

WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes

Kirkland City Hall || May 17, 2018 3:00 – 5:15 p.m.

| Members Present | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| # | Name | Affiliation |
| 1) | Judy Blanco | Forterra |
| 2) | Councilmember (CM) Diane Buckshnis | City of Edmonds |
| 3) | Bea Covington | King Conservation District |
| 4) | Don Davidson | Washington Policy Center |
| 5) | CM Bruce Dodds | City of Clyde Hill |
| 6) | CM Ted Frantz | Town of Hunts Point |
| 7) | CM Victoria Hunt | City of Issaquah |
| 8) | Joe Miles | WA State Department of Natural Resources |
| 9) | CM James McNeal | City of Bothell |
| 10) | CM Dave Mitchell | City of Newcastle |
| 11) | CM Tom Neir | City of Kirkland |
| 12) | Deputy Mayor (DM) Salim Nice | City of Mercer Island |
| 13) | Joan Nolan | WA State Department of Ecology |
| 14) | DM Dana Parnello | City of Maple Valley |
| 15) | CM Mark Phillips, Vice-Chair | City of Lake Forest Park |
| 16) | Stewart Reinbold | WA State Department of Fish & Wildlife |
| 17) | Charles Ruthford | Cedar River Council |
| 18) | Mayor Pro Tem Carl Scandella | Town of Yarrow Point |
| 19) | Gary Smith | Water Tenders/Trout Unlimited |
| 20) | Richard Sowa | Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH) |
| 21) | CM John Stokes, Chair | City of Bellevue |
| Alternates Present | | |
| 22) | David Bain | Sno-King Watershed Council |
| 23) | Alex Chen | City of Seattle |
| 24) | Jeanette Dorner | Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group |
| 25) | Garrett Holbrook | King County |
| 26) | Robert Knoll | Snohomish County |
| 27) | Cailan Nealer | WA State Department of Natural Resources |
| 28) | CM Pam Stuart | City of Sammamish |
| Others Present | | |
| 29) | Janet Geer | City of Bothell |
| 30) | Laurie Gogic | Whale Scout |
| 31) | Alex Herzog | City of Woodinville |
| 32) | Peter Holte | City of Redmond |
| 33) | Kelli Jones | City of Kirkland |
| 34) | Janne Kaje | King County |
| 35) | Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz | WRIA 8 |
| 36) | Amber Moore | Puget Sound Partnership |
| 37) | Whitney Neugebauer | Whale Scout |
| 38) | Sarah Ogier | City of Bellevue |
| 39) | Laura Reed | City of Mountlake Terrace |
| 40) | Jane Ruthford | Intensional Connection |
| 41) | Scott Stolnack | WRIA 8 |
| 42) | Ron Straka | City of Renton |
| 43) | Laura West | WRIA 8 |
| 44) | Jason Wilkinson | WRIA 8 |

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I) Call to Order / Introductions

Chair Stokes called the meeting to order and introduced new Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) members: City of Sammamish Councilmember Pam Stuart, and City of Bothell Councilmember James McNeal, who had previously been the alternate representative for Bothell.

II) Public Comment

Whitney Neugebauer, Director of Whale Scout, announced that June is Orca Awareness month and highlighted a few upcoming events. On May 19th, Whale Scout is organizing a work party at North Creek Forest, and on June 3rd, there will be a family friendly event at Golden Gardens. A full list of events can be found at www.orcamonth.com. Whitney highlighted the Governor's Executive Order to recover Southern Resident Killer Whales, and suggested the SRC might be interested in the Prey Working Group that was established from the Executive Order. Related to WRIA 8, Whale Scout is also advocating for salmon and kokanee restoration at Wayne Golf Course in Bothell.

Chair Stokes announced he attended a ribbon cutting for the Sammamish River Side Channel restoration project, to which WRIA 8 contributed grant funds.

III) Consent Agenda

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the consent agenda.

IV) Updates & Announcements

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (Jason MK), WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, highlighted the following items:

- **Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) Update:** One of the meeting topics at the March 22 PS SRC meeting was a discussion on the need to adaptively manage future salmon recovery efforts, including how resources are allocated across the region. Jason will keep the SRC updated as the discussion progresses.
- **Plan Update Ratification:** 26 of 28 jurisdictions have ratified the WRIA 8 Plan Update through their individual councils and the remaining 2 partners are on schedule to be ratified next week. The next step is to inform NOAA of the Plan Update. Staff will prepare a letter to NOAA from the SRC.
- **Ballard Locks Funding Letter:** An SRC letter was sent April 24 highlighting the critical importance of the Locks repairs for salmon recovery and the economy, and requesting the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to increase funding for Locks repairs in its Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) work plan to \$22.485 million (up from a \$9 million baseline operations and maintenance funding), which is the amount the local office of the Army Corps has the capacity to spend this year. This letter is a refinement of the letter we previously sent to the Office of Management and Budget and the Corps in support of funding for the Locks. The Corps' FY18 work plan is scheduled to be released by the end of May.
- **Federal Omnibus Spending Bill:** This bill, approved by Congress to increase funding above the President's proposed budget maintains the current funding level for Puget Sound recovery programs, which were zeroed out under the President's proposed 2019 budget.
- **WRIA 8 Grant Round:** Jason Wilkinson will present the 2018 CWM grant recommendations later in this meeting. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) recommendations will be brought to the SRC later in the year after more of the regional funding decisions are made this summer.
- **Culvert Case Status:** The Supreme Court heard arguments from Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson and the tribes on April 18 in the appeal process. The Court will make a ruling by the end of June 2018. This case has a lot of implications for tribal treaty rights. Current and former local officials, including King County Executive Dow Constantine and Governor Inslee, signed a letter in support of the tribes. Justice Kennedy removed himself from the decision, as he was part of the previous 9th Circuit Court decision. If the Court is tied 4-4, the 9th Circuit Court decision will stand, making the State of Washington responsible for fixing fish passage barriers in state jurisdiction.
- **King County Service Provider Survey Results:** As part of the Interlocal Agreement (ILA), the SRC approved using the Service Provider survey King County administers annually to fulfill the requirement to assess the services provided to ILA partners. We received 32 responses for the 2017 survey. Most

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responses indicate the team does a good job. Some responses indicate a desire for more project development and communications support. King County added a new question to this survey about cost sharing communications services, but the term “cost-share” wasn’t explained clearly and may not have been interpreted correctly by survey respondents. Respondents see value in fact sheets, progress reports, email communication, e-newsletters, and videos. Chair Stokes asked if the results will be considered when developing staff work plans. Jason MK confirmed that they will be considered by both WRIA 8 management and the County as Service Provider to WRIA 8.

- **SRC Meeting Time Survey:** We will survey the SRC later in the year for SRC meeting time and location preferences.
- **King County Conservation Futures Grant Recommendations:** Funding is recommended for programs that support priority acquisitions in the Cedar River, Bear Creek, Issaquah Creek, Sammamish River and Swan Creek, and a project in Madrona Woods on Lake Washington in the City of Seattle. Conservation Futures Tax funds often serve as local match to WRIA 8 grant programs.

V) Salmon Recovery Council Vice Chair Selection

Previous SRC Chair Andy Rheaume stepped down at the March SRC meeting due to a conflict of interest with a new job. Previous SRC Vice Chair CM John Stokes was selected as the new SRC Chair, leaving a vacancy for the Vice Chair role. CM Mark Phillips volunteered. Jason MK spoke in support of CM Phillips, noting he has served on the SRC for four years and participates in the Project Subcommittee, annually reviewing proposals and making funding recommendations for SRC consideration, so knows the work on the ground well.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved Councilmember Mark Phillips as the new Vice Chair.

VI) 2019 WRIA 8 Budget and Work Plan- Management Committee recommendation

The 2019 draft budget was presented at the March SRC meeting, where Jason MK explained the estimated 2019 costs would exceed the annual estimated Consumer Price Index for Wages (CPI-W) increase of 3.3%. This is due in part to the fact that the 2018 budget was approved before 2018 King County cost of living increases were determined, creating a larger gap to cover. Going forward, Jason MK thinks it still makes sense to use the CPI-W increase for budgeting. The WRIA 8 Management Committee met on May 1 to discuss the budget options and a recommendation for how to cover the difference between base revenues and base expenditures in 2019. The Management Committee recommends increasing the cost share by the full 5.7% in 2019 to fully cover expected base expenditures. The Management Committee also recommended approving the 2019 WRIA 8 staff Work Plan. Jason MK noted a few changes to the budget since the March SRC meeting: the carry forward balance is now shown at the bottom of the budget, as the Management Committee noted it isn’t an annual stream of income, rather a balance; and there is a more detailed breakdown of overhead charges in the footnote section. CM Buckshtnis asked how a 3.7% inflation increase was determined for the supplies and service costs. Jason MK explained that is the County’s estimating for inflation for supplies and services. Chair Stokes asked about any anticipated staffing changes now that the staff Work Plan focus is shifting from plan update to plan implementation. Jason MK replied that as Scott Stolnack, WRIA 8’s current Technical Coordinator, gets closer to retirement, we will assess that position and the team’s needs. Jason MK also noted the Administrative Coordinator position has shifted from 0.5 FTE to 0.4 FTE. If there is interest in a communications and outreach position, that would be a discussion for a future budget.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the 2019 budget with a 5.7% increase over 2018 as recommended by the Management Committee.

Jason MK provided a summary of the changes to the Work Plan from 2018 to 2019, including shifting towards plan implementation, incorporating the Monitoring Assessment Plan (MAP) to the technical services section, reducing capacity on communications and outreach as that position isn’t currently funded, adjusting work around legislative priorities, and adjusting habitat project tracking. CM Buckshtnis asked how percentages were allocated for FTEs. Jason MK replied that it was based on individual staff work plans and workload, estimating how much time would be spend on each category. CM Neir suggested a track changes version of the work plan would be helpful for future years. Charles Ruthford asked if there is an estimate of how much work is done on WRIA 8

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salmon recovery by other partner groups. Charles gave the example of WRIA 8 staff using technical assessments with data compiled by others. Jason MK said there is not, and noted that WRIA 8 has the capacity to implement even more projects and leverage resources further if more grant funding was available. Chair Stokes added that the Sammamish River Project is one in which WRIA 8 helped facilitate additional funding. Charles Ruthford volunteered to provide input on this type of systems analysis.

The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the 2019 Work Plan as recommended by the Management Committee.

VII) Cooperative Watershed Management Funds – Project Subcommittee 2018 Grant Recommendations

Jason Wilkinson, WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator, presented the 2018 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant proposals and recommendations from the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee. CWM funding is provided by the King County Flood Control District (KCFCD). Jason walked through the funding process and timeline. At the November 16, 2017 meeting, the Salmon Recovery Council approved using the same funding guidelines for 2018 as in previous years, with targets of \$300,000 for monitoring proposals and \$96,000 for outreach and education proposals, and with the remaining funding directed to projects, of which up to 15% can be directed to riparian-only habitat projects. The request for proposals was distributed in January. CM Pam Stuart asked to whom the request for proposal notice was distributed. Jason replied that the request was sent to all WRIA 8 members and partners. WRIA 8 staff annually provide technical assistance to project sponsors on design, priority locations for implementation, and habitat needs. Following the CWM application deadline, the Project Subcommittee evaluates, ranks, and prioritizes proposals for funding and ensures funded activities are consistent with the WRIA 8 recovery plan. This year, representing a refinement in the proposal evaluation process, the Technical Committee provided input on monitoring proposals. Jason thanked the Project Subcommittee members and highlighted a continued trend of more proposals than available funding. Following approval from the Salmon Recovery Council, the recommended proposals will go to the KCFCD for approval in summer 2018.

Table 1. Summary of 2018 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Grant Funds – WRIA 8

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|---|--------------------|
| 2018 CWM Funding Requested | \$2,574,645 |
| 2018 CWM Allocation | \$1,695,197 |
| Returned Funds | \$70,615 |
| Total Funding Available | \$1,765,812 |
| <i>Difference between Requested and Available Funds</i> | (\$808,833) |

Table 2: Habitat Restoration and Acquisition Project Funding Recommendations

| <i>Project Name and Sponsor</i> | <i>Request</i> | <i>Leverage</i> | <i>Total Cost</i> | <i>Recommendation</i> |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Riverbend Floodplain Restoration Construction <i>King County</i> | \$1,000,000 | \$8,924,792 | \$9,924,792 | \$766,259 |
| Lower Issaquah Creek Instream and Riparian Restoration Design – <i>City of Issaquah</i> | \$120,000 | \$130,880 | \$250,880 | \$120,000 |
| Lower Taylor Creek Restoration Final Design and Permitting <i>Seattle Public Utilities</i> | \$400,000 | \$2,000,000 | \$2,400,000 | \$100,000 |
| NE 95th Street Restoration on Bear Creek <i>City of Redmond</i> | \$143,490 | \$51,510 | \$195,000 | \$143,490 |
| Bear Creek Little Bit Restoration Design <i>King County</i> | \$174,105 | \$40,000 | \$214,105 | \$128,000 |
| Totals | \$1,837,595 | \$11,147,182 | \$12,984,777 | \$1,257,749 |

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| Table 3: Riparian Habitat/Stewardship Project Funding Recommendations | | | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Project Name and Sponsor</i> | <i>Request</i> | <i>Leverage</i> | <i>Total Cost</i> | <i>Recommendation</i> |
| Lakeside Parcel Restoration at Lake Sammamish State Park <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i> | \$56,363 | \$10,000 | \$66,363 | \$56,363 |
| Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action <i>Forterra</i> | \$149,036 | \$60,000 | \$209,036 | \$75,000 |
| Issaquah Creek Basin Riparian Restoration <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i> | \$75,889 | \$15,000 | \$90,889 | \$25,000 |
| Sammamish River Riparian Restoration Coalition Strategy <i>Forterra</i> | \$28,494 | \$0 | \$28,494 | \$0 |
| Totals | \$309,782 | \$85,000 | \$394,782 | \$156,363 |

| Table 4: Monitoring/Studies Funding Recommendations | | | | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Project Name and Sponsor</i> | <i>Request</i> | <i>Leverage</i> | <i>Total Cost</i> | <i>Recommendation</i> |
| Adult Chinook (Fish In) Monitoring <i>King County</i> | \$55,072 | \$2,260 | \$57,332 | \$55,072 |
| Juvenile Salmon (Fish Out) Monitoring <i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i> | \$244,928 | \$0 | \$244,928 | \$244,928 |
| Evaluating Floating Treatment Wetlands <i>University of Washington</i> | \$75,568 | \$0 | \$75,568 | \$0 |
| Totals | \$375,568 | \$2,260 | \$377,828 | \$300,000 |

| Table 5: Outreach and Education Funding Recommendations | | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Project Name and Sponsor</i> | <i>Request</i> | <i>Match</i> | <i>Total Cost</i> | <i>Recommendation</i> |
| Beach Naturalists <i>Seattle Aquarium</i> | \$13,200 | \$134,492 | \$147,692 | \$13,200 |
| Cedar River Salmon Journey <i>Seattle Aquarium</i> | \$38,500 | \$69,512 | \$108,012 | \$38,500 |
| Totals | \$51,700 | \$204,004 | \$255,704 | \$51,700 |

Highlights and discussions on specific projects:

- **Riverbend Floodplain Restoration Construction**
 - King County already has 50% of the funding secured and is applying for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) large capital funding. The CWM funding request would complement other funding sources.
 - CM Carl Scandella suggested reaching out to professional and educational groups for input on new monitoring methods.
 - Charles Ruthford commented that he passes along educational opportunities and success stories to Cedar River partners at the Cedar River Council.
- **Lower Issaquah Creek Instream and Riparian Restoration Design**
 - This site is located downstream of the fish hatchery and sees significant fish use.
 - The proposed funding amount along with matching funds will complete final design.

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- **Lower Taylor Creek Restoration Final Design and Permitting**
 - Chinook currently use this site, despite it not being in great condition. After the restoration project, it is likely the site will see increased fish use.
 - WRIA 8 supported this project with design funding in 2016.
 - The design process for this project is costing more than anticipated in part due to additional permitting requirements for the Army Corps of Engineers, additional ADA requirements, and additional analysis.
 - This project would likely be constructed in 2020.
- **NE 95th Street Restoration on Bear Creek**
 - This site currently sees a fair amount of Chinook and sockeye spawning but could still benefit from restoration.
 - All of the requested funding goes directly to materials.
- **Bear Creek Little Bit Restoration Design**
 - This site is one of many restored, or soon-to-be restored, parcels in a row along Bear Creek, creating improved connectivity.
- **Sammamish River Riparian Restoration Coalition Strategy**
 - While the Project Subcommittee doesn't recommend funding this proposal in this grant round, it recognizes the importance of the effort and recommends WRIA 8 staff work with the coalition to identify other potential funding sources to support the effort.
- **Evaluating Floating Treatment Wetlands**
 - These treatment wetlands would be tied to the banks, but not anchored.
 - Jason Wilkinson noted that limitations of the project included complicated permitting and biological concerns.

CM Victoria Hunt asked if there are guidelines on submitting proposals for one-year vs. multi-year projects. Jason Wilkinson replied that some projects are scalable and easier to partially fund (such as funding one year of a multi-year program), whereas some of the larger capital projects require full funding to avoid construction delays and higher incurred costs. The project sponsors often appreciate multi-year funding, but WRIA 8 doesn't always have enough funding to support these multi-year funding requests while keeping momentum in priority areas around the watershed. Jason emphasized that these projects are all in Tier 1 locations and there is good distribution across the watershed.

Jason highlighted restoration of Bird Island at the south end of Lake Washington as a successful project from the 2017 CWM grant round that was constructed in winter 2017/2018.

CM Ted Frantz asked if the partial funding recommendations would hinder the ability of any of those projects to move forward. Jason Wilkinson replied that the recommended partial funding for the riparian projects would allow them to move forward for at least a year. The funding for Riverbend would allow that project to initiate some early work in 2019, preparing for full construction in 2020. In reference to the Sammamish River Riparian Restoration Coalition Strategy, CM James McNeal asked if a coalition strategy has ever been attempted before. Peter Holte noted there was a Sammamish Forum pre-dating the Salmon Recovery Council. Jason explained that the coalition's goal is to facilitate discussion amongst the Sammamish River cities to agree on a coordinated vision, identify how to move forward with permitting and land use issues, how to more effectively move projects forward, and identify priority restoration locations. Judy added that the cities approached Forterra with interest in this concept. CM James McNeal pointed out that funding this one proposal would likely allow for progress on many more projects. CM Buckshnis reiterated that although the project subcommittee isn't recommending funding the request, it is recommending staff provide resources to support the work.

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| <p><i>The WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved \$1,765,812 in CWM grant funding recommendations as recommended by the WRIA 8 project subcommittee.</i></p> |
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VIII) Recommended Investments in Technical and Programmatic Priorities

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Scott Stolnack, WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator, provided an update on current and upcoming technical and programmatic priorities. In January 2018, the SRC approved using \$92,000 of carry forward money for wood surveys. Since then, the Technical Committee has secured additional partner funding to cover \$30,000 of the \$92,000. The Technical Committee has also identified another emerging priority for consideration by the SRC with a decision at a future meeting: the issue of predation in the ship canal and an opportunity to analyze predator stomach contents.

The Technical Committee has discussed key bottleneck issues for Chinook survival with scientists at U.S. Fish & Wildlife (USFW), Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), University of Washington, and the Muckleshoot Tribe. The issues of Ship Canal temperatures, Sammamish River temperatures, and predation in the Ship Canal and Lake Washington are recurring priorities that have been identified in these conversations as well as in the Plan Update and Monitoring and Assessment Plan. WDFW, USFW, and King County have been surveying and updating numbers of predators in the Ship Canal and have seen an increase in rock bass and yellow perch, which likely target juvenile Chinook and steelhead. The surveys will continue through July 2018 and are funded through internal state agency funding. The agencies don't currently have funding to do analysis of the stomach contents of the fish to see if they are indeed eating juvenile Chinook and if there are certain areas with higher predation. The Technical Committee believes this analysis is important and recommends we contribute \$18,933 to cover the costs.

Alex Chen asked Scott how the research community views differences between predation in Lake Washington and the Ship Canal. Scott replied that a recent study looking at stomach contents of fish in Lake Washington showed a different group of predators than in the Ship Canal with different movement patterns. Scott also noted the impact on Chinook differs based on the water temperatures when Chinook are present, which is earlier (colder) in Lake Washington and later (warmer) in the Ship Canal. A Master's thesis was written on cutthroat trout and northern pike minnow in Lake Washington, but similar research on the Ship Canal is missing. Gary Smith asked if Scott was implying that climate change might be responsible for increased bass and perch in the Ship Canal. Scott confirmed that yes, climate change has an impact with warmer water temperatures and an increasing abundance of non-native predators. CM Buckshnis noted 36.5% in overhead expenses for the analysis seems high. Chair Stokes asked about the timeline for results. Scott stated results would likely be available by winter 2018 or spring 2019 and suggested Roger Tabor could present them to the SRC. Joe Miles commented Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages a lot of the land along the Ship Canal and it would be useful for them to know if there are any hot spots that need increased management. Scott noted many predators can be found near Gasworks Park and near the Montlake Cut, but it is unclear if predation is occurring there. CM Frantz recalled a SRC discussion from last year regarding temperatures in the Ship Canal and asked if that was still in the works. Scott replied that it is, and is one of the Near Term Actions (NTAs) WRIA 8 submitted to Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) as part of the 2018 Puget Sound Action Agenda. CM Neir asked if the Master's thesis study in Lake Washington gave us a perspective on how non-native predators have historically been introduced into the watershed. Scott replied that the study was focused on cutthroat trout and northern pike minnows, which are native predators. Scott asked Stewart Reinbold about WDFW's research on bass introduction. Stewart commented that bass are good at adapting and do well in warm water, and suggested that most information on introduction of species is based on hearsay. CM Neir asked if it would be worthwhile to leverage studies on lake predation instead of Ship Canal predation. Scott replied that the key bottleneck for Chinook is in the Ship Canal and if we can get management action there, that will provide the highest benefit. Vice Chair Phillips acknowledged this study would help quantify and locate the problem and asked how this might lead to future solutions. Scott stated the importance of having data to determine focused solutions and overcome resistance. Mayor Pro Tem Scandella asked for more information on the genetic analysis component of the study. Scott explained that when the contents of the predator fish are examined, if the prey fish have only been in the stomach for a short period of time, they can be identified visually, but if they have decomposed, genetic analysis will help identify the type of fish.

Scott announced that this will be a topic for approval at the July SRC meeting.

IX) Success Story: City of Kirkland Yard Smart Rain Rewards Residential Retrofit Program

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Betsy Adams, Stormwater Education and Outreach Specialist with the City of Kirkland's Public Works Department, presented on the City's Yard Smart Rain Rewards Residential Retrofit Program. This program received funding through a 2016-2017 King County Water Works grant. The program encourages Kirkland homeowners to manage their landscapes in ways that retain and infiltrate stormwater on-site with the goal of reducing the volume and pollution levels of stormwater flowing into Juanita Creek and Lake Washington. Homeowners receive technical assistance and education. Kirkland has tried several landowner incentive programs over the years, including a rain garden program, which resulted in unnecessarily high costs in some cases. In this program, they used social media, Nextdoor, the Kirkland Reporter, and site visits to recruit 121 homeowners in the Juanita watershed whose homes are connected to the stormwater system. Kirkland partnered with Cascadia Consulting to provide a 1 hour consultation with each homeowner to discuss how stormwater flows through the property, natural yard care practices, and ideas for how to manage stormwater onsite, such as disconnecting downspouts, modifying landscaping, removing pavement, or installing rain gardens, dry wells, cisterns, downspout planters, or permeable pavers. Of the 121 households that registered, 86 received consultations, with the rest limited by timing of the grant cycle. After the walk through with the consultant, participants received a notebook of resources and a customized report on their property showing which stormwater management practices would be a good fit for their home, ranked by cost and effectiveness. Property owners could then design and install the recommended systems, and pending an inspection by the City, could receive a 75% rebate on the project cost, up to \$4,000. Fourteen households constructed projects. The City of Kirkland administered surveys throughout the program, and respondents reported an increase in understanding of the issue and found the program valuable. Some respondents reported difficulty scheduling with the contractors and high installation expenses. Betsy acknowledged that the program competes with Seattle's Rain Wise program and many contractors are already working with Seattle's program. Kirkland received National Estuary Program (NEP) funding for a second phase and they are looking to expand the next phase of the program to include commercial and multifamily properties. Betsy's team will also do more outreach to consultants and look into creating resources for Do-It-Yourself projects that homeowners could implement.

Charles Ruthford asked if the project was large enough to see if there was an actual reduction in stormwater. Betsy replied that it was not, and to test that would require a more controlled design. Jeanette Dorner asked if the rebate would be included in the 2nd phase of the program. Betsy replied that it likely would be, as financial incentive is a necessary component of this type of program. Kirkland is going to analyze rebate programs across the country to see what has worked best. CM Pam Stuart asked how much money was spent on the program and if that included staff time. Betsy replied that the grant was for \$165,000 and it covered the consultant's time, but not Betsy's. CM Stuart asked if they learned enough to make recommendations to Kirkland City Council regarding new building requirements, to reduce further retroactive installations in the future. Betsy replied that the City does currently have Low-Impact Development (LID) requirements for new construction. Kelli Jones added that the City currently requires the maximum extent LID feasible on impervious surfaces. CM Stuart noted that is only for impervious surfaces and suggested the Yard Smart's recommendations be incorporated into new houses and shared with other cities. Betsy added that this program will be helpful in quantifying the installation costs and benefits from different retrofits. DM Dana Parnello voiced support for the program and suggested using the retrofit cost data to incentivize builders to incorporate LID from the beginning. Sarah Ogier asked if homeowners expressed concern regarding the quality of contractors and if Kirkland considered a contractor qualification step. Betsy reached out to the list of contractors from Seattle's Rain Wise program and listed those contractors as vetted, although homeowners were allowed to use any contractor. Betsy encouraged homeowners to get three bids. Jeanette added that all jurisdictions were required to update their stormwater permits by December 2017, with required LID techniques. Puget Soundkeeper and Washington Environmental Council released a report titled "Nature's Scorecard" earlier in 2018, evaluating which jurisdictions in Puget Sound are meeting the intent of stormwater regulations. Peter Holte noted there are limitations to the "Scorecard" evaluation process, which doesn't consider the whole picture. Laura Reed agreed that the scores aren't always accurate. Jason MK referenced Jeff Burkey's presentation at the March 2018 SRC meeting, in which he emphasized the need to get private property owners involved in stormwater management. Jason thinks programs like this can help fill that niche.

X) Next Meeting

The next SRC meeting is July 19, 2018, 3:00 – 5:15 pm, at Mercer Island Community Center.