

WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Meeting Notes

Department of Ecology Northwest Regional Office

November 19, 2015 3:10-5:23 p.m.

Members/Jurisdictional Staff Alternates Present		
#	Name	Affiliation
1.	Councilmember (CM) Larry Phillips, Chair	King County
2.	CM Andy Rheume, Vice-Chair	City of Bothell
3.	CM Jay Arnold	City of Kirkland
4.	Tor Bell	Mountain to Sound Greenway Trust
5.	Judy Blanco	Forterra
6.	CM Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
7.	Don Davidson	Long Live the Kings
8.	CM Bruce Dodds	City of Clyde Hill
9.	Nancy Eklund	The Boeing Co.
10.	CM Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
11.	Dave Garland	WA Dept. of Ecology (Ecology)
12.	Mike Grady	NOAA Fisheries
13.	Cyndy Holtz	City of Seattle
14.	Antonia Jindrich	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
15.	CM Sean Kelly	City of Mill Creek
16.	Peggy Marcus	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
17.	CM Hank Myers	City of Redmond
18.	CM Tom Odell	City of Sammamish
19.	CM Mark Phillips	City of Lake Forest Park
20.	Stewart Reinbold	WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
21.	CM Jesse Salomon	City of Shoreline
22.	Gary Schultz	WA Association of Sewer & Water Districts
23.	Gary Smith	Water Tenders
24.	CM John Stokes	City of Bellevue
25.	Frank Urabeck	Citizen Representative
Additional Alternates Present		
26.	Joan Nolan	Ecology
27.	Terry Lavender	Citizen Representative
Others Present		
28.	David Bain	SnoKing Watershed Council
29.	Karl Burton	Seattle Public Utilities
30.	Uki Dele	City of Shoreline
31.	Mary Fleck	Seattle Green Spaces Coalition
32.	Kathy Minsch	City of Seattle
33.	Kit Paulsen	City of Bellevue
34.	Stacey Rush	City of Kirkland
35.	Jean White	King County
36.	Bruce Wulkan	Puget Sound Partnership
37.	Linda Grob	WRIA 8 Team
38.	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 Team
39.	Scott Stolnack	WRIA 8 Team
40.	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8 Team

Chair Larry Phillips opened the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meeting, inviting all attendees to introduce themselves.

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1. Public Comment

Mary Fleck, Seattle Green Spaces Coalition (SGSC), spoke about an effort to protect a five acre stream parcel in Lake Forest Park. Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) owns the property, but doesn't need the parcel anymore, and is going to sell it on July 15, 2016. SGSC is looking for ideas and resources to acquire the property, which is expected to sell for \$500,000-\$900,000. Dave Garland reported that Mary came to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) looking for funding, but Ecology's coastal funding provides a maximum award of \$50,000. Mark Phillips explained that Lake Forest Park looked at the property, but decided not to pursue the purchase at this point because another city project is a higher priority. He said this is a good parcel, and he would like to see it protected.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes for September 17, 2015

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the meeting notes for the September 17, 2015 meeting.

3. Updates & Announcements

General Announcements:

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (Jason MK), Watershed Coordinator, requested folks review the Updates & Announcements handout, and then he covered the following highlights:

- **WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement (ILA) 2016-2025:** 25 of 28 local government partners have approved the ILA, and the remaining three partners have it scheduled for consideration by the end of the year.
- **Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)/Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) Grant to Support WRIA 8 Plan Update/Monitoring and Adaptive Management:** PSP requested proposals from watersheds by November 10, and WRIA 8 submitted a proposal for \$96,000. The WRIA 8 Management Committee (MC) approved the proposal and sent a letter of support, and at today's PSSRC meeting WRIA 8's proposal was approved. Don Davidson, who sits on the PSSRC, said it was a clear decision, because it was a great application that impressed members of the PSSRC.
- **WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Tour:** We had a great tour on October 11 to look at priority projects, starting at the Ballard Locks, and visiting Riverbend on the Cedar River, and Confluence Park in Issaquah. Participants included state legislators, congressional staff, local officials and staff, state and federal agency staff, and community group members.
- **PSP Solicitation of Near-Term Action (NTA) Pre-Proposals:** WRIA 8 sent the solicitation around to partners, and several submitted proposals. NTAs will be included in the 2016 update to the Action Agenda for Puget Sound recovery. WRIA 8 submitted three NTAs for which we are proposing to be the lead/"owner":
 - Developing options to address elevated temperatures in the Ship Canal;
 - Advancing options to address elevated temperatures in the Sammamish River; and
 - Implementation of Ballard Locks fish passage improvements.
- **Invitation to Tour Dewatered Ballard Locks:** The Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is hosting its annual tour of the dewatered large lock chamber starting at 10:00 a.m. November 23, 2015.
- **2016 Meeting Schedule:** The meeting schedule is in the packet. Note that there is no January SRC meeting because of the WRIA 8 Salmon Summit, scheduled for February 4, 2016.

4. MC Recommendations for 2016 SRC Leadership and Membership

Jason MK said, in light of Chair Larry Phillips' retirement, the MC recommends Andy Rheaume as Chair, and John Stokes as Vice-Chair of the SRC. Jay Arnold thanked Councilmembers (CM) Rheaume and Stokes for stepping up.

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Jason MK reported that Forterra has requested to be added as a stakeholder member of the SRC, to replace Friends of the Cedar River Watershed (FCRW). Judy Blanco, Riparian Restoration Manager, explained that Forterra, formerly the Cascade Land Conservancy, is a land trust that focuses on protecting and stewarding urban, rural and wild lands, and is also working with private property owners. She said Forterra has been in partnership with SPU, King County (KC) Noxious Weeds Program, and FCRW on the river-wide Stewardship in Action Knotweed Control Program in the Cedar River. John Stokes said closing down FRCW was very sad, but he is happy the Seattle Aquarium has taken on the Cedar River Salmon Journey Program, and Forterra has taken on the volunteer restoration and Stewardship in Action Program. He said he is very excited and pleased to have Forterra join the SRC.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved Andy Rheaume as 2016 Chair and John Stokes as Vice-Chair. The Salmon Recovery Council also unanimously approved Forterra as a new stakeholder member.

5. Salmon Return Status & Spawning Ground Survey Update

Return status, Sammamish population:

Scott Stolnack, Technical Coordinator, noted that this was a dry summer, and he said the 2015 information for Chinook salmon is better than expected, while the sockeye run is worse. With the Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grants provided by the SRC, we partner with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe (MIT) on our Fish In Monitoring Survey. Based on the poor temperature conditions at the Locks and Ship Canal, we thought there would be fewer fish in the creeks, but the number of redds has been good in Bear-Cottage creeks. In general the Sammamish River Chinook return was also better than expected. The Issaquah Hatchery Chinook returns were lower than the historic returns on average, but better than they've been the last couple of years. Scott's last slide showed the number of Chinook redds in Sammamish tributaries, showing good Bear and Cottage creeks redd counts, lower counts in Issaquah Creek than the last few years, better counts in Little Bear and North creeks than last year, and no redds counted on Kelsey Creek.

Discussion:

- Hank Myers asked about the bad return on Issaquah Creek, and if the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery reached their hatchery return goals. Scott Stolnack replied that the hatchery did reach its goal, and they also allowed a few hundred fish above the hatchery.
- Mark Phillips inquired if they surveyed the whole system or only a sample. Scott explained that a subset of the Sammamish population spawning grounds is sampled, and the whole Cedar River is surveyed.
- Jesse Salomon asked if numbers improved because of less pre-spawn mortality. Scott said no, we are seeing more fish than we thought based on counts at the Locks fish ladder, but it could be that more Chinook went through the Locks themselves than estimated.
- Andy Rheaume commented that salmon were all over in the creeks, and maybe they were just trying to get out of the warmer Sammamish River.

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Spawning Ground Survey:

Karl Burton, Senior Fish Biologist with SPU, said he's been working on the Cedar River for 17 years. Cedar River Chinook redd surveys began in 1999 as a cooperative program with WDFW, and Muckleshoot Tribe, KC, and SPU. Surveys were originally below Landsburg Dam, expanding to habitats above the dam in 2003 after completion of the fish passage facilities. He said we float the entire Cedar River and counted 738 redds this year, the third highest total since counting began. Seventy-seven redds (10.8%) were above Landsburg, the second highest total since the fish passage facility was completed. Ninety-four redds were in forested side channels, and 37% of redds were of hatchery origin this year. No redds were in danger of dewatering, and twelve redds were unusually low in the river, below the sockeye broodstock collection weir in Renton.

Karl acknowledged the field work of Bethany Craig, WDFW, Dan Lantz, KC, and Brian Footen, MIT. He said we first got primary funding through WRIA 8 from the King Conservation District (KCD) for the surveys, and are now funded by a CWM grant.

6. Success Story: Larry Phillips

Jason MK gave a presentation thanking Larry Phillips for his dedication to WRIA 8 over the years, mentioning lots of meetings, speeches and media events he attended or gave, tours he attended, including his infamous annual Cedar River raft trips, and opportunities he provided to develop the next generation of salmon champions. Jason MK completed the presentation with a slide of the newly named Larry Phillips Natural Area on the Cedar River, formerly known as Rainbow Bend. At the conclusion of the presentation, CM Phillips was presented with a soft shell jacket embroidered with the WRIA 8 logo from the SRC, and the group enjoyed refreshments in his honor.

Discussion:

- Mike Grady thanked Larry Phillips for always being so positive, and getting things done.
- Hank Myers thanked Larry for his leadership and commented that he always enjoys the SRC, where we can be as wonky as we want.

7. Four-Year Work Plan Update

Jason Wilkinson (Jason W), Actions and Funding Coordinator, said that beginning in 2016, the Three-Year Work Plan becomes the Four-Year Work Plan. The change is intended to better align work plans to the biennial timing of legislative funding requests and updates to the Puget Sound Action Agenda. He explained the SRC used to approve the Three-Year Work Plan in March, but as part of PSP switching it to four years we are bringing it to the group later in the year to meet the new reporting deadline to PSP. The Four-Year Work Plan is a screening tool for WRIA 8 projects. While the Work Plan will change to being submitted every two years to PSP, WRIA 8 will continue to review it yearly (at a minimum), and will solicit updates annually for Technical Committee and Implementation Committee review.

Jason said the first four items on this year's Four-Year Work Plan table are added directly from the City of Renton's Lower Cedar River Chinook Salmon Habitat Restoration Assessment and two projects are related to the Locks—one is focused on improving water temperatures in the Ship Canal and will be added to the Work Plan, while the other is already on the Work Plan and the recommendation is to update the project description. The project recommendations are:

Additions			
#	Project Name	Sponsor	TC Recommendations
1.	Cedar River Reach 2 Left Bank	Renton	Add project C203 to Four-Year Work Plan

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	Vegetation Improvement		
2.	Renton Senior Center Habitat Improvement	Renton	Create sub-project C203A, add to Comprehensive & Start Lists, Four-Year Work Plan
3.	Cedar River Trail Relocation Habitat Restoration	Renton	Create sub-project C203B, add to Comprehensive & Start Lists, Four-Year Work Plan
4.	Cedar River Reach 3 Side Chanel Habitat Restoration	Renton	Create sub-project C209A, add to Comprehensive & Start Lists, Four-Year Work Plan
5.	Improve Estuary Conditions Upstream of Locks	Corps of Engineers	Add M206 to Four-Year Work Plan
Update			
6.	Operational Improvement to Locks	Corps of Engineers	Update description to M204 to align with Corps' priority list of facility repairs benefitting Chinook

Discussion:

- Diane Buckshnis inquired how cooler water is added to the Ship Canal. Peggy Marcus explained that cooler water enters the Ship Canal when you open the Locks (“false lockings”). The problem is the salt water. She said in 2013 they opened every two hours, which didn’t have an effect on temperature. In 2014 they closed the saltwater intake and adjusted the lockings, and it had some temperature effect but still added saltwater. Those were the easy fixes and the Locks can’t afford more expensive fixes. Peggy said we are improving pit tag readers to track the smolts.
- Mike Grady said NOAA Sand Point looked using heat exchange in the lake, which provides a wonderful source of cold water. It was not feasible for the NOAA facility, but the University of Washington (UW) is also looking at it. The campus overall is looking to be carbon neutral.
- Scott Stolnack reported that Cornell College has done a deep lake source heat exchange project, although it was very expensive. It could be a partnership opportunity. The concept is to create pockets of cooler water (refugia) as way stations as they travel through the Ship Canal. Chinook may use environmental cues to go from refugia to refugia to get to Lake Washington where heat is no longer an issue. Since the Lake Washington system is highly engineered, it’s going to take a highly engineered solution.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the Four-Year Work Plan update.

8. Ten-Year Plan Update Status

Jason MK and Scott Stolnack updated the SRC on the status of the ten-year update to the WRIA 8 Plan.

- **WRIA Technical Forum:** The November 17 Technical Forum was attended by 35 science and technical experts. Scott reported that there were three big presentations in the morning:
 - Predation of Juvenile Salmon in Lake Washington (by Dave Beauchamp, UW/USGS);
 - Effects of Artificial Light at Night in the Ship Canal and Lake Washington (Roger Tabor and Mark Celdonia, USFWS), which is a big issue in Lake Washington and highlights the need for continued partnership with UW and our partner organizations; and
 - Juvenile Survival and Life History Diversity (Joe Anderson, WDFW), which concluded we aren’t limited on spawning habitat, but are limited on juvenile rearing/refuge habitat. Levee setback projects increase rearing/refuge habitat.

Technical Forum presentations and summary are posted on the WRIA 8 website at

<http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/committees/15TechFrm/default.aspx>. Jay Arnold reported that in the City of Kirkland we are going to LED lights, and he asked if there is any way to keep light from shining directly on the water, and the ambient light going out into space and bouncing off the

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clouds. Scott said that the Technical Committee will be convening local researchers to discuss this issue in January.

- **WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Summit:** The Summit is scheduled for February 4, 2016, at The Mountaineers, 7700 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle. Jason MK said the purpose is to celebrate ten years of implementation progress, get feedback on our priorities and implementation approach, and motivate partners for future implementation.
- **WRIA 8 Programmatic Survey:** The survey of programmatic actions went out October 26, and was completed by 21 of 28 partner jurisdictions and ten of 23 nonprofits. Jason MK said the survey closed November 13, and we are now going through results, which will inform the ten-year plan update.
- **Implementation Progress Report 2015:** Jason MK said we did a 5-year implementation progress report in 2011, and the 10-year implementation progress report will be coming out in time for the Salmon Summit in early February.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Salmon Summit: February 4, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., The Mountaineers in Seattle.
- Salmon Recovery Council: March 17, 2016, 3:00 – 5:15 p.m., Ecology's Northwest Regional Office in Bellevue.