

# WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Meeting Notes

Bellevue City Hall

July 17, 2014 3:05-5:12 p.m.

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<b>Members Present</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
1.	Councilmember Larry Phillips, Chair	King County
2.	Councilmember Andy Rheaume, Vice-Chair	City of Bothell
3.	Eric Adman	Sno-King Watershed Council
4.	Mayor Bill Allison	City of Maple Valley
5.	Mayor Bruce Bassett	City of Mercer Island
6.	Councilmember Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
7.	Marci Chew, Staff Alternate	City of Mill Creek
8.	Don Davidson	Long Live the Kings
9.	Councilmember Bruce Dodds	City of Clyde Hill
10.	Nancy Eklund	The Boeing Company
11.	Dave Garland	WA Department of Ecology (Ecology)
12.	Brian Goodnight, Staff Alternate	Snohomish County
13.	Terry Lavender	Citizen
14.	Kathy Minsch, Staff Alternate	City of Seattle
15.	Councilmember Hank Myers	City of Redmond
16.	Councilmember Mark Phillips	City of Lake Forest Park
17.	Janet Prichard	Friends of the Cedar River Watershed (FCRW)
18.	Councilmember Jesse Salomon	City of Shoreline
19.	Councilmember Carl Scandella	Town of Yarrow Point
20.	Councilmember John Stokes	City of Bellevue
21.	Councilmember Paula Waters	City of Woodinville
<b>Alternates Present</b>		
22.	Joan Nolan	Ecology
<b>Others Present</b>		
23.	Heather Ballash	WA Department of Commerce
24.	Councilmember Susan Boundy-Sanders	City of Woodinville
25.	Shawn Cantrell	FCRW
26.	Andrew Funk	Ecology
27.	Erika Harris	Puget Sound Regional Council
28.	Paul Massart	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
29.	Allison McCoy	Citizen
30.	Kit Paulsen	City of Bellevue
31.	Rika Cecil	City of Shoreline
32.	Jerallyn Roetemeyer	City of Redmond
33.	Ron Straka	City of Renton
34.	Jean White	King County
35.	Linda Grob	WRIA 8 Team
36.	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 Team
37.	Scott Stolnack	WRIA 8 Team
38.	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8 Team

Chair Larry Phillips opened the meeting, apologizing for having to leave early. He then invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

## 1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

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## 2. Approval of Meeting Notes for May 15, 2014

*The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the meeting notes for the May 15, 2014 meeting, which were entered into the record.*

## 3. Updates & Announcements

### General Announcements:

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

- **Don Fiene**, long-time Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) member, is retiring from the board of Friends of the Cedar River Watershed, and therefore is no longer a Salmon Recovery Council member. Don was a tremendous advocate for WRIA 8 salmon recovery, and engaged on WRIA 8's behalf in numerous regional and state forums. He said participating in WRIA 8 was one of his favorite things during his twelve years as an elected official for Lake Forest Park.
- **Cedar River Corridor Plan:** King County Rivers Section is reviewing the three proposals they received in response to a request for proposals for the corridor plan development. They plan to award the contract at the end of July, and have the contractor on board by the fall. WRIA 8 expects to be a partner in development of the corridor plan, and requested a briefing for the September 18 SRC meeting.
- **Rainbow Bend Project Video:** WRIA 8 is partnering with King County to produce a video highlighting the success of the Rainbow Bend project on the Cedar River. The video will be used to help communicate the value of completing other high priority projects, and be part of sharing the success of the first ten years of implementing the WRIA 8 Salmon Plan.
- **Floodplains by Design Initiative:** Seventy-seven pre-proposals were received by the Department of Ecology (Ecology) that will result in a prioritized project list for a \$50 million 2015-2017 biennium capital budget request. King County and Seattle Public Utilities submitted a proposal for acquisition and restoration of Cedar River floodplain, which was asked to submit a full proposal. This proposal will fund high priority WRIA 8 projects, including final design of Riverbend. Jason MK suggested the SRC should consider writing a letter in support for this proposal. John Stokes reported at a recent Flood Control District (FCD) Advisory Committee meeting we had a good discussion about Floodplains by Design, and agreed it will help our focus.

**By headnod, members agreed to submit a Floodplains by Design letter of support from the Salmon Recovery Council.**

- **WRIA 8 Letter of Support for State and Federal Funding for Phase II Monitoring and Adaptive Management (M&AM):** Phase I of M&AM was completed in June. On June 20, 2014 WRIA 8 sent a letter requesting funding for Phase II to state and federal agency partners, but no response has been received as of yet. A copy of the letter is included in the meeting packet.
- **WRIA 8 Outreach and Communications Staff Support:** WRIA 8 and the Snoqualmie Watershed are jointly hiring a temporary part-time employee to support education and outreach for the ILA renewals and ten-year plan updates, and to coordinate WRIA 8 priority actions (Green Shorelines and riparian stewardship). The position is expected to be hired by August or September.
- **New U.S. Corps of Engineers (Corps) Seattle District Commander:** Tomorrow is the change of command ceremony for the new district commander, Colonel John Buck. WRIA 8 had a good relationship with the departing Colonel Bruce Estok, which we hope to continue under the new commander, especially considering critical infrastructure improvement needs at the Ballard Locks. Jason MK said we are thinking about sending a letter to Col. Buck about the Locks, and it also would be good to invite him to an SRC meeting.

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- **Seattle University Capstone Project:** WRIA 8 is partnering with King County to support a Seattle University senior capstone team helping to identify and collect data on salmon recovery and watershed health. Scott Solnack, Technical Coordinator, will be the lead and mentoring them.
- **Governor’s Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Tour:** The RCO wants to do a tour along the I-5 Corridor, and they are interested in visiting the Issaquah Dam Removal Project.
- **City of Woodway and WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement (ILA):** Most ILA partners have signed the addendum approving Woodway as the 28<sup>th</sup> member. All ILA partners should have signed by the September 18 SRC meeting.
- **Looking for New SRC Meeting Space:** Bellevue City Hall is not available in 2015 for SRC meetings, due to the start of light rail construction. We are looking for other locations for our meetings. Dave Garland offered up the Department of Ecology Northwest Regional office in Eastgate.

## 4. Project Subcommittee Recommendations: Salmon Recovery Funding Board & Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Funding

Jason Wilkinson (Jason W), Actions and Funding Coordinator, reported that the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee’s (PSC) review of Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) project proposals consisted of site visits, evaluation and scoring using WRIA 8 review criteria, and discussion and ranking of the projects. Projects must be on the approved WRIA 8 Three-Year Work Plan. SRC members Tor Bell, Diane Buckshnis, and Don Fiene participated on the PSC, which reviewed and toured projects on May 21. The 2014 SRFB allocation is \$433,356 and the unobligated 2013-2015 PSAR balance is \$350,000, for a total available of \$783,356. The total requested amount is \$944,546, which exceeds available funds by \$161,190.

### 2014 SRFB/PSAR Project Subcommittee Recommendations Summary:

Rank	Site-Specific Project Proposals (Sponsor)	Grant Request	SRFB Recom.	PSAR Recom.	Total Recom.
1.	Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action (Seattle Public Utilities [SPU])	\$332,245	\$206,025	\$95,000	\$301,025
2.	Riverbend Levee Setback/Removal Preliminary Design (King County [KC])	\$255,000	\$0	\$255,000	\$255,000
3.	Willow Creek Daylighting Preliminary Design (City of Edmonds)	\$157,331	\$157,331	\$0	\$157,331
4.	Squire’s Landing Park Restoration (Sno-King Watershed Council)	\$199,970	\$70,000	\$0	\$70,000
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$944,546</b>	<b>\$433,356</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	<b>\$783,356</b>

Jason W briefly went over each of the projects in their ranked order:

- Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action (SIA) expands SPU’s ongoing collaboration with Forterra, KC’s Noxious Weed Control Program, and Friends of the Cedar River Watershed in the Lower Cedar River to control knotweed and other invasive plants and restore native riparian plant communities. Since 2008, the SIA Program has reduced the knotweed distribution by approximately 80% by treating knotweed and replanting the riparian corridor.
- Riverbend Levee Setback/Removal Preliminary Design evaluates alternatives for setting back or removing existing levees to allow for restoration of natural floodplain functions and provide off-channel habitat for Chinook.
- Willow Creek Daylighting Preliminary Design will initiate design of channel to reconnect Edmonds Marsh to Puget Sound. Edmonds Marsh is the only remaining saltwater marsh in WRIA 8.

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- The Squire's Landing Park Restoration proposal intended to develop a preliminary restoration design for public space along Swamp Creek near the Sammamish River confluence. PSC had concerns about two components of the application: the heavily engineered approach proposed, and the City of Kenmore's commitment to the project, in light of the fact the 2010 Squire's Landing Park Master Plan was never approved by the Kenmore City Council. PSC recommended the project sponsor refine the scope to focus design on riparian restoration and light amounts of instream work at the end of Swamp Creek near the confluence. PSC also wants to see formal documentation from Kenmore that they are supportive of the work being proposed, and will preserve any work implemented through the current design phase in future park development.

## Discussion:

- Larry Phillips requested clarification on what the Cedar River SIA map means for project success. Jason explained that the red areas are untreated, orange an initial round of treatment, yellow more than two treatments, and green lots of treatment. Kathy Minsch said SPU staff will work with landowners to help maintain the treated areas.
- Diane Buckshnis reported that both she and Don Fiene were concerned about projects like the Squire's Landing Project going forward without formal approval by the city. Larry Phillips inquired if the money for Squire's Landing is contingent on Kenmore's formal approval. Jason W said it is.
- Paul Massart, Corps of Engineers, announced that the Corps is submitting both the Willow Creek Daylighting and Squire's Landing Projects for federal funding.
- Larry Phillips noted there is a funding shortfall of approximately \$160,000 and asked if staff will continue to look for more funding. Jason W responded in the affirmative.

## **2015-2017 PSAR Large Capital Project Submittal:**

Jason W said proposals were solicited at the bequest of the Puget Sound SRC and PSP for large capital projects for the 2015-2017 PSAR legislative funding request. The City of Redmond submitted the Evans Creek Relocation Project, requesting \$2.5 million to relocate ~3,200 feet of ditched channel to adjacent open space, restore ten acres of riparian buffer, and enhance twelve acres of wooded wetland. PSC evaluated the project with the SRFB Review Panel, and talked with the project sponsor. The project will be regionally ranked and compete for regional funds.

## Discussion:

- Don Gerend reported that the City of Sammamish likes the Evans Creek project. He said it seems odd that Evans is a Tier 2 sub-basin, when Bear Creek is Tier 1. Evans has cold clear water that will benefit juvenile Chinook rearing. This project doesn't affect the confluence with Bear, but where it flows through an industrial area. Jason W explained that WRIA 8 did the tiering watershed areas during initial development of the Salmon Habitat Plan, and will be updating the Plan in the next couple of years.
- Hank Myers said Redmond's Evans Creek relocation will be upstream of where WSDOT constructed 1,000 feet of this project as part of their mitigation site. It will be moving the stream away from an industrial area and into a more natural location nearby.

***The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the Project Subcommittee's recommendations for 2014 Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funding.***

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## 5. Building Cities in the Rain Project: Managing Stormwater to Support Watershed Protection & Restoration Priorities

Heather Ballash, WA Department of Commerce, said the impetus for Building Cities in the Rain is the PSP Action Agenda and the need to better connect stormwater management and the Growth Management Act (GMA). She said this is addressed in several near term actions, and National Estuary Program funds have been allocated to support stakeholder collaboration and guidance development.

Erika Harris, Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), reported that at PSRC's Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) the issue was first framed as a conflict of NPDES vs. GMA. Stormwater regulations are often more costly in ultra-urban areas than in green-fields. She said it is really NPDES and GMA plus a regional growth strategy, and figuring out how to encourage development in designated urban centers while meeting stormwater requirements. VISION 2040 anticipates the need for jobs and housing for an additional 1.7 million in Central Puget Sound, or two more Seattles and two more Tacomas. She said VISION 2040 is focused on 27 regional growth centers (2.5% of total UGA) and eight manufacturing/industrial centers (3.7% of total UGA) linked together by transit. Heather stated that the goal is to have vibrant designated urban centers plus clean water and restored fish habitat within the urban growth boundary.

Andy Rheume, as City of Redmond staff, went over why this is important for salmon recovery. He said the background memo for the Building Cities in the Rain Project summarizes GMPB sessions, literature review, interviews and meetings with several associations and committees associated with NPDES and GMA. All the cities and King County are currently developed without stormwater control, and there is not enough money in the western hemisphere to fund retrofitting the region with current stormwater controls. He cautioned that if we stay on our current road, salmon will be gone from developed areas.

Heather said we know we need to grow up and not out, so Commerce contracted with SVR Design to come up with innovative practices in Puget Sound. Key messages that resulted include:

- Integrate stormwater and LID into comprehensive land use plans and development plans early;
- Public/private partnerships are important; and
- Consider regional facilities rather than site-by-site mitigation,

Andy described two options for flexibility in stormwater permits that were looked at by Redmond:

- **Regional Facilities/Shared Solutions:** Provides centralized mitigation projects (big ponds/vaults, or pipes to exempt areas), escapes tyranny of site constraints, scalable/can treat large areas or small neighborhoods. The cost to retrofit 250 acres with flow control in Redmond is around \$40 million, and it requires political will. Concerns are how to pay for facilities, and the number of areas that can't accommodate it geographically.
- **Watershed Planning Approach to Stormwater Planning:** This is the approach Redmond and Ecology approved in February 2014, and it could be a template for other cities. Exploring Redmond's watershed approach, and how it can be used to facilitate dense urban development while maximizing stream habitat restoration, is a focus of Building Cities in the Rain. Redmond's plan is not fully implemented yet, so Andy displayed a theoretical map. Five streams in the City of Redmond were picked to be fixed in the next couple decades, and he said they are the target watersheds for restoration in Redmond. The city will build stormwater retrofits to address hydrology and water quality issues caused by development, and developers will pay fee-in-lieu to pay back stormwater retrofits. He said we would eventually have small stream watersheds retrofitted as people buy in, with the goal to recover in-stream habitat within urbanized areas.

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Andy showed before and after photos of the effects on stormwater quality and quantity of urban infill redevelopment. Before: little or no water quality and flow controls, pollutant-generating impervious surface. After: less impervious surface and some green infrastructure, little or no pollutant-generating impervious surface.

Cities and counties were required to pay \$3 million into an effectiveness Monitoring Program, one of the projects funded with this regional pool will be to establish what criteria need to be met to be a restored stream in an urban watershed and measure the ecological response to actions.

Heather remarked that there is a lot of synergy and excitement around the Building Cities in the Rain Project. After Redmond adopted a citywide Watershed Management Plan, the plan was approved by Ecology, and the city received two NEP Watershed Grants to implement the plan. At the same time the City of Tacoma received an NEP Watershed Grant for a Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan, which includes an area-wide stormwater strategy. Meanwhile in March 2014 a settlement agreement was reached with Ecology in which the agency continues to work with Phase II Appeal Coalition members, Commerce and others to explore options for meeting stormwater development/flow control standards on small, redevelopment sites in urban growth centers.

Andy said next steps for Building Cities in the Rain include developing stream prioritization guidance that complements Ecology's guidance on stormwater control transfers, and continuing to outreach to Tribes, salmon recovery experts, environmental community, building community, etc. More information can be found by going to the project website at [www.ezview.wa.gov](http://www.ezview.wa.gov), or by googling "Cities in the Rain".

## Discussion:

- Don Davidson commented that there has been a Stormwater Utility in the City of Bellevue for 13 years. A large development pays into development fees, and there is a difference in how you can do it city by city.
- Hank Myers noted that this group is part of the process, because it provided funding for the Bear Creek Project. He agreed that it does take particular political will to do this.
- Jesse Salomon called Building Cities in the Rain an exciting project for Redmond. He said in the City of Shoreline we have a huge parking lot, and because of that have to spend \$250,000 a year to dredge the creek downstream. He said he asked Shoreline staff to contact Andy and Redmond.
- Eric Adman commented that in certain areas Redmond intensively concentrates stormwater retrofits, and he asked what happens to areas that aren't so intensively retrofit. Andy Rheaume responded that Redmond focuses on its five focus areas first, and when they see they are healthy will retrofit other areas. Eric inquired what the standard is for other areas. Andy reported they are retrofitted to not worse conditions, and must meet existing conditions.
- Diane Buckshnis noted that the City of Edmonds has wooden pipes. She said we are trying to fix our marsh, and don't have much land to divert stormwater too. She asked how Redmond figured out its endgame. Andy explained that we finished our Watershed Management Plan, identified the streams we should be focusing on, and are still developing our retrofit plans. Councilmember Buckshnis noted that Edmonds has flooding, flooding and more flooding, and is trying to figure out where to divert it to. Andy said Redmond is trying to have healthy streams close to where people live.
- John Stokes asked how, when you tear up a parking lot, you integrate stormwater management into a city like Bellevue that's much more developed. We only have a 50-acre system. Andy

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Rheume explained that for their 150-acre watershed, they looked at publicly-owned property first. Councilmember Stokes commented that Bellevue is talking about doing a project in Overlake. Andy noted that King County and Snohomish County are working on bigger plans, and he is part of that working on Bear Creek.

- Janet Prichard asked how Redmond outreached to businesses. Andy replied that they have their Watershed Management Plan, but haven't raised rates yet. The first business Redmond met with was Microsoft; and they said it would cost them \$6 million, they initially said "no", but Redmond continued to discuss it with them, and the company eventually came around when they realized how much it would cost them to address on-site stormwater on their own.
- Kathy Minsch reported that the City of Seattle has worked very hard to put together an integrated plan for CSOs, with some of that money directed to stormwater, rain gardens etc.
- Mark Phillips asked if the watershed to be retrofitted and the fees collected are in the same area, or is it cap and trade. Andy said it is the latter, with treatment being paid for at another site. Councilmember Phillips asked if Redmond was getting any pushback. Andy replied that it generates more LID, etc.

Andy Rheume requested a letter of endorsement for Building Cities in the Rain from the SRC. Jason MK asked what members thought, and several said they needed more information. Diane Buckshnis asked what Redmond would do with the endorsement, to which Andy responded he would put it on the website. Jason MK proposed that people send him their questions, and said we may have Andy come back with a second presentation to provide more information and address additional questions.

## 6. Draft 2016-2025 WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement

Jason MK presented the proposed changes to the Draft 2016-2025 Interlocal Agreement (ILA). He said there will be more review and opportunity to provide comments and edits to the ILA. The goal is to have a complete, signed ILA in December 2015.

### Revisions to the ILA Renewal Schedule:

- **September – November 2014:** The Implementation Committee (IC) asked that there be a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) renewal process concurrent with renewal of the ILA.
- **November 2014 – May 2015:** The IC emphasized it is probably important to make presentations to partner jurisdictions, as context for each jurisdiction's internal review of the draft ILA.

### Draft 2016-2025 ILA:

Jason MK explained that edits to the draft ILA are just technical changes; and comment boxes indicate those issues that are more substantive.

- **Page 3, first comment box, Eligible Jurisdictions:** He asked if the SRC wants to expand partner eligibility beyond cities and counties to entities like tribes, port, and utilities. These groups would have to contribute funding. Dave Garland inquired if Tribes haven't already been invited and declined. Jason MK replied that they've been invited as a stakeholder, and in this case, would be a member. Jean White, King County, said there is precedent in the Snoqualmie Watershed with the Snoqualmie Tribe, and with Tacoma Water in WRIA 9. Ron Straka, City of Renton, noted that Tacoma is part of WRIA 9 because it manages the upper watershed, and he said it is probably the same with the Snoqualmie Tribe. He asked if we are talking about special purpose districts. Jason MK said no, SRC members would have to approve any new members.
- **Page 4, 2.5:** Language changed from King Conservation District (KCD) grants to FCD and Cooperative Watershed Management grant program.

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- **Page 5, 2.9:** Addresses intent of the Plan to inform land use planning, regulations, and outreach and education programs.
- **Page 5, 2.11:** Addresses on-going monitoring and adaptive management of the Plan.
- **Page 6, comment box:** Other entities have gone to biennial budgeting, and language asks if we want to line up WRIA 8's budget with cities that have biennial budgeting to streamline the process. He noted that a handful of cities still have annual budgets and changing to biennial budgeting would not preclude being able to provide cost information to those partner jurisdictions.
- **Page 7, middle comment box:** Includes language on the cost share update process and significant annexations.
- **Page 7, final comment box:** Jason MK said there is existing language in the ILA about hiring an outside consultant to conduct a periodic service provider performance survey. This was expensive to do, and this comment asks if an anonymous annual survey process is enough. The IC recommended an "or" statement, leaving it up to SRC to decide on the type of survey every three years.
- **Cost share box for non-jurisdictional members:** He said this will come back in September.

## 7. Success story: King County Conservation Futures 2015 Grant Recommendations

Terry Lavender, Chair, King Conservation Futures (CFT) Citizen Oversight Committee, said CFT is a small part of King County property tax. This year we received 41 project proposals, which were reviewed by the CFT Committee. Recommended projects were submitted to the County Council for approval, which has been very respectful of the committee's decisions. She pointed out that CFT typically only pays for 50% of a project, but is often the first funding provided to projects.

Terry went over several local government projects, highlighting Bellevue's Greenway and Open Space System, Issaquah's Issaquah Creek Water Ways Program, and Seattle's La Villa Meadows Natural Area on Thornton Creek. She noted that two WRIA 8 projects, Issaquah Creek Protection and Bear Creek Waterways, aren't big projects this year, like the Lower Cedar River/River Bend Project of the past few years. CFT is often the first money put into big projects like that one.

Terry highlighted the big 2015 Chinook Wind project in WRIA 9 that was once a Holiday Inn, and said CFT is the first money provided to this project. The North Winds Weir project near Boeing is another large WRIA 9 project from a few years ago. She reported that the City of Tukwila has 125,000 people there during the work day, and it's a big deal if they see salmon when they go outside.

## 8. Next Meeting

The next SRC meeting is September 18, 2014, Bellevue City Hall, room #1E-108.