

WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes
Mercer Island Community Center || March 15, 2018 3:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Members Present		
#	Name	Affiliation
1)	Mayor Andy Rheume, Chair	City of Bothell
2)	Deputy Mayor Salim Nice	City of Mercer Island
3)	Don Davidson	Washington Policy Center
4)	Councilmember (CM) Hank Myers	City of Redmond
5)	Eric Adman	Sno-King Watershed Council
6)	Joe Miles	WA State Department of Natural Resources
7)	Mary Shustov	WA Association of Sewer and Water Districts
8)	CM Mark Phillips	City of Lake Forest Park
9)	Judy Blanco	Forterra
10)	Joan Nolan	WA State Department of Ecology
11)	Charles Ruthford	Cedar River Council
12)	CM Jared Mead	City of Mill Creek
13)	CM Tom Neir	City of Kirkland
14)	CM Victoria Hunt	City of Issaquah
15)	CM John Stokes, Vice Chair	City of Bellevue
16)	Mayor Pro Tem Carl Scandella	Town of Yarrow Point
Alternates Present		
17)	Susan O’Neil	Long Live the Kings
18)	Jeanette Dorner	Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
19)	David Bain	Sno-King Watershed Council
20)	Cyndy Holtz	City of Seattle
21)	Robert Knoll	Snohomish County
Others Present		
22)	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8
23)	Amber Moore	Puget Sound Partnership
24)	Audrie Starsy	City of Newcastle
25)	Peter Donaldson	Sustainability Associates
26)	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8
27)	Richard Sowa	Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH)
28)	Laura West	WRIA 8
29)	Janet Geer	City of Bothell
30)	Jeff Burkey	King County
31)	Kelli Jones	City of Kirkland
32)	Janne Kaje	King County
33)	Kathy Minsch	City of Seattle
34)	Kit Paulsen	City of Bellevue
35)	Cailan Nealer	WA State Department of Natural Resources
36)	Jordanna Warneck	WA State Department of Natural Resources
37)	Peter Holte	City of Redmond
38)	Elizabeth Torrey	WA State Department of Fish & Wildlife
39)	Aaron Bosworth	WA State Department of Fish & Wildlife
40)	Larry Reymann	Environmental Science Center
41)	Allan Warren	Pierce Conservation District

I) Call to Order / Introductions

Chair Andy Rheume called the meeting to order and welcomed several new Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) members: Councilmember Tom Neir, City of Kirkland; Councilmember Jared Mead, City of Mill Creek; Councilmember Victoria Hunt, City of Issaquah; and Mary Shustov, Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts. Chair Rheume announced that he is stepping down as the Chair and Bothell representative on the

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WRIA 8 SRC after this meeting as he has a new management position at the City of Redmond that includes supervising Redmond's work with WRIA 8, which creates a potential conflict of interest. Chair Rheume nominated Vice Chair Stokes for the Chair position.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved Vice Chair John Stokes to serve as SRC Chair starting at the May 2018 SRC meeting.

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (Jason MK) asked for anyone interested in the Vice Chair position to contact him before the end of April for a decision at the May SRC meeting. Jason MK thanked Chair Rheume for his involvement and contributions, and presented him with a placard, cake, and thank you notes. Chair Rheume said he has enjoyed being part of the SRC for the last six years.

II) Public Comment

No public comment.

III) Consent Agenda (Decision)

CM Mark Phillips made two wording suggestions in the guidelines for commenting as part of the Consent Agenda. Mark pointed out that guidelines for tier 2 streams needed clarification and suggested grouping tiers 1 and 2 together for non-controversial issues that are a high priority for WRIA 8. Mark also suggested using the word "guidelines" throughout the document for consistency, replacing the word "policies" in one instance.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the consent agenda, pending the addition of the two amendments CM Mark Phillips suggested in the WRIA 8 SRC Guidelines for Commenting.

IV) Updates & Announcements

Jason MK highlighted the following items:

- **The SRC Vice Chair position is open:** Anyone interested in the position should inform Jason MK by the end of April.
- **Status of Plan update ratification:** To date, 16 local government partners have ratified the Plan update.
- **Legislative priorities:** The Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account was fully funded in the supplemental budget except for one project. The Wayne Golf Course project received \$1 million in additional funding.
- **Ballard Locks advocacy:** Susan O'Neil updated the SRC on a meeting with the Washington Transportation Commission regarding the Ballard Locks. A wide array of perspectives were represented, including salmon recovery, labor, trade, public safety, and fishing. Susan emphasized that reinforcing the messaging from a wide variety of groups is the best approach. The President's proposed 2019 budget zeroes out EPA funding for Puget Sound recovery as well as PCSRF funding. Puget Sound Partnership is convening Puget Sound Day on the Hill on May 23, 2018, gathering representatives to meet with members of Congress and federal agency leadership on a number of Puget Sound recovery issues, including salmon recovery. Jason MK asked the SRC to authorize his travel to DC to represent WRIA 8 interests and provide the local perspective on salmon recovery at both the Puget Sound Day on the Hill as well as the Ballard Locks coalition meetings with the Army Corps. Jason expects his travel costs to total between \$1300-1600. Chair Rheume supported the idea and stated the trip would be time well spent, after seeing the impact of meeting with legislators in Olympia last fall. CM Jared Mead agreed that this type of activity is important and influential. Charles Ruthford asked Jason MK to clarify lobbying and funding rules, and Jason responded that since he would be representing the WRIA 8 SRC, there shouldn't be an ethical issue.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved Jason MK traveling to DC the week of May 21 to participate in Puget Sound Day on the Hill and additional meetings to support Ballard Locks repairs.

- **Management Committee membership and participation:** The WRIA 8 Management Committee typically convenes once a year before the May SRC meeting to review and discuss draft budget and work

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plan information and develop a recommendation for SRC consideration. Current Management Committee members include delegates from Seattle, Bellevue, Bothell, Issaquah, Hunts Point, Snohomish County, and King County. Jason MK confirmed that all parties are still interested, with the exception of Bothell, who won't have a representative during the time when the meeting will be scheduled.

- **2018 WRIA 8 Grant Round:** The 2018 grant round is currently underway. WRIA 8 expects to award grants for up to \$1,755,197 in CWM funds, and \$1,849,220 in SRFB/PSAR funds. The requests exceed the available funds and there are a lot of great projects. The WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee will review the CWM proposals in late April to provide recommendations for the SRC at the May meeting. SRFB/PSAR recommendations will be presented at either the July or September SRC meetings.
- **King County Service Provider Survey:** The annual survey will be circulated in the next few weeks via email and the results will be available for discussion at the May SRC meeting. The survey covers the 2017 calendar year and will be sent to those who participated in the SRC in 2017.

V) Draft 2019 WRIA 8 Budget and Work Plan

Jason MK introduced the 2019 WRIA 8 budget process and draft materials, provided for initial review and questions. Any feedback from this meeting will be brought to the Management Committee meeting in late April/early May. The Management Committee will further review the materials and bring a recommendation for approval of the SRC at the May meeting. King County doesn't normally start their budgeting this early in the year, and as a result, these budget numbers are estimates and could change over the next few months. Per the ILA, the WRIA 8 cost share normally increases in accordance with the CPIW. The CPIW increased today (one of two yearly updates), from 2.67% to 3.3%, but the County's true operating costs are estimated to represent a 5.7% increase over the approved 2018 budget. This leaves a gap of \$14,046 between the base revenue calculated with the 3.3% CPIW increase and estimated base expenditures, which the Management Committee and SRC will discuss how to cover. Jason MK walked through some of the additional funding sources listed on the draft budget, noting that the carry forward balance, which is driven by cost savings over previous years, can be used for emerging priorities that come out of the Plan update, such as the wood surveys approved at the January SRC meeting. Jason also reminded the SRC that per the ILA the cost share formula is updated for 2019 with current population, area, and assessed value data, as part of the three year cycle. Jason walked through a few of the staffing and supplies and services lines of the draft budget, highlighting that overhead costs are calculated per FTE and the cost savings associated with the Administrative Coordinator position are due to a change in staffing as well as a new time split for the position. The position is now shared across three watersheds instead of two, with 0.4 FTE now going to WRIA 8 instead of 0.5 FTE. Jason doesn't anticipate a noticeable difference in service and said WRIA 8 now also has back up support from others in the King County administrative team. The overall increases in salary and benefits are driven by union negotiated wage increases of 3.25%, staff merit step based increases of 2.4% and increased benefit costs. For supplies and services, the King County Finance team advised WRIA 8 to calculate a 3.45% general inflation increase, although Jason expects those costs to stay in the same ballpark. Jason reminded the SRC that no decision needs to be made today and a few options of how to cover the \$14,046 difference between base revenue and base expenditures are listed in the budget memo.

CM Hank Myers suggested considering a higher ILA cost share, as he is concerned about the future availability of outside funding, especially from the state and federal level. Hank added that as jurisdictions are the beneficiaries, they should be responsible for covering the base costs. Vice Chair John Stokes agreed. Janne Kaje announced that he could answer King County service provider related questions, and that he would ask a King County Finance team member to attend the Management Committee meeting. Charles Ruthford inquired about which items in the budget were flexible. Jason MK answered that the flexible line items include supplies, meeting support, training, mileage, printing, and consultants. CM Tom Neir asked about upcoming additional priorities that the SRC might want to invest in. Jason MK listed the priorities in the Plan update that were discussed at the November 2017 and January 2018 SRC meetings, including temperatures in the ship canal and Sammamish River, impacts of artificial light on salmon, and addressing data gaps. Jason explained that the WRIA 8 team is working with partners to frame up those issues and bring them to the SRC for consideration. Chair Andy Rheame commented that using carry over funding to cover the difference could be fine this year, but that isn't a sustainable option for future

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years. Jason MK asked for members to contact him with further thoughts and will reach out to absent councilmember to solicit their feedback.

Jason MK walked through the service provider work plan for 2019, explaining that in 2017-2018 the WRIA 8 team was focused on the Plan update, and is now shifting back to implementation. Jason summarized the main changes to the work plan are in the regional coordination, habitat project tracking, and technical coordination services sections.

VI) Bear Creek Stormwater Watershed Study

Jeff Burkey, Project Manager at King County DNRP and lead for the Bear Creek Watershed Management Study, presented the draft study. Jeff explained that this study is a requirement of municipal stormwater permits and as of 2009, 19% of the watershed was covered in impervious surfaces. Stormwater management didn't begin until the 1990s, meaning most of the prior development in the area isn't mitigated or is under-mitigated with outdated infrastructure. King County analyzed BMPs and ran simulations on different actions and their impact on the watershed, and then compared the results to identify the most cost effective actions. Jeff's team identified five priority areas and a set recommendations including ponds, bioswales, gravity wells, rain gardens, cisterns, and pervious pavement. CM Hank Myers raised the issue of maintenance, life span, and cost for pervious pavement. Charles Ruthford asked if flooding was an issue in this watershed. Jeff said for the most part, Bear Creek isn't a flood-prone basin; there are a few pockets that do flood repeatedly, but King County roads is working on those with short term fixes. The proposed recommendations cover a 10 year time period, with proposed monitoring to follow. The recommendations total \$82M, with no immediate funding source. Jeff identified grants and the King County Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) budget as potential funding sources. Mayor Pro Tem Carl Scandella asked which pollutants are measured in the study and what technology is used to measure them. Jeff replied that the King County lab is accredited and stays abreast of new technologies and the study looked at temperature, zinc, copper, TSS, and bacteria. The study also tested whether the bacteria they found was human or animal in origin and DNA testing results showed a mix of both. Jeff noted that an estimated \$40M will be spent on complementary and overlapping efforts in the watershed through WRIA 8, local jurisdictions' stormwater and road services, and King County Land Conservation Initiative, among others, which could offset a portion of the study's \$82M cost estimate. The study is currently out for review, with comments due March 21st. King County will finalize the study and submit it to the Department of Ecology by April 4th. Vice Chair John Stokes asked if there are any strategies that would allow for headway as opposed to catch up against urban growth. Jeff clarified that this was a study as opposed to a plan, but that King County WLRD and Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) leadership is on board and are using the Bear Creek study as rationale for the Surface Water Management (SWM) fee program, and there is a lot of momentum around this subject and residents are very supportive of the work. Whether it will be fast enough to gain headway on the issue, it is hard to know, but Bear Creek is in better shape than some of the other watersheds due to work that was done in the previous basin plan.

Deputy Mayor Salim Nice commented that Mercer Island is exceeding growth targets, but recently revised residential development standards to reduce the amount of pervious surfaces allowed. Jeff added that his team included maximum growth targets in their future projections for this study. Jeff noted that ¾ of the Bear Creek Watershed is rural, so most of the growth will go into the urban areas, which already have a high percentage of impervious surfaces.

VII) Kokanee Recovery Status- David St. John

David St. John, Policy Advisor at King County DNRP, and coordinator of the Lake Sammamish Kokanee Work Group, presented on the status of Kokanee conservation. David last presented to the SRC in November 2016, a year with a return of 6,000 Kokanee. Kokanee are native to Lake Sammamish and never leave the watershed. Scientists have done genetic testing and haven't found another population that is closely related. In the mid-1990s, there were three different runs, made up of around 20,000 fish. Today there is only one run and it is nearly extinct. In 2017-2018, there were less than 20 spawners. There were 89 fish the year before that, and 6,000 the year before that. These last two years have been unexpectedly bad. A temperature/dissolved oxygen "squeeze" is currently considered the cause for the collapse. In the summer, the top of the lake warms up, and at some point, that water reaches lethal temperatures. In the spring/early summer there is a lot of decomposing material falling to

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the bottom of the lake, so the bottom of the lake lacks oxygen. As a result, the fish gets squeezed into a thin middle zone with hot temperatures above them and low oxygen below them. A squeeze has occurred four out of the last six years and Kokanee populations run on a three year cycle. Squeezes hit young fish the hardest and as fish get squeezed, they become stressed and are more susceptible to viruses, bacteria, and predators. The working group expects to see <100 fish returning in the 2018-2019 run, but the following two years could be even lower, so this fall is a good opportunity to focus recovery efforts. The working group is looking at immediate actions for this fall, including capturing spawners, rearing fry for release in October after the squeeze is over, and collecting and freezing milt for future spawning. The group is also considering longer term research studies to improve our understanding of the problem. Ongoing habitat restoration projects are funded through grants, and these investments in habitat restoration benefit all salmon populations, not only Kokanee.

CM Hank Myers asked if there are non-native predators in Lake Sammamish. David replied that needs to be investigated. Charles Ruthford noted there is a similar issue with sockeye on the Cedar River and suggested collaboration with the Cedar River Council.

VIII) Success Story: Water Systems Teacher/Fellows Program – Peter Donaldson

Peter Donaldson, Program Director and Leadership Coach at Sustainability Ambassadors, presented on the Water Systems Teacher/Fellows Program. Sustainability Ambassadors works with Cascade Water Alliance and the program is currently in place at middle and high schools in eight school districts in the Puget Sound area. Peter is coordinating with WRIA 9 to submit an near-term action for inclusion in the 2018 Puget Sound Action Agenda, and he is looking for other grant funding sources as well. The program seeks to create an ongoing curriculum that students can engage with in multiple grades. One aspect of the program is an open source GIS mapping tool that Peter hopes to build on and incorporate WRIA 8 projects so students can see current efforts.

Susan O’Neil, Associate Director of Conservation & Strategy at Long Live the Kings, announced the launch of Survive the Sound, a program where classrooms, teams, or individuals sponsor and watch a fish migrate to Puget Sound. There is a corresponding curriculum available for classrooms.

IX) Next Meeting

The next SRC meeting is May 17, 2018, 3:00 – 5:15 pm, at Kirkland City Hall.

The March 15, 2018 meeting of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council adjourned at 5:30pm.