Citizen).

Others Present

Roy George (Alderwood Water District); Joan Lee (King County); Kathy Minsch (Seattle); Joan Nolan (DOE); Jerallyn Roetemayer (Redmond); Stacey Rush (Kirkland); Annette Frahm (WRIA 8 Team); 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 invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Approval of Meeting Notes for March 15, 2012

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the meeting notes for the March 15, 2012 meeting.

Updates & Announcements

Jean White, Watershed Coordinator, made a few brief announcements:

- The Green Shorelines Steering Committee was named a 2012 Puget Sound Champion by the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP). The award will be presented at the South Central Caucus Group meeting on June 11.
- The Trees for Stream Workshop, held on May 15 at UW Bothell was a success, with 92% of participants rating it as “useful” or “extremely useful”. Sixty people attended.
- The adoption of the Action Agenda Update by the Puget Sound Leadership Council has been delayed until late August.
- The preferred alignment of the Williams Pipeline Crossing of the Cedar River is now adjacent to the existing pipeline crossing, not at the Rainbow Bend site. The new alignment will involve an open cut excavation of a trench for the new pipe, likely requiring closing the river for up to 48 hours and the trail for a period of time. Williams Northwest will submit permit applications in June 2012 for construction in August 2013. The WRIA 8 Team will continue to track the issue.

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Actions and Funding Coordinator, provided the grant updates:

- Six project proposals were received for the 2012 Salmon Recovery Funding Board/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (SRFB/PSAR) grant round. The Project Subcommittee will conduct site visits and review proposals on May 30, for Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) approval at the July 19 meeting.
- The Project Subcommittee recommended King County move forward with a proposed King Conservation District (KCD) grant scope change amendment. The change amendment shifts funds from a 2007 Cottage Lake Creek Acquisition grant that was unable to move forward to acquisition of streamside riparian property in lower Bear Creek.
- The Issaquah Integrated Fish Passage Project received \$4 million through the 2012 State Supplemental Budget to implement the project in 2013.

Gary Smith reported that the City of Redmond will be moving forward with the Bear Creek Restoration Project in 2013. The Redmond City Council approved a contract with the Army Corps of Engineers to remove the onsite archaeological resources that had delayed the project for three years.

Committee Reports:

Scott Stolnack, Technical Coordinator, discussed the most recent fish numbers. There were over 300 redds in the Cedar River, which is up slightly compared to 2009 and 2010. Bear Creek redd counts continue to be very low. Fish out numbers indicate a steady increase in numbers over the last few years, and overall an increasing trend. Hank Myers asked why there was an increase in fish out recently. Scott explained that a number of factors may be at work, including the fish passage project at the Landsburg Dam that opened in 2003, and the absence of serious flooding during the critical fish incubation period in the late fall. Also, large projects like the Cedar Rapids Project (completed in 2008) are positive for juvenile fish.

Proposed WRIA 8 2013 Budget & Workplan Budget:

Jean White said she was pleased to propose a status quo budget for 2013 of \$501,063, the same overall budget we've worked with since 2000. She explained that 2013 would have been the year to increase cost shares to cover staffing and operations, but we received \$13,000 from the state to improve project tracking on the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) database. We do expect staffing and operating costs to be an issue for 2014. The Management Committee met on April 26, 2012 to review the proposed budget, recommended it for approval, and discussed how WRIA 8 is doing in general. Jean reported that there are a lot of uncertainties with salmon funding now. We've had annual state and federal funding, but the amount has been declining, future KCD funding is uncertain due to the lawsuit and the need for a new assessment in 2013, future PSAR funding from the state is uncertain due to the change in governor, and the King County Parks levy is also up for reauthorization. The Management Committee decided they wanted to form a Funding Subcommittee to look at options, including the Watershed Investment District (WID). She said she will be convening a small group in June, and she asked SRC members to let her know if they want to serve on the subcommittee.

Discussion:

- Don Davidson remarked that is amazing what this group has done with limited funding. The 3.5 FTE staff is funded by the ILA, and we are fortunate to have PSAR funding for an extra half-time person. Jean White pointed out that the PSAR watershed capacity funding, which funds the Green Shorelines outreach work, runs out in December 2012.
- Diane Buckshnis inquired how WRIA 8 came up with the 32% overhead. Jean White explained that the overhead amount of 32% on salaries and benefits was a negotiated agreement between the ILA partners and King County in 2006. The overhead covers computer and finance support, graphics, offices, etc.

- Don Davidson reported that the Funding Subcommittee is designed to look at long term funding. The WID is one concept we've looked at, but people may think of other funding sources. He said his issue is how wide to make the WID. He would like it to be Puget Sound-wide. Funding is a very important to us, and we had a lively discussion about funding at the Management Committee.
- Kirk Lakey remarked that the state has been through a recent series of budget cuts, and the next shoe that's going to fall is the federal budget, which will eliminate a lot of WDFW programs. Don Davidson said he thought the Funding Subcommittee will deal with state and federal funding as well, though we have less control over them.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the 2013 Budget.

ILA Cost Shares:

Jean White went over the 2013 ILA cost shares, which we update every three years. She said the bottom line is the same, but the cost-shares have been adjusted to reflect new census and assessed value data.

Workplan:

Jean White reported that the 2013 workplan is very similar to the 2012 workplan, with only minor changes. The number of meetings for the Management Committee was changed from one meeting per year to "as needed". She said we weren't sure how to address KCD in the workplan, and left the KCD grant staffing in there as a placeholder for now. Outreach and education changes include supporting the development of a new salmon segment in the Watershed Report, and attending more Cedar River community meetings to help build support for Cedar River restoration.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the 2013 Workplan

WRIA 8 2012 Grant Update

Jean White announced that due to the legal finding that the Mason County Conservation District lawsuit decision would make the KCD assessment invalid as well, there will be no KCD funding in 2012. On Monday, the Flood Control District (FCD) Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an emergency measure allocating money to WRIAs 8 and 9 and the Snoqualmie Watershed for a 2012 grant round to replace the lost KCD funding. As a result WRIA 8 will received \$1.2 million for grants this year. Larry Phillips commented that this FCD action to fund watershed management activities is allowed under the state law enabling the creation of flood districts. The money will be coming from FCD's reserve fund for this year, so no existing flood projects will be impacted. He said that having a 2012 grant round shows strong local commitment to salmon recovery, which is a good message for those who tend to be litigious about salmon recovery.

Jean reported that one of the interesting FCD Board of Supervisors conversations on Monday was about the allocation of funding between watersheds. Traditionally WRIAs 8 and 9 receive \$1.2 million annually and the Snoqualmie \$600,000 annually in KCD funding. This is because there were originally 5 watershed forums that received equal funding. In 1999, in order to respond to the endangered species act listing, some of the forums combined to align along the state WRIA watershed boundaries. In WRIA 8 the Lake Washington/Cedar Forum and Sammamish Forum combined to become the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Forum. The KCD funding followed the original forums. The FCD Board passed a resolution asking the King County Executive for a report analyzing the current evaluation criteria to determine whether it is an equitable formula.

Larry Phillips explained that the resolution passed by a vote of five to four. He said this takes us back about four years, and the issue of how the original KCD allocation was made wasn't articulated well in the meeting.

Joan Lee, King County, noted that there are many issues to resolve with the funding this year, one is which is what to do with 2012 KCD funding that is being collected, but held in escrow. KCD needs to

survive this year, and there will be a meeting to discuss current and future KCD Funding on Tuesday, June 12, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., at the Mercer Island Community Center. She invited everyone to attend.

Don Davidson commented that the Bellevue City Council has an ongoing concern about FCD funding and where the money is going.

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz explained that we have been asked to accelerate the timeframe for teeing up the \$1.2 million in watershed grants this year so they can be approved at the July 19 SRC meeting. The FCD Executive Committee will be making the decision on WRIA grants for funding on July 23. He said we are proposing to make the funding available for project sponsors who submitted notices of their intent to apply for 2012 KCD funding back in February. We will use the same grant criteria to evaluate the proposals, and will maintain the same 67% site-specific habitat projects/25% monitoring/8% outreach and education allocation ratio as were used for past KCD grant rounds.

Don Fiene mentioned that the Project Subcommittee will be using the same project scoring process that we've used in the past. He praised all the work that Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz and Scott Stolnack have done on refining the grant scoring criteria, and he commented that it will make for a much better process this year.

Larry Phillips remarked that salmon recovery has had a long and tortuous funding history, we've stabilized it somewhat, and now we are taking a step back with the KCD lawsuit and the debate about allocation of funding between watersheds. We will need to sort this out. Don Davidson mentioned it is among the things our Funding Subcommittee will be looking at. The average citizen wouldn't understand salmon recovery being funded through the FCD.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the Flood Control District grant funding process for 2012.

Tools for Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Updates

Annette Frahm, Green Shorelines Outreach Coordinator, went over three tools for jurisdictions doing Shoreline Master Program (SMP) updates, asking if these kinds of tools would be useful, or if there were other topics jurisdictions would find helpful:

1. Review of SMPs: The South Central Area Caucus Group is looking at SMP updates, and De'Sean Quinn, King County Wastewater, is leading the effort. They will be able to come back in August to tell us what they have found so far about barriers to implementation, incentives for soft shorelines and other topics.
2. Draft fact sheets: People for Puget Sound have developed two draft fact sheets in their The Future of Puget Sound Begins at the Shoreline Today series: Benefit of SMPs, and Docks and Piers. Annette said we are exploring whether these fact sheets would be useful to cities and what other topics SRC members would like to have when updating or implementing SMPs.
3. New video: Annette presented the "Young salmon and shorelines" video, which features an interview with Roger Tabor, US Fish and Wildlife Service, about what juvenile salmon need along the shorelines. The video is linked from the Green Shorelines blog at <http://greenshorelines.wordpress.com/>. Jean White reported that Annette worked very hard to produce the video, which Tim O'Leary from King County filmed and edited for free.

Annette said we will interview jurisdictional staff and electeds to see how best to distribute this information.

Discussion;

- Denise DiSanto asked where fact sheets would be placed. Annette suggested they could be located in city offices and at permit counters.

- Gary Smith suggested creating a checklist when you go in for a permit that lists both the permits and fact sheets you should have.
- Don Gerend mentioned it would be nice if people knew where it applies, like within 200 feet of the shoreline. They need to be aware of SMPs.
- Eileen Barber said it would be helpful to have copies of the fact sheets available at our center at the Issaquah Fish Hatchery.
- Peter Donaldson commented that it would be nice to have a series of shoreline maps that when it says 70% of the shoreline is armored could show in big dots the other 30% of unarmored shoreline. The maps could show 16 shoreline projects that have already been done.
- Tom Vance remarked that Sammamish already did our SMP, and he called the fact sheets wonderful. He suggested we keep a searchable database of projects.
- Jean White said the Implementation Committee asked if it would be a good thing to have an individual city's logo on the fact sheets. She said she thinks it could be useful for cities that have already updated their SMPs to have the fact sheets available for shoreline permits.
- Peter Donaldson said as we do mapping, we should look at high schools with shoreline populations, and have this information available for teachers who are looking for real things for students.
- Hank Myers commented that Redmond has finished our SMP, and we will make small changes. He said it is correct that the more we can give people at the permit counter, the better.
- Don Fiene mentioned that if you can brand the fact sheets to the cities, why not brand them for WRIA 8. Annette said we will work with People for Puget Sound to edit the fact sheets.
- Annette asked if the fact sheets have too much information. The response around the table was no. Jean White noted that the Implementation Committee said it was too much information. Tor Bell added that the Implementation Committee felt if they were just to be picked up, they were not going to be read.
- Hank Myers said he liked to have opinions from experts like People for Puget Sound rather than from the City of Redmond.

Annette Frahm explained that the video is available on YouTube and Vimeo, if you want to link your website to it. The more we can get out simple pictures and explanations, the better.

Success Story: Lake Sammamish State Park Restoration

Tor Bell reported that the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust worked in cooperation with Lake Sammamish State Park in Issaquah on the restoration work in the park. The park area includes three salmon-bearing creeks: Issaquah, Laughing Jacobs, and Tibbots. Forty restoration activities were identified, and the first grant received was a WaterWorks grant from King County. He said we started with the low-hanging fruit, including mowing straight through the blackberries with a Little Kubota, or "mechanical goat". Tor reported that Lake Sammamish State Park receives over 1 million visitors per year, and a lot of work was done by volunteers. Over 24,000 hours of service was contributed by volunteers over the last seven years who planted several thousand trees on Issaquah Creek, a little bit on Tibbots, and some on the Lake Sammamish shore. At another project on Issaquah Creek, in an area where lots of boaters hung out, we installed lots of large wood (LWD), providing cover for juveniles, discouraging party boaters, and encouraging public access. Fifty acres in the park are under restoration. Funders include NFWF Community Salmon Fund, King County, RCO ALEA, KCD, Carter Motors, State Parks, EPA, Issaquah, and Sammamish. State Parks is very excited about the projects, will be funding some projects on their own, and Tor said it is nice to see them taking ownership and initiative. A boardwalk will be going in to one of the areas restore in 2008.

Hank Myers commented that Mountains to Sound has created a great marketing plan. The state park requires a Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust pass, and families are going to the park and looking at what's going on.

Peter Donaldson asked if high schoolers do any monitoring or the restored areas. Tor explained that high schoolers do plantings, and we haven't worked with them on monitoring.

Adjournment

Don Davidson announced that the next meeting is July 19, 2012, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Bellevue City Hall.

Susan Boundy-Sanders reported that in Woodinville developers want to change the Urban Growth Area (UGA) designation so they can develop 30 acres. She said it would be wonderful to have electeds around the table saying “keep the rural rural” by signing a petition.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.