WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Meeting Notes

Department of Ecology Northwest Regional Office

January 15, 2015 3:03-5:20 p.m.

Members/Jurisdictional Staff Alternates Present		
#	**Name**	**Affiliation**
1.	Councilmember Larry Phillips, Chair	King County
2.	Eric Adman	Sno-King Watershed Council
3.	Councilmember Jay Arnold	City of Kirkland
4.	Councilmember Eileen Barber	City of Issaquah
5.	Mayor Bruce Bassett	City of Mercer Island
6.	Dick Bonewits	Cedar River Council
7.	Marci Chew	City of Mill Creek
8.	Dr. Don Davidson	Long Live the Kings (LLTK)
9.	Councilmember Bruce Dodds	City of Clyde Hill
10.	Nancy Eklund	The Boeing Company
11.	Councilmember Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
12.	Dave Garland	WA Dept. of Ecology (Ecology)
13.	Antonia Jindrich	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group (MSFEG)
14.	Peggy Marcus	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
15.	Councilmember Tom Odell	City of Sammamish
16.	Councilmember Mark Phillips	City of Lake Forest Park
17.	Janet Pritchard	Friends of the Cedar River Watershed
18.	Councilmember Andy Rheaume	City of Bothell
19.	Councilmember Kshama Sawant	City of Seattle
20.	Councilmember Carl Scandella	Town of Yarrow Point
21.	Gary Schulz	WA Assoc. of Sewer & Water Districts
22.	Richard Sowa	Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery
23.	Councilmember John Stokes	City of Bellevue
24.	Councilmember Paula Waters	City of Woodinville
Additional Alternates Present		
25.	Joan Nolan	Ecology
Others Present		
26.	Rika Cecil	City of Shoreline
27.	Denise DiSanto	Snohomish County
28.	Kathy Minsch	City of Seattle
29.	Kit Paulsen	City of Bellevue
30.	Jerallyn Roetemeyer	City of Redmond
31.	Stacey Rush	City of Kirkland
32.	Monica Shoemaker	WA DNR
33.	Clay Showalter	City of Seattle
34.	Jean White	King County
35.	Bruce Wulkan	Puget Sound Partnership
36.	Linda Grob	WRIA 8 Team
37.	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 Team
38.	Scott Stolnack	WRIA 8 Team
39.	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8 Team

Chair Larry Phillips opened the meeting, inviting all attendees to introduce themselves.

WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

January 15, 2015

1. Public Comment

Dave Garland welcomed everyone to the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) NW Regional Office. He said Ecology Director Josh Baldi wanted to be here to greet the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC), but had a meeting with the Tugboat Association. He will be here for the next meeting in March.

Don Davidson reported that he and Bellevue developer Kemper Freeman have petitioned the Shoreline Hearings Board, questioning the appropriateness of allowing the Sound Transit light rail line to run through the Mercer Slough. He said there will be a website detailing concerns about the route, and a hearing in April or May.

- Carl Scandella asked what the issue is with the Mercer Slough. Don Davidson said the issue is the environmental impacts of Sound Transit's alignment through the slough, which Ecology approved. The slough is like a bathtub, and the rails will go over it. He questioned if the design is appropriate, or if there is a better way to bring light rail into Bellevue, like via a tunnel.
- Dick Bonewits inquired if the hearing is at Bellevue City Hall. Don said the hearing will be in Lacy. Dave Garland said he doesn't think it will be in Ecology's headquarters building.
- Don said he is in favor of the environment and concerned about how the shoreline variance was approved. He said Ecology didn't follow its permitting process, and his petition isn't personal.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes for November 20, 2014

By head nod of the Salmon Recovery Council the meeting notes for the November 20, 2014 meeting 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:

- **South Central Action Area Caucus:** The next Caucus Group meeting is January 22, and Jason MK said he is still looking for an SRC member to represent WRIA 8 at this forum.
- **2015 Legislative Priorities Update:** The Governor's Budget included $50 million for the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant program, which is reduced from the $131 million request. The Governor's Budget includes $25 million for the Floodplains by Design program, but to get the Cedar River floodplain restoration project funded the Legislature would need to fund the Floodplains by Design project list at $40 million. Funding for salmon recovery Lead Entities is included at $907,000 in the Governor's budget, which does not reflect the requested $770,000 increase to fully fund the state match for Lead Entities. Puget Sound Partnership's (PSP) request for $1.7 million to support ten-year updates to watershed salmon recovery plans received $600,000 in the Governor's Budget for all Puget Sound watersheds. Jason MK noted that we have a draft template letter to legislatures that we can send you if you are interested in sending your own letter.
  - Jay Arnold asked if the WRIA 8 Legislative Priorities are still a draft, and when the SRC will approve them. Jason MK explained that the SRC has approved them, and they are really an iterative document to be able to add or update items as the legislative session progresses.
  - Don Davidson commented that we have monitoring "coming down the pike" and will need to seek adequate funding.
  - Andy Rheaume asked if staff has heard anything on the proposed water bill. Jason MK said he hasn't seen habitat in the draft bill, but it does provide a funding mechanism for projects that reduce flood risk and help manage stormwater. Councilmember (CM) Rheaume said the bill

proposes $3 billion, but there is no funding included in the draft legislation. Jason MK said WRIA 8 will track the bill.

- **SRC 2015 Meeting Topics:** March meeting topics will include decision on the Memorandum of Understanding budget principles and terms and the 2016 WRIA 8 budget and work plan, and the May and July meetings are devoted to discussion and approval of the renewed interlocal agreement (ILA). Jason MK said the WRIA 8 Pan update will kick off towards the end of year, and staff plans to do the annual Salmon Recovery Tour in October. He said we also want to highlight Orca recovery and the strong nexus with Chinook recovery.
  - Dick Bonewits reported he is sensitive to suburban cities that are urban islands in the rural areas, and specifically the stormwater that flows out of the growing urban cities affecting surface water. He lives near the cities of Maple Valley and Covington, and he said it all starts with more people and stormwater flowing into streams without any controls. Jason MK responded that it might be a specific topic we look at for a future meeting. Dick said he just wants to keep the issue in the back of people's heads.
- **The Dewatered Ballard Locks Tour** on November 25, 2014 included a briefing with Colonel John Buck, Seattle District Commander of the Army Corps (Corps) of Engineers. Several Congressional and legislative staff attended the tour, as well as SRC members, and the Corps is interested in hosting a stakeholder meeting to start building a broader constituency of support for making improvements at the Locks. Jason MK said WRIA 8, King County, and City of Seattle staff had a follow-up meeting with the Corps, which we hope to continue at least annually to share information.
  - Larry Phillips thanked all who attended the tour and Peggy Marcus for hosting, and said he has exchanged letters with Colonel Buck about the Locks.
- **Status of Legislature-Directed Review of Watershed Based Groups:** PSP issued its report reviewing watershed groups, and submitted recommendations to the Legislature on December 1. Jason MK reported he had no significant concerns with the report, which stated that the various watershed organizations are important and working well, and do not need to be consolidated. One suggestion was to create a "blue ribbon panel" to look at challenges to Puget Sound recovery posed by land use and transportation. Also getting more legislative acknowledgement are local integrating organization (LIOs), including the South Central Caucus Group, in which WRIA 8 participates.
  - Carl Scandella reported that a month ago Governor Inslee came to the Evergreen Lid to talk about things like the carbon tax. He inquired if WRIA 8 is doing anything to coordinate with the WA State Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT) and Ecology. Jason MK said not directly. We haven't seen anyone address transportation before, but we are definitely tracking climate change. He said the culvert decision of a few years ago is very important in working with WSDOT and other state agencies and local governments.
- **Regional Review of 2014 WRIA 8 Three-Year Work Plan:** PSP completed its review in early December, and the WRIA 8 Three-Year Work Plan update was very good. The reviewers particularly highlighted Technical Coordinator Scott Stolnack's monitoring and adaptive management work.
- **WRIA 8 E-News:** The second e-newsletter was published on December 18. Jason MK requested that people send in topics, ideas, and projects to include in the next e-newsletter that goes out in February.
- **Invitation to Select a Representative for Cedar River Corridor Plan Advisory Committee:** Jason MK asked if any SRC members are interested in participating in the Corridor Plan Advisory Committee, which he will also be attending for WRIA 8.

- Dick Bonewits said he will bring it up with the Cedar River Council, where there may be others beside himself who could fit that bill. He said he thinks participating on the advisory committee is important.
- John Stokes said he is interested in participating to represent WRIA 8.

- **PSAR Folder and Information:** Jason MK noted that information materials about the PSAR state capital budget request is included in the meeting packet. Materials include factsheets on the ranked PSAR priority projects and WRIA 8's Evans Creek Relocation project.

4. SRC Funding Guidance for 2015 Grant Funds

Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Funding Program:

Jason Wilkinson (Jason W), Actions and Funding Coordinator, explained that the Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grants are funded by the King County Flood Control District (FCD). CWM funds three categories of actions: site-specific projects and acquisitions, monitoring, and education and outreach. Last year the FCD increased the annual allocation to King County WRIAs, and the allocation will increase each year through 2017, after which time CWM funding may not be available. At the March 2014 meeting the SRC decided that the additional funds each year should be directed to site-specific projects, with the amounts for monitoring and outreach and education remaining the same.

These tables show the 2014 approved and 2015 proposed CWM allocations:

Table 1: 2014 Approved CWM Allocation

Activity	**Amount**
Site-specific projects and acquisitions	$1,112,846
Monitoring	$300,000
Education and outreach	$96,000
Total	**$1,508,846**

Table 2: 2015 Proposed CWM Allocation

Activity	**Amount**
Site-specific projects and acquisitions	$1,189,227
Monitoring	$300,000
Education and outreach	$96,000
Total	**$1,585,227**

Project Subcommittee Recommendation Establishing a Limit on Riparian Restoration Proposals:

Jason W reported that on December 9, 2014, the Project Subcommittee (PSC) discussed modifying the grant review process to better capture the benefit and priority of riparian restoration proposals relative to other restoration projects. Large scale riparian restoration proposals have scored very well in the PSC evaluations, and this led the group to discuss whether there is a better way to reflect the benefit of different types of projects in our funding priorities. He noted that in past rounds we considered riparian restoration proposals as site-specific when that's not really what they are, and we want to start comparing "apples to apples".

Jason W said that discussion resulted in the following recommendations for SRC consideration:

- Establish a funding cap for stand-alone and programmatic-type riparian restoration projects and evaluate these proposals as a category separate from other habitat restoration projects.
  - For CWM grants, define the cap as **up to 15% of the site-specific project allocation**.

  - For Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and PSAR grants, define **the cap as up to 15% of the WRIA 8 allocation**. Included in this funding pot is the "stewardship" project type, which was established in 2013 by the SRFB to ensure the success of previously-funded riparian projects.
- For CWM grants, any portion of the 15% not allocated to riparian restoration proposals will be allocated to site-specific protection and restoration projects.
- Similar to the CWM funding guidance, the PSC is interested in retaining the discretion to deviate from the 15% cap if merited by a strong proposal in a high-priority location.

This table breaks down the proposed riparian category funding amounts by grant source in 2015:

2015 Funding Amounts for Proposed Riparian Category

Funding Source	Amount
Cooperative Watershed Management	$178,384
Salmon Recovery Funding Board	$65,003
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (biennial allocation)	$221,366
15% of Total Anticipated 2015 Grant Funding	**$464,753**
Total Riparian Proposal Requests in 2014	*$462,245*

Jason W said the PSC would develop a separate set of criteria to evaluate the riparian-only proposals, and would also request a three-year budget for these projects to anticipate anticipated sponsors' funding needs beyond the grant request.

Discussion:

- Gary Schulz asked if the 15% will cover cost overruns. Jason W said the majority of projects affected by this change can be scaled to match available funding due to the nature of the work; therefore, cost overruns are not often a concern.
- Mark Phillips asked about a project that has a riparian component but where riparian restoration is not the primary objective. Jason W explained it would be considered a site-specific project. This recommendation is for riparian projects that cover a large area or involve stand-alone riparian restoration with no other activities.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously agreed by headnod to accept the Project Subcommittee recommendations to establish a funding limit on riparian restoration proposals.

5. Review and Discuss Draft 2016-2025 WRIA 8 Memorandum of Understanding

Kokanee:

Jason MK reminded SRC members that at the November meeting several options were presented for how we might align with kokanee recovery in WRIA 8. The one that had the most support was Option 2, acknowledge kokanee recovery, continue to track and coordinate with the Kokanee Work Group, and move shared priorities forward. The kokanee partner jurisdictions said they needed to have additional discussions about how they might want to partner to advance kokanee recovery priorities. Jason MK indicated WRIA 8 would continue to support these discussions.

Discussion:

- Carl Scandella asked if we also want to express support for orca recovery, broadening our support beyond chinook to orca. Jason MK said he didn't know if we want to take on orca recovery as part of WRIA 8's scope, but implementing Chinook recovery inherently will benefit both species.

- Don Davidson said through the NOAA Fisheries planning and coordinating with the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, WRIA 8 is involved with steelhead and multi-species recovery efforts.
- Tom Odell reported that there have been some initial conversations in how the cities of Issaquah, Sammamish, and Bellevue could proceed with kokanee recovery, and we also are trying to get Redmond involved. King County and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will continue their involvement. He said the cities involved are looking at possibly creating their own kokanee ILA. He said he wasn't sure if it should be under the WRIA 8 ILA, but thinks they should be linked.
- Larry Phillips inquired if there was any objection to incorporating Option 2 into the draft ILA. There was none. Jason MK noted that Option 2 is in the draft ILA partners have received for review.

Memorandum of Understanding:

Jason MK reminded the SRC that the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was introduced in November. The version in today's packet has technical edits to the document, and a note proposed to include specific budget principles and terms between the SRC and King County as WRIA 8 Service Provider.

Jean White, King County, said for the next ILA the County's Water and Land Resource Division (WLRD) is seeking full cost recovery of the status quo 3.5 WRIA 8 staff, including salaries, benefits, and overhead. However, it's early in the budget process and WLRD's Finance Manager did not have all the numbers to provide yet, so we are using 2014 numbers for today's presentation. County information technology costs for computers, phones, support, etc., are now broken out as a per staff cost that is part of supplies and services in the WRIA 8 budget. Also, as part of full cost recovery for the new ILA, starting in 2016, King County proposes to charge a per staff overhead rate based on real costs. She described how the proposed overhead rate compares to the current ILA overhead rate that is based on 32% of salaries and benefits. IN 2016, the overhead rate is anticipated to be less than it would have been under the past 32% overhead rate.

Jean said King County, as service provider, is committed to continuing to share the costs of implementing the Chinook Conservation Plan with the WRIA 8 partners. We need to all recognize that staff costs increase over time, especially with the retention of staff. We need to show that a portion of the cost share is in increased salaries. She noted that ILA partners need predictability, and lead time to appropriately budget for anticipated increases. Increases should be reasonable for all parties.

Jean explained that last week she discussed the budget at the Implementation Committee meeting, and members asked what are the "boundaries" or limits to potential increases. Jean reported that King County's proposal for the next biennium (2017-18) ILA budget is to have the whole WRIA 8 budget not exceed the Consumer Price Index (CPI). She highlighted the part of the budget handout that shows Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate projections. She reminded the SRC that the first ILA started in 2000 and the budget remained the same until the 2013 budget, when increasing salary and operating costs eventually bumped up against the budget total.

Jean reported that King County calculates overhead by bundling various WLRD office administrative, finance, and human resources costs. The per-person overhead cost in 2014 was $46,428, and because the county switched to a two year budget cycle, overhead will stay the same. Per the budget projections document she handed out, salaries and benefits are listed for 2.5 full time employees (FTE) with the technical staff (Scott Stolnack and Hans Berge equal 1.0 FTE) showing up as loaned-in from WLRD's Science Section where they are housed.

Discussion:

- Larry Phillips said Jean is trying to be as transparent as possible with the SRC, and what we are going to decide today is whether to convene the Management Committee (MC) to review and recommend budget terms for the MOU and a 2016 budget and work plan.
- Dick Bonewits noted that if you shift staff around to reduce the cost of retaining higher paid employees, or lose staff, you would have to spend time and incur costs training the new staff. He asked if that has been factored into the budget discussion.
- Don Davidson commented that a problem is inflation means different things to different people. He questioned why we don't always use CPI instead of saying inflation. CPI for wages is usually based on buying power.
- Ted Frantz asked if the CPI percentages on the handout are for the Seattle area or for the whole state. Jean White responded that it is the Seattle area. CM Frantz noted that the overhead and budget will be based on CPI, except for salaries, which are based on union contracts. He asked how often King County renegotiates union contracts. Larry Phillips replied they are negotiated every three years. Jean clarified that budget numbers on the handout are based on King County's real staff costs, and the County is confident the WRIA 8 budget will stay within these projections. She emphasized that King County is working on controlling costs and has done a good job of that in recent years.
- Larry Phillips explained that we are talking in broad categories, about salaries, COLA, and benefits. Salaries are the bulk of the costs, and COLA will be capped at approximately 2% in 2015 and 2.25% in 2016.
- Carl Scandella asked what is specifically included in the overhead and what the total amount is. Jean White explained it is WLRD's director's office, finance and accounting, human resources, office administration, the building (including rent, work space, GIS, and web development), and division librarian costs. The total per staff overhead cost for 2014 is $46,428.
- Andy Rheaume noted that you say full cost recovery, but King County is also paying into the ILA. Jean White confirmed that the county is a paying cost share member. CM Rheaume asked if Snohomish County is also a paying member, and Jean said they are.
- Jay Arnold asked for an explanation of King County overhead versus WRIA 8 operating costs. Jason MK explained that the WRIA 8 operating costs (or supplies and services costs) are more direct unit costs including printing, motor pool use, meeting and event support (refreshment and rent), training supplies, and communication consulting.

Hearing no further discussion, Larry Phillips reported that staff will update the budget information, and present it to the Management Committee to develop recommendations for MOU budget terms and a 2016 budget and work plan for SRC consideration at the March meeting. Jason MK went over the MC membership, which includes the SRC chair and vice-chair, and SRC representatives from the cities of Bellevue, Issaquah and Seattle, Town of Hunts Point, and Snohomish County.

5. Success Story: South Lake Washington Shoreline Restoration Project

Monica Shoemaker, WA State Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR), reported on the South Lake Washington Shoreline Restoration project, a collaboration with Boeing and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) at the mouth of the Cedar River. WSDOT received a mitigation credit for the 520 Bridge Replacement Project in exchange for paying to construct this lake shore restoration project. Monica explained that an 18-foot-long flume wall at the project site was decommissioned many years ago, but left in place, and the sandy cove offered pretty good habitat

potential. In addition to the flume wall, there were creosote treated pilings that needed to be removed.

Monica said the partnership with Boeing created a better design, and the company's stormwater outfall is now out in deeper water. She noted that DNR created complexity in the shallow water by putting in logs, and we had to bring in a lot of material to install the new outfall. A part of the flume wall was kept in place to protect an area where Boeing parks its planes. Construction was started last May and completed last week, and the project included removing invasive species (blackberries) and planting willows and other native vegetation. She said a benefit of working with WSDOT is that the project will be monitored for ten years. Roger Tabor, DNR, did snorkeling surveys to monitor fish presence for three years before the project started, and he will now do an additional three years of post-project snorkel surveys. He has found lots of juvenile Chinook in the restored sandy cove.

Nancy Eklund mentioned that Boeing has been very supportive of this project, and worked very closely with DNR. Boeing executive offices have a perfect view of the project. When Boeing's Renton office decided they were going to stay and build more planes, they also decided they would "go back to the lake". Monica explained that DNR worked with Nancy to create view corridors. Gene Coulon Park is adjacent to the project site, and going forward we will have folks from DNR and interest groups talking about habitat restoration at the site. It will also be good to provide advocacy and information to Boeing employees, because they are very interested in the property and the project.

Monica concluded by saying one of the best things about the project was extending the stormwater outfall out into the lake away from the shore. She noted that Bird Island, part of Gene Coulon Park, is on state property, and it is the perfect next restoration project for DNR to consider.

Discussion:

- Larry Phillips asked about the plume in the aerial photo of the site. Monica Shoemaker explained the plume of turbid water is caused by the stormwater outfall pipe. The outfall comes out where the planes are sitting, and that's not part of the DNR site. She added that the turbidity is gone now.
- Don Davison commented that because of this project and the interest and partnership with Boeing, perhaps Boeing would reconsider being listed as a member on the WRIA 8 SRC letterhead.
- Ted Frantz inquired if DNR initiated this project. Monica said yes. Years ago Renton was looking at this project and it got stopped. She said she decided to look at it again, knew it was on the WRIA 8 priority list, and secured initial funding for the design.
- Ted Frantz asked if WSDOT is interested because they run the airport as well. Monica calrified that the City of Renton runs the airport and park.

6. Next Meeting

The next SRC meeting is March 19, 2015, 3:00-5:15 p.m., at Ecology's Northwest Regional Office in Bellevue.