

**WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes**  
**Washington Department of Ecology, Bellevue || January 17, 2019 2:00 – 4:15 p.m.**

<b>Members Present</b>		
#	Name	Affiliation
1)	Councilmember (CM) Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
2)	Don Davidson	Washington Policy Center
3)	CM Bruce Dodds	City of Clyde Hill
4)	Connie Grant	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
5)	CM Ryan McIrvin	City of Renton
6)	Joe Miles	WA State Department of Natural Resources
7)	CM Tom Neir	City of Kirkland
8)	CM Salim Nice	City of Mercer Island
9)	CM Dana Parnello	City of Maple Valley
10)	CM Mark Phillips, Vice-Chair	City of Lake Forest Park
11)	Charles Ruthford	Cedar River Council
12)	CM Carl Scandella	Town of Yarrow Point
13)	Mary Shustov	Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts (WASWD)
14)	Gary Smith	Water Tenders/Trout Unlimited
15)	Richard Sowa	Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH)
16)	CM John Stokes, Chair	City of Bellevue
<b>Alternates Present</b>		
17)	David Bain	Sno-King Watershed Council
18)	CM Keith Scully	City of Shoreline
19)	CM Pam Stuart	City of Sammamish
<b>Others Present</b>		
20)	Uki Dele	City of Shoreline
21)	Dutch Deutschman	Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Committee
22)	Janet Geer	City of Bothell
23)	Laurie Gogic	Whale Scout
24)	Alex Herzog	City of Woodinville
25)	Kelli Jones	City of Kirkland
26)	Kim Jones	City of Newcastle
27)	Kristina Lowthian	City of Renton
28)	Tara Luckie	Environmental Science Center
29)	Kathy Minsch	City of Seattle
30)	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8
31)	Cleo Neculae	WA State Department of Ecology
32)	Whitney Neugebauer	Whale Scout
33)	Kit Paulsen	City of Bellevue
34)	Allen Quynn	City of Issaquah
35)	Larry Reymann	Environmental Science Center
36)	Ezekiel Rohloff	WA State Department of Fish & Wildlife
37)	Jane Ruthford	Intensional Connection
38)	Bob Steele	Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Committee
39)	Scott Stolnack	WRIA 8
40)	Laura West	WRIA 8
41)	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8

**I) Call to Order / Introductions**

Chair Stokes called the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves. Chair Stokes announced that this is Scott Stolnack’s last meeting before his retirement in May and thanked Scott for his 10 years of service as WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator.

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## II) Public Comment

Bob Steele and Dutch Deutschman from the Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Committee commented on a proposed asphalt plant on the Cedar River. Bob and Dutch expressed concern with the impact of emissions on fish and water contamination. Councilmember (CM) Neir asked what type of support they are hoping to get from the SRC. Dutch replied that a letter would be helpful. Chair Stokes commented that Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (Jason MK), WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager and the rest of the WRIA 8 team would look into the proposed plant and get more information. Gary Smith asked if there had been a finding of significance that would rule out an Environmental Impact Statement. Dutch wasn't sure. Bob added that the comment period extends through January 30.

## III) Consent Agenda

*The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the consent agenda, which included meeting notes for the November 15, 2018 SRC meeting.*

## IV) Updates & Announcements

Jason MK highlighted the following items:

- **Legislative Priorities-** Jason MK reminded the SRC that the Governor's budget was released on December 13 and the legislature will be evaluating the proposals and proposing their own budgets in the upcoming legislative session. Several of the state grant programs that fund salmon recovery work received less than the requested amount of funding. Jason MK hopes that lobbying can help influence the legislature's budget and he is planning a few trips in February to Olympia to meet with legislators and emphasize the value of this work for salmon and orca recovery. Jason MK invited any councilmember who is interested in joining these meetings. The Washington Salmon Coalition has organized "Salmon Day" on February 6, and the Nature Conservancy has organized a Floodplains by Design day on February 12. WRIA 8 plans to participate in both. Many city representatives will be in Olympia on February 13-14 for City Action Days. Jason MK will send around a list of legislators that SRC members should reach out to if they are in Olympia.
- **Potential 2019 Meeting Topics-** As follow up from the November SRC meeting, Jason MK grouped the potential 2019 meeting topics by theme. Chair Stokes asked if we can prioritize the list to focus on the items the SRC has a direct impact on and if there are other groups that we need to collaborate with, such as the Flood Control District.
- **Hiring WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator Position-** Jason MK announced that the timing for hiring Scott Stolnack's replacement for the WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator position hinges on the SRC's budget decisions to be made later during this meeting. The hiring materials are ready, pending direction from the SRC.
- **2018 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grants approved-** The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) approved the WRIA-recommended project lists submitted for the SRFB and PSAR grants. The SRFB review panel had previously flagged Snohomish County's Meadowdale project as a project of concern, but the Board ultimately approved the funding recommendation at the December meeting after hearing an appeal from WRIA 8 and Snohomish County staff. The Board also directed staff at the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to develop options for clarifying the state Technical Review Panel's cost/benefit assessment. Jason MK thanked Jason Wilkinson, WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator, and the Project Subcommittee for their strong work and support on this issue.
- **Four-Year Work Plan updated –** The WRIA 8 team added 12 new projects to the WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan, which outlines the habitat projects and programs that are anticipated to begin or be implemented in the near-term. An action must have a connection to one or more WRIA 8 recovery strategies to be listed on the Work Plan, and being on the Four-Year Work Plan is a pre-requisite for receiving a WRIA 8 grant award. Councilmember (CM) Phillips expressed support for Thornton Creek projects. Kathy Minsch added that Seattle hopes to get the creek to a tier 2 classification, as the current tier 3 classification hinders Seattle's ability to seek grant funding for Thornton Creek.

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- **2019 Grant round open** – The announcement for 2019 WRIA 8 grant opportunities was sent on January 15 via email. WRIA 8 has nearly \$3 million to allocate this year between SRFB and Cooperative Watershed Management grants.
- **Salmon SEEson** – The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Salmon SEEson program successfully wrapped up in early December, with a few last sightings of spawners in Carkeek Park. The 2018 program included six new salmon viewing locations, for a total of 29 around King County and a first annual Salmon SEEson photo contest. Laura West highlighted the winning photo contest entries.

## V) **2019 WRIA 8 budget and work plan adjustment options to address loss of Snohomish County cost share**

Jason MK reminded the SRC that Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM) staff members attended the November SRC meeting to explain their budget shortfall. Snohomish County and WRIA 8 staff discussed the option of an in-kind service agreement in lieu of a cost share, following the precedent set by Seattle and WRIA 9 in 2010. At the November SRC meeting, Snohomish County staff expressed interest in receiving credit for the salmon recovery work they currently do. Jason MK explained that a credit like this is not an option, as all WRIA 8 jurisdictions perform work that doesn't result in a credit to their cost-share. Unfortunately, Snohomish County isn't in a place to adjust their 2019 work program to fulfill an in-kind service agreement. Jason MK noted that another idea for regaining Snohomish County as a partner in 2020 is to appeal to the County more generally and hope to find another funding source besides their SWM budget. WRIA 8 staff will be requesting a meeting with the Executive's office in the next few months to discuss ways to find cost share funding and have Snohomish County rejoin the WRIA 8 ILA. Jason MK will be calling on WRIA 8 partners to show political support and pressure. CM Buckshnis expressed concern that the issue might not be resolved soon as it is an election year.

Jason MK walked through the revised 2019 budget, which needs to be adjusted as Snohomish County is no longer contributing to the ILA cost share. Jason MK highlighted a few other adjustments to the 2019 budget, including an increase in PSAR project development grant funding (resulting from the delay in the state's capital budget), updated salary and benefit information, and a reduced King County overhead rate. There is currently a \$42,495 budget shortfall. Charles Ruthford asked about the long term budget and 2020 budget decisions. Jason MK replied that the 2020 budget will be an agenda item for the May SRC meeting. CM Neir asked if there are jurisdictions in WRIA 8 that aren't part of the Salmon Recovery Council that we could invite to join and enhance membership. Jason MK replied that there are a few cities in the watershed that are not part of the SRC. CM Neir suggested reaching out to them. CM Buckshnis asked if WRIA 8 would continue to support the Snohomish County Meadowdale project. Jason MK replied that WRIA 8 would presumably continue to support the Meadowdale project as it is important for salmon recovery in our watershed and the WRIA 8 team will use it to emphasize the importance of this work in discussions with the Snohomish County Executive. CM Nice asked how much of the carry forward balance can be attributed to Snohomish County. CM Nice suggested taking the percentage of the carry forward balance that was contributed by Snohomish County and applying it to the budget to cover the County's cost share amount and spread the rest of the cost between the other jurisdictions. CM Scully cautioned against using carry forward funds without a plan in place, and expressed his support for splitting the gap amount between the other partner jurisdictions.

Jason MK walked through the five proposed options to cover the budget shortfall. The WRIA 8 Implementation Committee recommended Option 5 and prioritizing funding in the following order: First, using PSAR project development grant funds; second, delay hiring of Technical Coordinator position; and third, use carry forward funding to address any remaining balance. Jason MK added that he recently learned WRIA 8 has a larger balance of PSAR grant funds that originally anticipated (as noted above), so most of the shortfall would be covered by those funds if following the Implementation Committee's recommendation.

CM Stuart asked if there were any risks or restrictions to using the PSAR project development money. Jason MK replied that he followed up with the state's grant manager and from the state's perspective there is no restriction for using those funds on the proposed tasks, as long as the tasks support project development activities. CM Scandella urged WRIA 8 to maintain continuity in the Technical Coordinator position and hire Scott Stolnack's replacement as soon as possible. CM Scandella asked if the position had been posted yet. Jason MK agreed continuity was important and explained that he was waiting on this discussion to post the position. Scott is

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working on an off-boarding plan to download knowledge from him to existing staff. CM Phillips commented that he would like to see this staff transition done in a way that doesn't interrupt service provisions. CM Phillips hopes a replacement can be hired before the Project Subcommittee work scheduled for April and May. CM Phillips is also intrigued with idea of recalculating the cost share to split between the rest of the jurisdictions and wondered if there should be a consequence for Snohomish County. Kathy Minsch commented that Seattle is unable to vote at this meeting and is also the largest cost share contributor. By splitting the shortfall amount across the jurisdictions, Seattle would see an increase of \$17K, which Seattle Public Utilities doesn't have funding for. CM Parnello expressed support for either using carry forward or splitting the cost amongst the jurisdictions. CM McIrvin commented that he would need to take this back to Renton to discuss before approving an increase to the other jurisdictions. CM McIrvin supports Option 5 instead and suggested having more conversations about the risk of Snohomish County not re-joining. CM Buckshnis expressed support for using carry forward funding, noting a preference to leave the PSAR money for grants. Jason MK clarified that the PSAR project development funding in question for the budget shortfall is separate from the funding for projects. This PSAR funding is for staff time to help develop projects. With that clarification, CM Buckshnis replied that she supports using PSAR project development funds. CM Nice is supportive of deferring the vote to allow for Seattle to vote at a later date. CM Nice commented that Mercer Island is also looking at significant cuts in their budget and understands the situation Snohomish County is in. Mercer Island has five council positions up for election next year. CM Nice suggested that a re-entry condition might discourage other jurisdictions from leaving the ILA in the future. CM Neir is supportive of Option 4 and isn't supportive of splitting the cost between the other jurisdictions. CM Stuart expressed support for adding a penalty to leave the ILA to reduce the political benefit of leaving the ILA. CM Nice suggested considering delaying grant support for re-joining members. Chair Stokes countered that we don't want to discourage re-joining. Chair Stokes supports Options 4 and 5. CM Buckshnis made a motion to select Option 4. CM Stuart made a motion to select a combination of Options 4 and 3 and look at altering the ILA to discourage jurisdictions from leaving in the future.

*The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved using PSAR project development funds (Option 4) and carryover funds (Option 3) to cover the 2019 budget shortfall.*

## VI) Monitoring habitat restoration metrics

Scott Stalnack, WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator, presented on monitoring to address missing baseline condition data and data needs going forward. Scott explained that when the WRIA 8 Plan was updated, the Technical Committee didn't have all the baseline information needed to track habitat goals going forward. Two missing pieces of data were wood volume in streams and the amount of lake shoreline that is considered natural, or unarmored. For lake shoreline, the most important areas are Lake Washington shoreline south of I-90 and all of Lake Sammamish shoreline. As juvenile salmon come out of the Cedar River, they need shoreline habitat to rear, but as the juveniles grow and make their way north toward the Ship Canal, shoreline habitat becomes less important.

Scott explained that wood data for Issaquah Creek are still missing, as Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) doesn't survey Issaquah Creek above the hatchery for Chinook spawners and getting permissions from landowners for County personnel to access their property is a challenging and time-consuming task. Scott then walked through the baseline data that were collected for Bear, Little Bear, North, Kelsey and May creeks. The 2025 habitat goal for wood is about double the baseline amount. Scott commented that even if we can't reach the regional standard for "fair" wood volume, any increase would boost the habitat and potential for Chinook survival.

Scott used aerial photos to look at shoreline armoring. Scott explained that he found less armoring in both Lake Sammamish and Lake Washington than expected. Scott found about 30 miles of armoring in Lake Washington south of I-90 (including Mercer Island) and about 20 miles of armoring in Lake Sammamish. Armored shorelines don't provide food and refuge from predators for Chinook, as compared to natural shallow-slope lakeshore that provides food and cover in the shallow depths.

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The Technical Committee will prepare a report in 2020 to show progress made on the 2025 goals and will add indicators where we don't have goals. Scott thanked Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), WDFW, and King County for support in monitoring efforts.

CM Scandella asked Scott to reflect on the WRIA 8 salmon population over the 10 years that Scott has been the Technical Coordinator. Scott replied that the Cedar and Sammamish Chinook populations have fluctuated quite a bit. Over the last 6-7 years, we've seen more juvenile fish coming out of the Cedar River, but not necessarily more adult fish coming back. Scott does think the habitat restoration work is paying off, as well as SPU's work to manage Landsburg Dam. Scott hopes we can create a partnership to address the temperature issues in the Ship Canal. The Technical Committee has been looking at the Ship Canal bottleneck and has emphasized this need for research and monitoring in future WRIA 8 grant rounds. Gary Smith asked Scott what his reference for habitat cover in terms of shade is, as a lot of entities have their own metrics for tree canopy goals. Scott replied that his reference for riparian cover is riparian tree cover, taken from NOAA's high resolution land cover data. CM Stuart asked about efforts to ensure that kokanee salmon restoration work is coordinated. Scott replied that projects from the Kokanee Work Group are on our project list and some of the projects in Lake Sammamish benefit both Chinook and kokanee. Jason MK assured CM Stuart that WRIA 8 coordinates regularly with the Kokanee Work Group and some of their technical experts are on WRIA 8's Technical Committee. Mary Shustov asked what the top three predators are. Scott replied that cutthroat trout and bass in Lake Washington are an issue, as well as northern pike minnow and walleye. Scott added that light pollution contributes to the predation issue as juvenile salmon are attracted to those lights and exhibit daytime behavior when they see them, making themselves easy prey for predators.

## **VII) Success Story: Salmon Heroes Program**

Tara Luckie and Larry Reymann presented on the Environmental Science Center's Salmon Heroes Program. They explained that modern society makes it difficult to connect to nature, and that today kids spend about 8 hours a day in front of an electronic screen and only 4-7 minutes outside in nature. The Salmon Heroes Program was started over 15 years ago and reached over 4,000 students this past year. The program focuses on schools with high reduced lunch rates and kids who have the least access to environmental education. Their goal is to make it a district wide program in many school districts. Salmon Heroes includes a one hour classroom visit, a three hour field trip, and a one hour follow-up classroom visit, with a low student to naturalist ratio. They also have afterschool programs. Salmon Heroes is expanding to work with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, to incorporate tribal knowledge. Tara and Larry are proud to be creating a constituency for the work WRIA 8 is doing. Tara thanked the program's funders. CM Stuart emphasized the importance of kids changing their parents' behaviors and adults' behaviors in general. CM Buckshnis commented that WRIA 8 funded a similar program in Edmonds a few years ago.

## **VIII) Next Meeting**

The next SRC meeting is March 21, 2019, 2:00 – 4:15 pm, at Mercer Island Community Center.