

WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council

Meeting Summary

Bellevue City Hall

July 18, 2013

3:02 – 5:18 p.m.

Members Present

#	Name	Affiliation
1.	Councilmember Dr. Don Davidson, Chair	City of Bellevue
2.	Mayor Joan McBride, Vice-Chair	City of Kirkland
3.	Councilmember Layne Barnes	City of Maple Valley
4.	Councilmember Joan Bloom	City of Edmonds
5.	Councilmember Susan Boundy-Sanders	City of Woodinville
6.	Councilmember Bruce Dodds	City of Clyde Hill
7.	Councilmember Don Fiene	City of Lake Forest Park
8.	Councilmember Ted Frantz	City of Hunts Point
9.	Brian Goodnight	Snohomish County
10.	Councilmember Mike Grady	City of Mercer Island
11.	Kirk Lakey	WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)
12.	Councilmember Hank Myers	City of Redmond
13.	Joan Nolan	WA Department of Ecology (Ecology)
14.	Councilmember Mike O'Brien	City of Seattle
15.	Councilmember Larry Phillips	King County
16.	Keri Pravitz	Friends of the Cedar River Watershed
17.	Stewart Reinbold	WDFW
18.	Councilmember Andy Rheaume	City of Bothell
19.	Councilmember Jesse Salomon	City of Shoreline
20.	Councilmember Carl Scandella	City of Yarrow Point
21.	Gary Smith	Water Tenders

Others Present

22.	Elizabeth Butler	Recreation & Conservation Office/Salmon Recovery Funding Board
23.	Danielle DeVoe	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
24.	Dave Garland	Ecology
25.	Heather Kahn	Ecology
26.	Kathy Minsch	City of Seattle
27.	Jeralyn Roetemeyer	City of Redmond
28.	Valerie Stewart	Edmonds Planning Board
29.	Jean White	King County
30.	Bruce Wulkan	Puget Sound Partnership
31.	Linda Grob	WRIA 8 Team
32.	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 Team
33.	Scott Stolnack	WRIA 8 Team
34.	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8 Team

Chair Don Davidson opened the meeting and introduced Councilmember Joan Bloom, Edmonds, attending for member Diane Buckshnis. Dr. Davidson recognized Kirk Lakey, who has been assigned different duties by the WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and will be leaving the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) after many years as the WDFW representative. Kirk introduced Stewart Reinbold, who will be replacing him on the SRC.

Don Davidson also recognized Jean White, who has accepted her acting position permanently as the Rural and Regional Partnerships Unit Supervisor at King County (KC). He reported the hiring process has started to permanently replace the WRIA 8 Watershed Coordinator.

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes for May 16, 2013

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the meeting notes for the May 16, 2013 meeting.

3. Updates & Announcements

General Announcements:

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (Jason MK), Acting Watershed Coordinator, elaborated on several items from the WRIA 8 Update handout:

- **Puget Sound Regional Update:**
 - **Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC):** Jason M-K and Don Davidson still participate on the PSSRC, which last met May 23. Agenda topics included legislative and budget priorities updates, steelhead recovery and impacts to WRIAs, update on state salmon recovery monitoring and adaptive management (M&AM) effort. The next meeting is July 25.
 - **South Central Action Area Caucus (Caucus Group):** Don Fiene represents WRIA 8 on the Caucus Group, which last met June 17. Among other things the Caucus Group continues to work on identifying specific priority local area near-term actions to provide as feedback to the Puget Sound Partnership for the 2014 Action Agenda update. The next meeting is September 16.
 - **Legislative Priorities Update & Results:** The biennial 2013-15 state operations and capital budgets were adopted in late June. Jason suggested sending thank you notes to legislators. SRC members agreed.
 - **Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration (PSAR) Funding:** PSAR was funded at \$70 million, short of the full \$80 million request, but still showing a strong state investment in salmon recovery. WRIA 8 receives 5.7% of the first \$30 million as part of the 2013 grant round. WRIA 8 also receives a portion of 6% of the \$70 million to support priority capital project development and technical assistance.
 - **Watershed Investment District (WID):** The first WID stakeholder group meeting was on May 30 at the House Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Representative John McCoy. Don Fiene, Chris Eggen, and Andy Rheame attended for WRIA 8. Rep. McCoy said the state did not have resources to support the stakeholder process, but WRIA 9 offered to take the lead to create issue papers on the need for stable funding, which could lead to consensus draft legislation. A funding summit is tentatively scheduled for late September, and the SRC will be kept informed of developments.
 - **Coordinated Investment for Puget Sound Floodplains:** The capital budget includes \$33 million for nine multiple-benefit floodplain restoration projects, including \$4.1 million for KC's Lower Cedar River Integrated Floodplain Restoration grant proposal. This grant combines funding for two high priority WRIA 8 projects: Rainbow Bend Floodplain Restoration and Riverbend Floodplain Acquisition and Relocation. Jean White is managing the Riverbend project in her new position.
 - **High-Priority, Large-Scale Projects Going to Construction this Season:** All three of these projects will be featured on our WRIA 8 Salmon tour, scheduled for Friday, October 11.
 - **Issaquah Dam Removal:** The dam is almost completely removed, with construction expected to be completed this summer or early fall. The project will meander the stream, and provide fish passage to more than ten miles of high quality habitat.
 - **Rainbow Bend Floodplain Restoration:** Construction began in June. The contractor pulled out the levee and tow rock, and put large wood in the floodplain to let the river do its work to restore

habitat conditions. The project will be done in August, and we hope to also visit this site on our tour.

- Lower Bear Creek Restoration: This project is moving forward this summer, beginning with the stream channel work.
- **KC Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) & Park Levy Funding Recommendations:** Eight WRIA 8 projects were recommended for 2014 CFT funding. The Parks Levy is on the August ballot, and needs to be ratified for projects to be funded.
- **Fish Return Numbers:** Scott Stolnack, Technical Coordinator, reported that sockeye started off great through the Ballard Locks, and are now tapering off. Only 2 or 3% of the Chinook run has come into the Locks so far, so it's a little early to tell what this fall's return will look like.

4. WRIA 8 2014 Project Subcommittee SRFB & PSAR Grant Recommendations

Jason Wilkinson (Jason W), Actions & Funding Coordinator, started by listing the Project Subcommittee (PSC) members for this round, including: Tor Bell (Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust), Don Fiene (SRC), Kirk Lakey (WDFW), Hans Berge (KC), Peter Holte (Redmond), Cyndy Holtz (Seattle), Frank Leonetti (Snohomish County), Kerry Ritland (Issaquah), Scott Stolnack and Jason W. There is \$433,356 available from SRFB and \$1,475,775 from PSAR for a total of \$1,909,131. He said we received seven proposals for \$2,566,941, \$657,810 above the available amount, including two acquisitions for future restoration, one acquisition for protection, and four restoration projects. Project proposals must be on WRIA 8's Three Year Work Plan, and meet criteria outlined in Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Manual 18. Site tours and PSC reviews were held in early-May.

SRFB/PSAR project summary:

Rank	Project (Sponsor)	Funding	
		Request	Recommend.
1	Confluence Park/Issaquah Creek Restoration (Issaquah)	\$600,000	\$600,000
2	Riverbend Acquisition/Relocation (KC)	\$500,000	\$349,631
3	Royal Arch Reach Protection (Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)	\$241,500	\$241,500
4	Sammamish River Side Channel Restoration Phase II (Bothell)	\$195,000	\$195,000
5	Willow Creek Daylighting Design (Edmonds)	\$315,441	\$200,000
6	Little Bear Creek 134 th Ave. Culvert Removal (Adopt a Stream)	\$400,000	\$350,000
7	Hooven Bog Acquisition (Sno-King Watershed Council)	\$342,000	\$0
Totals		\$2,566,941	\$1,909,131

Jason W explained that the Riverbend project was not fully funded because the PSC knew the sponsor was applying for other grants. The Willow Creek proposal finalized feasibility, but the PSC had questions, so the proposal was scaled back to specifically answer those questions. The Little Bear Creek project in Woodinville hinders on if a bridge over the creek is built. He said Hooven Bog is a worthy project, but it has questionable benefit to Chinook and was not recommended for funding.

Discussion:

- Hank Myers asked if the Willow Creek Daylighting is a straight shot. Jason W replied that it is a straight shot, but Chevron owns the surrounding property, which was a concern of the PSC.
- Andy Rheame inquired if the Bothell/Sammamish River project has connection to other salmon. Jason W says it does have coho. Kirk Lakey added that it has fry size rather than juvenile size salmon. He said we want to get the river better for bigger juveniles. Jason W reported that the Sammamish River project would be a great monitoring opportunity right from the beginning.
- Dave Garland asked if the Willow Creek discharge will be south or north of the marina. Jason W said it will stay the same.
- Jesse Salomon asked if there was any opportunity to work with Chevron to restore their property. Jason W explained that the project sponsor is talking to Chevron.
- Mike Grady asked if there were stormwater outfalls with the Issaquah Creek project. Jason W said he didn't think so with this project, but would get back to him with the answer. Councilmember Grady

noted it's a lot of money to spend if stormwater protection is not in place. Follow-up: the project sponsor confirmed that there are no stormwater facilities within the project area; this information was communicated back to Councilmember Grady.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the Project Subcommittee's Salmon Recovery Funding Board/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant recommendations.

5. WRIA 8 2014 Project Subcommittee Grant Recommendations Cooperative Watershed Management

Jason W described the slightly different PSC membership for the Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grants, with Kathy Minsch replacing Cyndy Holtz for Seattle, and Snohomish County not participating. The King County Flood Control District provided \$1.2 million in CWM funds for this year, and 16 proposals requesting \$2.1 million were submitted. He said we also found out we have a King Conservation District (KCD) balance of returned grant funds on closed out grants of \$255,553, which was allocated to high scoring proposals through the CWM grant process. The combined total of funds available through both grant sources is \$1,455,553.

CWM project recommendation summary:

Rank	Site-Specific Project (Sponsor)	Funding	
		Request	Recommend
1	Confluence Park/Issaquah Creek Restoration (Issaquah)	\$300,000	\$0
2	Riverbend Acquisition/Relocation (KC)	\$360,000	\$298,893
3	Issaquah Creek Knotweed Control & Reforestation (Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust [Greenway])	\$50,000	\$50,000
4	Lower Lewis Creek Restoration (Issaquah)	\$250,000	\$0 (CWM) \$250,000 (KCD)
5	Beaux Arts Shoreline Restoration Phase II (Western Academy of Beaux Arts)	\$139,995	\$139,995
6	Evans Creek Relocation Design (Redmond)	\$228,300	\$228,300
7	Derby Creek Enhancement Phase I (King County)	\$78,419	\$78,419
8	Little Bear Creek Knotweed Control & Restoration (Greenway)	\$30,000	\$24,447 (CWM) \$5,553 (KCD)
9	Upper Bear Creek Conservation Easement (King County)	\$175,000	\$0
10	Kelsey Creek Restoration Design Phase II (Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group)	\$67,500	\$0
11	Sammamish River Side Channel Restoration Phase II (Bothell)	\$60,000	\$0
Subtotals		\$1,739,214	\$1,075,607
Rank	Monitoring Program (Sponsor)		
1	WRIA 8 Fish In/Fish Out Monitoring 2014 (King County)	\$298,045	\$298,045
Subtotals		\$298,045	\$298,045
Rank	Outreach & Education Program (Sponsor)		
1	Cedar River Salmon Journey 2014 (Friends of the Cedar River Watershed)	\$36,000	\$36,000
2	Beach Naturalist Program 2014 (Seattle Aquarium)	\$12,600	\$12,600
3	Salmon Watcher Program 2014 (King County)	\$41,902	\$33,301
4	Salmon-Safe Puget Sound Urban Initiative (Stewardship Partners)	\$13,500	\$0
Subtotals		\$106,184	\$81,901
Totals		\$2,143,443	\$1,455,553

Jason W reviewed the SRC guidance on allocation target percentages, which is 67% of funding for site-specific projects, 25% for monitoring, and 8% for outreach and education. For this round, allocation percentages ended up equaling 68% site-specific, 25% monitoring, and 7% outreach and education.

Discussion:

- Don Fiene remarked that a few years back the PSC proposed a monitoring project that went over the SRC guidance of 25%, which concerned Larry Phillips. He said this year's recommendations provide additional funds to site-specific projects, so we have made up for the previous reduction.
- Dave Garland asked about the work planned for restoring the mouth of Lewis Creek and whether sediment would be removed. Jason W replied that some sediment would be removed to allow the creek to flush itself, thus maintaining fish passage into the system. Dave said it is almost like a peninsula now, so clearing it out will allow flows to be free.
- Larry Phillips noted that the Salmon-Safe program, which was not recommended for funding, has a history. He asked if we have ever funded them. Jason MK explained that we funded a small amount about five years ago through another organization. The program is very strong in Portland, and just starting to branch out to Seattle. He said the quality of the proposal was lacking and did not quite effectively address priority WRIA 8 outreach priorities.
- Valerie Stewart, Edmonds Planning Board, called Salmon-Safe a good program, and said it is unfortunate the proposal wasn't better. She reported that in Edmonds we need that education, and she hoped some guidance would be given to them for a better proposal in the future. Jason W said we started to initiate the conversation at the Implementation Committee last week.
- Joan Bloom asked about the Beaux Arts project, and requested an explanation of a green shoreline project versus armoring. Jason W briefly described the importance of natural shorelines and described how armored shorelines provide poor salmon habitat. He said this project is a demonstration project sponsored by a homeowners group in Beaux Arts.
- Mike Grady asked if there is any provision for access for other jurisdictions, besides Beaux Arts, since they are using it as a demonstration project. Jason W responded that given the funding source, they know there will have to be some access. Any site visits would be coordinated with the project sponsor. Jason MK explained that the first phase of the project was KCD-funded, and public access was written into the project. Councilmember Grady inquired if there were any stormwater outfalls on the project site. Jason W said there were none.
- Gary Smith questioned the cost of the Salmon Watchers program, and he asked if having a nonprofit manage the program has ever been considered. Jason W replied that the project management costs are high, and WRIA 8 and King County have discussed possibilities for reducing costs. The sponsor did work to reduce costs, including coordinating elements of the program with Friends of the Cedar River Watershed's Cedar River Salmon Journey program.
- Susan Boundy-Sanders commented on the Upper Bear Creek project, and said there are lots of potential acquisitions in that vicinity. She asked if the various acquisitions are going to be connected and tracked. Jason W said yes, that the King County basin steward has a strategy in place for conducting acquisitions in this area and closely tracks opportunities and sequences appropriately.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the Project Subcommittee's Cooperative Watershed Management grant recommendations.

6. Chinook Monitoring and Adaptive Management Project

Scott Stalnack reported that the state Chinook Monitoring and Adaptive (M&AM) Project goes by a lot of different names: "Open Standards", "Common Framework", "Miradi", "spaghetti diagram". The overall purpose of the Common Framework is to organize local, watershed-scale M&AM plans to be consistent and integrated across the Puget Sound region. The WRIA 8 goal is to translate what is already in our Conservation Plan into this framework, taking a complex problem and making it easier to communicate.

Scott showed a slide of a "baby" spaghetti diagram, which provides a pictorial representation of cause-effect relationships. Pink boxes represented pressures, yellow-orange boxes the stresses to the habitat and Chinook components, which are shown as green ovals. Categories of stressors include dams, drainage, etc. He explained that we want to be able to identify pressure points, then what strategies can affect those stressors and pressures.

Scott reported that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through PSP has provided a grant for us to do the M&AM work. We are getting guidance and support from Recovery Implementation Technical Team (RITT), PSP, and Long Live the Kings (LLTK) as the consultant on the project. He reiterated that the intent of the M&AM work is to translate what is already in our Plan, and to help us to see if there are gaps.

Project benefits include:

- Ensures a common language across watersheds (for easier messaging and reporting);
- Supports WRIA 8 ten year Plan update;
- Makes progress toward fulfilling a still-unmet NOAA requirement (M&AM Plan);
- Helps us confirm our actions are the right ones; and
- Leads to simple(r) ways to communicate (highest priority actions and gaps, cause/effect relationships, most critical monitoring needs, clear trigger points).

Answering his own question about who's going to do the work, Scott said "Well me, basically". He is the project leader for WRIA 8, with help from the core team of Kirk Lakey, Bruce Wulkan (PSP), and Laura Blackmore (on contract to LLTK). The Technical and Implementation Committees will be involved, and he said this is the first of many check-ins with the SRC. He just attended at all-day M&AM workshop, where he said he was asked if the SRC has bought into this. The SRC role is to approve the core team, receive regular briefings/provide feedback, and approve and "own" the translation of the WRIA 8 Plan into the Open Standards format. Next steps include a Technical Committee workshop (late July), draft and review initial reports (August), provide feedback and vet initial projects with the SRC, and continue to work on "pressure" components (September), etc. The Framework will be completed by June 2014, and he anticipates the M&AM Plan to be done around late 2014.

Discussion:

- Layne Barnes called the presentation a great report, and asked if it could be sent to SRC members, because the print in the handout is so small. Scott Stolnack replied that we will have the presentation on the WRIA 8 website, and once it's up we will send you the link.
- Kirk Lakey mentioned that we are also working with NOAA on the Framework.
- Hank Myers said he hoped the M&AM Plan would be written so the language is oriented to general citizens who can get involved in this, not just written for bureaucrats. Kirk Lakey replied that there will be a highly technical NOAA document but at the same time we are working with consultants on this project to make it understandable for everyone.
- Don Davidson noted that NOAA is behind the push for M&AM because it's supposed to be part of the regional Plan.
- Ted Frantz asked what the open standards format means. Scott Stolnack responded that "Open Standards" is similar to "Open Source" in the computer world. It's meant to be something that all conservation planners can use and adapt with a common vocabulary, etc.

7. Success Story: Salmon Bay Natural Area Restoration Monitoring Results

Jason Toft (Jason T), UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Science (SAFS), explained that the Salmon Bay Natural Area (SBNA) is located immediately downstream of the Ballard Locks on the north shore. He said SAFS does a lot of monitoring at restoration sites. The SBNA restoration site was compared to another reference site on a nearby shoreline area. Prior to the removal of the house and pier structures on the property, and restoration of the beach and shoreline vegetation, there were shading aspects of the deck over the water and along the floating dock.

Jason T explained how fish assessments can be used to help build restoration projects: prior to restoration (inform goals); during project design (incorporation of data); and monitoring restoration (what works, what doesn't). Data strengths are optimized when there's a focused experimental design and precise data.

Jason T went over conclusions from two studies. 2001 Shilshole study: construction of the locks created a unique urbanized mini-estuary; freshwater zooplankton are prevalent throughout the inner bay; and this small important transition zone is a great area to restore habitat for juvenile salmon. 2003 habitat measurements: shoreline armoring truncates the shallow-water zone, causing the gradual slope to be lost. Pelagic fish that are typically spread-out along a large intertidal area must inhabit deep water along the shore, and they tend to avoid swimming under piers. Juvenile Chinook prey less on terrestrial insects at sites with armoring. Jason T said to restore an armored area we knew we had to build a gradual slope.

Pre- and post-restoration monitoring was done at the SBNA site in 2004, 2010, and 2012. Monitored were benthic invertebrates, terrestrial insects, fish, and beach sediments. Jason T reported that when the house was still there, the numbers of benthic invertebrates at low tidal elevations (area of the floating dock) were low compared to the reference site, and once the house was removed, the numbers were similar to or greater than the reference site. Insect numbers in the shoreline vegetation (area of the house balcony) increased and so did taxa richness post-restoration. Fish snorkel surveys in 2004 showed juvenile salmon distributed along the edges, and none in the shading when it was in place. In the 2010 survey juvenile numbers were higher, and they were evenly distributed along the shore. Fish just don't like shading, and surf smelt are now drawn to and feeding at the site because it isn't shaded.

In summary Jason T said monitoring data shows improved values of most measurements compared to pre-restored and the reference beach. The SNBA site now provides: a nursery area for fish; foraging opportunities; riparian value; connectivity; and physical resilience. He concluded the presentation a slide of the trees cut down at the site by BNSF, now denuded of vegetation.

Discussion:

- Ted Frantz asked how the railway bridge affects salmon. Jason T replied that it may be too high to affect salmon, but it may affect the shoreline. Councilmember Frantz said he wondered if the bridge's shade affects salmon. Jason T said that would be a good thing to look at.
- Carl Scandella inquired if fish are following food sources, with insects coming back. Jason T explained that insects are providing more food for them, so they are going to get bigger and avoid predators.
- Jesse Salomon noted that most of the invertebrates are not terrestrial, and said you'd think that cutting down the trees would not have such an effect. Jason T said he thinks it affects the long-term trajectory. The question is if you're trying to provide what they eat naturally.
- Layne Barnes asked if there are plans to do another monitoring of this site. Jason T explained that nothing is planned right now, because no funding is available. We monitored at one and three years.
- Layne Barnes questioned if there is any plan to plant vegetation. Kathy Minsch, Seattle, explained that after Larry Phillips wrote a letter BNSF responded, and Seattle is now talking to them about what can be planted. She said weeding is a concern.
- Hank Myers asked how long juveniles spend at Salmon Bay. Jason T said that's a good question. Usually they spend a couple of weeks in this mini-estuary, and some Chinook go back and forth. Scott Stolnack added that our Chinook use Lake Washington as their estuary. Bigger fish spend hours or just days at SBNA.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is September 19, 2013, 3:00 to 5:15 p.m., Bellevue City Hall.