

# WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes

Mercer Island Community Center || July 19, 2018 3:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Members Present		
#	Name	Affiliation
1)	Councilmember (CM) Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
2)	Bea Covington	King Conservation District
3)	Don Davidson	Washington Policy Center
4)	CM Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
5)	Noel Gilbrough	Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
6)	CM Victoria Hunt	City of Issaquah
7)	Joe Miles	WA State Department of Natural Resources
8)	CM James McNeal	City of Bothell
9)	CM Mark Phillips, Vice-Chair	City of Lake Forest Park
10)	Stewart Reinbold	WA State Department of Fish & Wildlife
11)	Mayor Pro Tem Carl Scandella	Town of Yarrow Point
12)	Gary Smith	Water Tenders/Trout Unlimited
13)	CM John Stokes, Chair	City of Bellevue
14)	CM Paula Waters	City of Woodinville
Alternates Present		
15)	David Bain	Sno-King Watershed Council
16)	Alex Chen	City of Seattle
17)	Jeanette Dorner	Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
18)	Cyndy Holtz	City of Seattle
19)	Cailan Nealer	WA State Department of Natural Resources
20)	Susan O'Neil	Long Live The Kings
Others Present		
21)	Deirdre Grace	King Conservation District
22)	Erika Harris	Puget Sound Regional Council
23)	Alex Herzog	City of Woodinville
24)	Peter Holte	City of Redmond
25)	Kelli Jones	City of Kirkland
26)	Joan Lee	King County
27)	Jasmin Ka	Forterra
28)	Dani Kendall	Cedar River Salmon Journey
29)	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8
30)	Kathy Minsch	City of Seattle
31)	Amber Moore	Puget Sound Partnership
32)	Whitney Neugebauer	Whale Scout
33)	Kit Paulsen	City of Bellevue
34)	Brandy Reed	King Conservation District
35)	Larry Reymann	Environmental Science Center
36)	Jessica Saavedra	King Conservation District
37)	Maria Sandercock	WA State Department of Ecology
38)	Charlotte Spang	Cedar River Salmon Journey
39)	Scott Stolnack	WRIA 8
40)	Ron Straka	City of Renton
41)	Elizabeth Torrey	WA State Department of Fish & Wildlife
42)	Laura West	WRIA 8
43)	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8

## I) Call to Order / Introductions

Chair Stokes called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves.

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## II) Public Comment

Noel Gilbrough announced that Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group will be hosting a fundraiser in late September or early October and a save the date will be distributed soon.

## III) Consent Agenda

*The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the consent agenda, which included meeting notes for May 17, 2018.*

## IV) Updates & Announcements

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

- **Ballard Locks funding** – In mid-June, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) released its work plan for Fiscal Year 2018, which confirmed an additional \$13.149 million in funding for priority repairs at the Ballard Locks. The Locks will now receive \$23.019 million this year as opposed to \$9.87 million in the President’s proposed budget, which would have funded only routine operations and maintenance. This additional funding will enable the Corps to replace the Stoney Gate filling culvert valves (\$11 million), replace the fish ladder programmable logic controller, and replace the Lock #2 gate bushing. In early May, the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council sent a letter to Corps Headquarters and the Office of Management and Budget, requesting the Corps allocate additional funding from the omnibus spending bill approved by Congress to support critical repairs at the Ballard Locks. The amount included in the work plan brings the total funding for the Locks in line with what WRIA 8 requested in the letter, and is evidence of the success of support from WRIA 8 and our partners. Our state delegation, and Sen. Murray in particular, deserves a lot of credit and appreciation for supporting and leading on this issue. The Locks advocacy group is strategizing about how to build on this success and momentum to develop and support a request for Fiscal Year 2019. Chair Stokes reiterated the importance of WRIA 8’s support in this effort and Jason MK added that Corps staff agreed the advocacy had helped in successfully securing the additional funding. Jason MK noted the funding and repair work was highlighted on KIRO 7 news.
- **Puget Sound Day on the Hill recap** – During the week of May 21, Jason MK joined over 60 others from the Puget Sound area for the annual Puget Sound Day on the Hill event in Washington, D.C., organized by Puget Sound Partnership. The group met with legislators to provide updates on successes, ongoing needs, and ensure that the critical importance of the Puget Sound ecosystem, including salmon recovery, for national culture, health, and economy are understood and valued. In addition to meetings with members of Congress, Jason MK also joined other partners to meet with Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters staff to specifically discuss and emphasize the need for funding for critical Ballard Locks repairs to improve fish passage and ensure safe facility operations.
- **Draft Chinook Harvest Resource Management Plan scoping/clarifying questions for NOAA draft Environmental Impact Statement** – Fisheries “Co-Managers” (Puget Sound tribes and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) have been developing a draft Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Resource Management Plan (RMP) to guide Puget Sound Chinook harvest management for a ten year period. NOAA Fisheries must approve the draft RMP, and although the draft is still being revised, NOAA Fisheries issued a Notice of Intent to conduct a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzing the effects of the draft RMP with comments due June 18. WRIA 8 staff submitted high-level scoping/clarifying questions for NOAA to consider in scoping the draft EIS, with a focus on understanding how proposed Chinook salmon harvest management goals align with recovery planning targets, to support meeting tribal treaty rights and salmon recovery goals. The WRIA 8 team shared the comments with the Muckleshoot Tribe, but did not receive a response.
- **Tour with Congresswoman Suzan DelBene** – On Saturday, June 16, Congresswoman DelBene joined Jason MK and local government elected officials and staff for a tour of two habitat restoration sites in her district. The tour featured the Sammamish River Side Channel restoration project in Bothell (completed in 2016) and the 132nd Ave NE Fish Barrier Removal project in Woodinville (completed in 2012). Bothell Mayor, Andy Rheame attended the Sammamish River site visit, and Woodinville Councilmembers Paula Waters and Susan Boundy-Sanders joined for the Woodinville portion. Visits to these projects highlighted the importance and contribution of federal funding to salmon recovery, state and local match to federal funding, the multiple benefits of salmon habitat

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restoration projects, and the value of the regionally coordinated partnerships among local governments in the watershed to recover Chinook salmon.

- **Sammamish River restoration coalition funding** – During the Cooperative Watershed Management funding topic at the May meeting, staff presented a proposal from Forterra to work in partnership with Sammamish River cities to accelerate riparian restoration efforts along the Sammamish. Grant funding was not recommended for this proposal, but the Project Subcommittee asked staff to identify other funds to support the work. Staff confirmed that specific tasks proposed by Forterra are eligible uses of PSAR project development funds in our state Lead Entity contract, and Forterra will initiate work in the coming months.
- **Sockeye management** – Sockeye salmon in Lake Washington have declined in recent years, and are now at extremely low levels. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has performed an analysis that indicates that the survival bottleneck is likely in Lake Washington during the juvenile stage, and sockeye numbers are likely to remain very low unless actions are taken to improve juvenile survival in the lake. Actions that might improve sockeye survival include rearing juveniles at the Cedar River sockeye hatchery to a larger size before releasing, and reducing the success of native and non-native sockeye predators in Lake Washington (e.g., predator management or reducing artificial night-time lighting). Actions affecting sockeye salmon have the potential to also affect Chinook salmon. The WRIA 8 Technical Committee will continue to track the issue and supports actions that may improve survival of multiple salmon species, including Chinook, in Lake Washington.
- **Salmon returns update** – Historically, about half the sockeye salmon run has passed through the Ballard Locks by this time. Sockeye salmon numbers are extremely low this year: as of July 8, about 17,000 sockeye are estimated to have entered the Lake Washington system (20 year average is close to 100,000). The outlook for sockeye appears dim for 2018. Chinook salmon typically do not arrive in large numbers until later in July (typically about 2% of the run has passed by this time). So far (as of July 8), around 50 Chinook have been estimated to have passed into the Lake Washington system (20 year average is 171). Note that the 2017 return also started low and ended up as the second highest return since 2000.
- **Status of Plan update ratification** – All 28 jurisdictions in WRIA 8 have ratified the Plan update. We are waiting on one signed motion before informing NOAA of the Plan update.
- **Survey of WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council meeting times and printing procedures** – In response to a suggestion to consider alternative WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council meeting times, a survey will be administered online later this summer to identify a meeting time that will work for the most members. Any changes to the meeting time will likely take effect in 2019. The survey will also include questions about material printing preferences. Jason MK asked SRC members to email Laura West with meeting time preferences to be included on the survey.

## V) **Recommended Investments in Technical and Programmatic Priorities**

Jason MK reminded the SRC that Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is conducting a study in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to assess predation of juvenile salmon by predatory fish in the Lake Washington Ship Canal. WRIA 8 has a proposal to include stomach content analysis as part of USFWS's work, to identify what the predators are eating. The budget for this additional genetic analysis lab work has decreased since it was first discussed at the May 2018 SRC meeting. Scott explained that WDFW and USFWS sampled from June 15 through July 15, but the predators they caught didn't have a lot of food in their stomach and there weren't enough samples to justify doing the DNA analysis this year, but USFWS might have enough next year. CM Frantz asked if the samples could be identified visually. Scott replied that he thought USFWS could do a visual analysis to identify the stomach contents. Joe Miles asked if the analysis would also show any areas of high concentration of fish, which Scott confirmed would be another result from the location aspect of the study. CM Scandella suggested contacting a nano string company that has developed sensitive methods for DNA analysis. CM Buckshnis asked about the process for a future DNA analysis. Jason MK replied that hopefully USFWS will do the DNA analysis next year, and if so, the WRIA 8 team would bring it before the

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SRC again for approval at that time. The original proposal was for \$18,933 of WRIA 8 carryforward funds. Without the genetic analysis, the proposal now totals \$12,433.

*The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the proposal to contribute \$12,433 of carryover funds to the Ship Canal Predation Study.*

Jason MK walked through an informational proposal to convene and facilitate a stakeholder group to address elevated temperatures and low dissolved oxygen in the Lake Washington Ship Canal. The proposal includes funding to hire a consultant to facilitate the process. WRIA 8 hopes to share the cost of a technical feasibility analysis report with partners. The current proposal is simply to begin the process. CM Buckshnis asked how the cost estimate was developed. Jason MK explained that the WRIA 8 team used numbers from the Plan Update technical workshops as a proxy to estimate cost, with each workshop costing around \$5-6K. Jason MK noted that today's discussion was only for informational purposes and for the decision memo, the budget would include more detailed line items. The SRC was generally supportive of this proposal.

## VI) 2019 State and Federal Legislative Priorities

Jason MK walked through the draft 2019 WRIA 8 state and federal legislative priorities. Jason MK noted that several of the areas are highlighted with place holders to be filled once state agency budget submittals are finalized in early/mid-September. The WRIA 8 staff team is seeking provisional approval from the SRC today. In the federal budget priorities, there are some differences between the president's budget and what the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) thinks they could spend. Jason MK explained that we will likely want to support the Corps' Seattle District capacity number, but we are waiting to see the final numbers. For the state budget priorities, the WRIA 8 Implementation Committee suggested adding four new funding priorities: the Fish Barrier Removal Board, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, and the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program. The Lead Entity Program is also listed, which is usually funded through the Capital Budget, but we are waiting to find out if and how the funding request may be adjusted. For the state policy legislation, Jason MK removed the non-native fin fish aquaculture net pen issue and the Implementation Committee proposed adding the item "Support state agency budget requests for monitoring and studies of predation, disease, and other issues that affect WRIA 8 salmon populations." CM Waters asked if there was potential for property acquisition money for culvert removal. Jason MK replied that WRIA 8 provided a grant to Adopt a Stream for that type of project and there are opportunities with the Fish Passage Removal Board. Susan O'Neil suggested including management solutions to the new predation and disease priority item and supporting the Orca Task Force's request on predation. Alex Chen expressed an interest in monitoring and predation in lakes and suggested looking at how we can support the State's goals and plans for that. Gary Smith asked if mines in the watershed are protected from liability and suggested it could be an issue to support if it comes up on a state level.

Jason MK noted that his trip to Olympia last fall with previous Chair Rheume was productive and suggested he and Chair Stokes, and anyone else who is interested, make a similar trip this year to meet with legislators. Susan O'Neil asked if the Kokanee recovery group would be seeking state funding this year through the Fish Barrier Removal Board. Jason MK replied that the Fish Barrier Removal Board does not directly support Kokanee recovery efforts but that the support for monitoring would.

*The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the 2019 legislative priorities with the next step of updating the priorities based on final budget request numbers and sending the updated letter to the Governor.*

Jason MK will circulate the sent letter at the September SRC meeting.

## VII) King Conservation District programs and alignment with salmon recovery goals

Chair Stokes announced that the King Conservation District (KCD) has undergone strategic planning in the last few years and as their programs are closely aligned with WRIA 8's goals, WRIA 8 would like to work more closely with KCD in the future. Bea Covington, Executive Director, and Brandy Reed, Interagency Director, provided an update on new KCD programs and an update on the progress of the 2015-2019 KCD programming. Bea noted that KCD is excited to discuss potential overlap and alignment with WRIA 8, especially as they begin looking at their 2020-2025 plan of work. Brandy overviewed 5 programs, in which KCD works in a non-regulatory way with landowners to achieve goals that align with the WRIA 8 Plan:

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- 1) **Member Jurisdiction Program-** KCD has partnered with 21 member partner jurisdictions, awarding a total of \$2,082,000 for on the ground project implementation, outreach and education, and pilot and demonstration projects. KCD money is often used as leverage for other funding projects. Zackuse Creek and Mackey Creeks are examples of projects under this program that opened up spawning habitat.
- 2) **Urban Forest Stewardship-** KCD has partnered with 16 jurisdictions, allocating a total of \$329,311.50 for green canopy mapping, strategic planning, and implementing restoration projects to enhance canopy. The program has expanded to promote stormwater benefits. An example is the Lakeridge/ Dead Horse canyon project, currently underway with the goal of implementing a pilot to explore engaging homeowners adjacent to public space to expand restoration work. East Valley Heights in Redmond is another project example, where KCD is working with neighborhoods to steward native growth protection programs.
- 3) **Landowner Incentive Program-** KCD has engaged 72 landowners in WRIA 8 since 2015, investing \$585,436 to implement projects and cost share.
- 4) **Rural Forest Stewardship-** Since 2015, in WRIA 8, KCD has partnered with small forest landowners to develop 13 forest stewardship plans, complete 36 site visits and forest health assessments, plan 13 forest restoration projects, and cost-share with 11 landowners. KCD's total cost share award amount is \$149,963.42.
- 5) **Shorelines-** KCD has worked with 31 participating WRIA 8 landowners, enhancing 2 miles of shoreline and 13 acres for a total project value of \$422,000. The rural program has been in place since the mid-1990s, but the urban program was added in 2015. McAleer Creek and Lyons Creek in Lake Forest Park, West Tributary Creek in Bellevue, Pine Lake Creek in Sammamish, Rutherford Creek in Redmond, and Issaquah Creek Tributary in Issaquah are all examples of KCD shorelines projects.

Answering a question about water quality, Brandy explained that KCD implements strategies proven to increase water quality, such as buffers, planting riparian areas, and removing animals from streams and creeks, but KCD lacks funding for effectiveness monitoring. Rural water quality factors include pathogens and nutrients from livestock and septic sources. CM Buckshnis expressed interest in the marine partnership model as well as incentives for homeowners to stop cutting down trees. Bea noted that KCD is part of a conservation district consortium, which shares information regionally. CM Phillips asked about KCD's workshops. Brandy explained that KCD typically hosts 18 urban workshops a year, spread out through the region. Gary Smith asked if Monticello Creek in Redmond was a KCD partnership. Brandy replied that Elizabeth Walker at KCD ([urbanforestry@kcd.org](mailto:urbanforestry@kcd.org)) would know the answer to that question. Joe Miles complimented KCD in their work with private property owners, which is a crucial component. Jason MK thanked KCD for their presentation and looks forward to proactively coordinating in the future to leverage both WRIA 8 and KCD goals. Jason MK asked KCD if they had looked at WRIA 8's priority areas. Bea answered that KCD staff cross references applications with WRIA 8's priority area lists. Bea also suggested that jurisdiction decision makers provide input to KCD's Member Jurisdiction Program, to suggest allocation to WRIA 8's priority areas. Jessica Saavedra, also with KCD, explained that KCD has created fact sheets for each WRIA 8 city that summarize funding and services available in each city. These are available on KCD's website. Cities can utilize funding to work on private property as well as come together and pool their funding across city boundaries.

## VIII) Puget Sound Regional Council Vision 2050 and salmon recovery

Erika Harris and Maria Sandercock presented on Puget Sound Regional Council's (PSRC) Vision 2050 and the overlap with salmon recovery. PSRC is the metropolitan planning organization for the Seattle metro region, consisting of 82 cities. Maria walked through the six categories of the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan: urban open space, regional trails, natural lands, working forest, farmland, and aquatic systems. Maria explained that when mapping salmon habitat, PSRC consulted with the WRIA Salmon Recovery Managers and looked at watersheds' salmon recovery plans. After identifying the current areas, PSRC quantified the remaining open spaces that needed protecting, overlapping demographics of underserved communities and regional future growth plans. Working with partners, they created an action plan that is included in the Vision 2050 Plan. Maria also touched on the Emerald Alliance, which works between the four counties of Central Puget Sound to preserve open space, and includes businesses, non-profits, and governments. A goal of the Emerald Alliance is to assign price tags on the remaining open land for conservation, similar to what King County has done in their Land Conservation Initiative. David Bain asked if the group had looked at connectivity. Maria replied that they had looked at gaps in access from the human perspective but needed to further consider trains and aquatic

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connectivity, which is hard to do from the larger regional scale. Chair Stokes emphasized the need to address equity, which Erika agreed with.

## **IX) Success Story: Cedar River Salmon Journey Naturalist Program**

Charlotte Spang and Dani Kendall gave an overview of the Cedar River Salmon Journey Program (CRSJ), which uses storytelling to promote education and awareness about salmon in WRIA 8. The CRSJ program runs a fall salmon viewing program on the Cedar River, a summer viewing program at the Ballard Locks, and facilitates community events throughout the year. The CRSJ program is entering its 21<sup>st</sup> year and has over 100 volunteers, with a high retention rate. The program has received positive feedback from the public and uses survey data to evaluate and improve the program. The program highlights accessible ways that the public can make a difference, such as taking their car to a car wash and making sure the car doesn't drip oil. The Run Wild event in Renton in October will be a new component of CRSJ programming, partnering with the Renton Downtown Partnership. The event will include a Salmon Bake and a 5K run. CM Frantz asked about the program's history. Charlotte replied that the CRSJ program has moved around a lot, from the Aquarium, where they are currently housed, to King County, to the Friends of the Cedar River Watershed, now back to the Aquarium. CM Phillips asked how the program reaches new audiences who don't already know about salmon recovery efforts. Charlotte explained that through their survey data, they've learned a lot of visitors stumble upon the program when visiting the library for other reasons. As the staff capacity increases, they can start attending bigger festivals and reach out to more audiences. Larry Reymann commented that the program has a big impact on kids, who in turn teach their parents about actions they can take to help fish.

## **X) Next Meeting**

The next SRC meeting is September 20, 2018, 3:00 – 5:15 pm, at Mercer Island Community Center.