

# WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes

## Department of Ecology, Bellevue, WA || May 16, 2019 2:00 – 4:15 p.m.

<b>Members Present</b>		
#	Name	Affiliation
1)	Don Davidson	Washington Policy Center
2)	Councilmember (CM) Bruce Dodds	City of Clyde Hill
3)	CM Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
4)	Connie Grant	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
5)	CM Victoria Hunt	City of Issaquah
6)	CM Ryan McIrvin	City of Renton
7)	Joe Miles	WA State Department of Natural Resources
8)	CM Hank Myers	City of Redmond
9)	Deputy Mayor Dana Parnello	City of Maple Valley
10)	CM Tom Neir	City of Kirkland
11)	CM Mark Phillips, Vice-Chair	City of Lake Forest Park
12)	Stewart Reinbold	WA State Department of Fish & Wildlife
13)	CM Carl Scandella	Town of Yarrow Point
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
17)	CM Paula Waters	City of Woodinville
<b>Alternates Present</b>		
18)	David Bain	Sno-King Watershed Council
19)	Garrett Holbrook	King County
20)	Jordanna Warneck	WA State Department of Natural Resources
<b>Others Present</b>		
21)	Mason Bowles	King County
22)	Chris Brummer	King County
23)	Michelle Clark	King County Flood Control District
24)	Alexandra Doty	Puget Sound Partnership
25)	Stephanie Eckard	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
26)	Joe Farah	City of Renton
27)	Janet Geer	City of Bothell
28)	Alex Herzog	City of Woodinville
29)	Kim Jones	City of Newcastle
30)	Rachel Konrady	City of Kirkland
31)	Joan Lee	King County
32)	Kristina Lowthian	City of Renton
33)	Kathy Minsch	City of Seattle
34)	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8
35)	Kit Paulsen	City of Bellevue
36)	Larry Reymann	Environmental Science Center
37)	Ben Saari	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
38)	Kelly Steffen	Environmental Science Center
39)	Laura West	WRIA 8
40)	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8

**I) Call to Order / Introductions**

Chair Stokes called the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves.

**II) Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

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## III) Consent Agenda

*The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the meeting notes for the March 21, 2019 SRC meeting and the letter to the legislature's capital budget leadership. Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz amended the received funding amount listed on page 2 of the letter from 14% to 16% of estimated funding needed from 2010-2019.*

## IV) Updates & Announcements

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (Jason MK), WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, shared photos from the Salmon in the Schools program at his daughter's preschool. Her class raised 100 coho from egg to fry and released them that day. Jason MK highlighted the following updates:

- **Puget Sound Regional Update** – The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) has discussed alternative funding mechanisms for salmon recovery off and on over the years and recently initiated that work again through a Funding Subcommittee. WRIA 8 is participating on the Subcommittee.
- **2019 State Legislative Priorities update** – The Legislature allocated \$49.5 million to the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) fund, a higher amount than in any of the three proposed budgets. This amount funds King County's Riverbend project on the Cedar River as the third highest ranked project on the PSAR large capital project list. Jason believes WRIA 8's advocacy efforts and April 5<sup>th</sup> letter to Capital Budget leadership made a difference in the final budget amount. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) allocation amount is also higher than previous years. Councilmember (CM) McIrvine asked if WRIA 8 members should advocate for further increases in the supplemental budget. Jason MK replied that Seattle might submit the Royal Arch project for the supplemental budget and any other jurisdictions that are interested in seeking Supplemental Budget funding should reach out to WRIA 8 staff. Jason MK is interested in continuing to increase WRIA 8's legislative efforts after seeing successes in 2019. CM Buckshnis is currently in DC advocating for Edmonds and WRIA 8 at the joint Puget Sound and Salmon Day on the Hill. WRIA 8 staff are also in contact with Congresswoman Kim Schrier's office to set up a meeting/tour.
- **Hiring WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator position** – WRIA 8 staff have narrowed down the Technical Coordinator candidate pool to a top candidate and are in the process of making an offer. The new Technical Coordinator will likely start in early-mid June.

## V) Draft 2020 WRIA 8 Budget and Work Plan

Jason MK walked through the draft 2020 WRIA 8 budget and work plan. Jason noted that the Technical Coordinator position salary amount is an estimate and based on a May 2019 start instead of the actual June 2019 start. The SRC will need to discuss options for dealing with the shortfall if Snohomish County doesn't return as an ILA cost share partner in 2020. Chair Stokes, Vice Chair Phillips, and Jason MK have a meeting with the Snohomish County Executive on May 24 to discuss Snohomish County's future participation. Jason MK reminded the SRC that the SRC has stated a preference to fully cover operating costs with ILA cost share revenue and not use grants for this purpose. In 2019, as a stop-gap measure, the SRC decided to use Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) project development grant funding to cover the 2019 shortfall without Snohomish County. There are adequate PSAR project development grant funds in 2020, so using those funds to cover the shortfall is an option.

CM Phillips asked if there were specific upcoming planned uses for the carry forward fund balance. Jason MK replied that the Technical Committee and/or Implementation Committee would need to discuss and propose recommendations, but one idea is to continue the predator diet research study in the Lake Washington Ship Canal with Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). This could cost between \$18,000-25,000. Another potential work item would be to advance the Ship Canal temperature study. Jason MK noted that the SRC has expressed a desire to maintain some carry forward fund balance in reserve for unanticipated operating costs. CM Myers commented that Redmond is fine with increasing jurisdiction cost shares to cover the Snohomish County shortfall, but recognized that Redmond pays a relatively small portion, so he defers to other jurisdictions. CM Myers supports creating incentives to bring Snohomish County back into the ILA. Jason MK explained that his initial strategy is to approach the County first without cutting project funds or imposing other penalties, but that there could be a point where the SRC needs to discuss those options. CM Frantz asked why the shortfall is only \$35,000 if the revenue decreased by \$60,000. Jason MK replied that the staffing expenses decreased for 2020 with the Technical Coordinator transition. Kathy Minsch commented that the Implementation Committee recommended using the same approach for 2020 as in 2019, with the hope that Snohomish County will return in 2020. Kathy relayed that the Implementation Committee felt adjusting the cost

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shares for all cities to cover the shortfall sends a message to Snohomish County that the other jurisdictions don't need the County to return. CM Myers expressed concern that without a penalty, other jurisdictions might follow suit and pull out of the ILA during tight budget years. Jason MK said the Management Committee would discuss the options further and make a recommendation to the SRC at the July meeting.

Jason MK walked through the draft 2020 work plan and noted changes. The project tour for the Council is dependent on whether there are projects ready to show or not. Jason MK noted one larger new work item in 2020 is production of an implementation progress report, which is called for in the WRIA 8 Plan Update. WRIA 8 staff will initiate this process in 2019. One of the biggest challenges will be receiving project implementation metric data from project sponsors. This report will include projects beyond WRIA 8's funding scope to ensure an accurate picture of the whole watershed. WRIA 8 staff also plan to increase state and federal legislative outreach in 2020.

## VI) Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Round Recommendations

Jason Wilkinson, WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator, presented on the Project Subcommittee's funding recommendations for King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) and King County One Million Trees funding sources.

<i>Table 1. Summary of 2019 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Grant Funds – WRIA 8</i>	
2019 CWM Funding Requested	\$2,005,144
2019 CWM Allocation	\$1,756,563
Returned Funds	\$220,901
Total Funding Available	\$1,977,464
<i>Difference between Requested and Available Funds</i>	<i>(\$27,680)</i>

<i>Table 2. Summary of 2019 One Million Trees Grant Funds – WRIA 8</i>	
2019 One Million Trees Funding Requested	\$229,914
2019 One Million Trees Allocation	\$175,000
<i>Difference between Requested and Available Funds</i>	<i>(\$54,914)</i>

<i>Table 3: CWM Habitat Restoration and Acquisition Project Grant Approvals</i>			
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Project Subcommittee Recommendation</i>	<i>Council-Approved Grant Amount</i>
<b>Issaquah Creek Headwaters Protection</b> <i>King County</i>	\$250,000	\$250,000	<b>\$250,000</b>
<b>Scheurman Creek Marine Shoreline and Riparian Restoration Feasibility Study</b> <i>City of Seattle</i>	\$75,000	\$75,000	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>Holder Creek Restoration</b> <i>King County</i>	\$240,000	\$240,000	<b>\$240,000</b>
<b>Derby Creek Habitat Enhancement Project</b> <i>King County</i>	\$400,000	\$400,000	<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$965,000</b>	<b>\$965,000</b>	<b>\$965,000</b>

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<b>Table 4: CWM Riparian Habitat Project Grant Approvals</b>			
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Project Subcommittee Recommendation</i>	<i>Council-Approved Grant Amount</i>
<b>Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action</b> <i>Forterra</i>	\$281,269	\$281,269	<b>\$281,269</b>
<b>Lake Sammamish State Park Riparian and Floodplain Restoration and Planting</b> <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i>	\$42,680	\$42,680	<b>\$42,680</b>
<b>Issaquah Creek Basin Riparian Restoration</b> <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i>	\$72,424	\$72,424	<b>\$72,424</b>
<b>Bear Creek Riparian Enhancement Project</b> <i>Forterra</i>	\$99,993	\$99,993	<b>\$99,993</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$496,366</b>	<b>\$496,366</b>	<b>\$496,366</b>

<b>Table 5: CWM Monitoring/Studies Grant Approvals</b>			
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Project Subcommittee Recommendation</i>	<i>Council-Approved Grant Amount</i>
<b>Juvenile Salmon (Fish Out) Monitoring: Cedar River</b> <i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>	\$157,330	\$157,330	<b>\$157,330</b>
<b>Adult Chinook (Fish In) Monitoring</b> <i>King County</i>	\$55,072	\$21,908	<b>\$21,908</b>
<b>Salmonid Parasite Detection in the Sammamish Watershed</b> <i>Trout Unlimited</i>	\$93,000	\$93,000	<b>\$93,000</b>
<b>Juvenile Salmon (Fish Out) Monitoring: PIT Tagging</b> <i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>	\$52,990	\$27,762	<b>\$48,270</b>
<b>Juvenile Salmon (Fish Out) Monitoring: Bear Creek</b> <i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>	\$94,568	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$452,960</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$320,508</b>

<b>Table 6: CWM Outreach and Education Grant Approvals</b>			
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Project Subcommittee Recommendation</i>	<i>Council-Approved Grant Amount</i>
<b>Beach Naturalists</b> <i>Seattle Aquarium</i>	\$13,200	\$13,200	<b>\$13,200</b>
<b>Cedar River Salmon Journey</b> <i>Seattle Aquarium</i>	\$38,500	\$38,500	<b>\$38,500</b>
<b>Mountains to Sound Greenway Forests and Fins Education Program</b> <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i>	\$26,868	\$26,868	<b>\$26,868</b>
<b>Salmon Heroes</b> <i>Environmental Science Center</i>	\$12,250	\$12,250	<b>\$12,250</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$90,818</b>	<b>\$90,818</b>	<b>\$90,818</b>

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<b>Project Name and Sponsor</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Project Subcommittee Recommendation</b>	<b>Council-Approved Grant Amount</b>
<b>Cedar River Future Forests</b> <i>Forterra</i>	\$25,000	\$25,000	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Issaquah Urban Forest Trees Enhancement</b> <i>City of Issaquah</i>	\$79,800	\$75,000	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>Lake Sammamish State Park Planting</b> <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i>	\$25,000	\$25,000	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Sammamish River Restoration at Wildcliffe Shores</b> <i>Adopt A Stream Foundation</i>	\$25,000	\$25,000	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Green Seattle Partnership</b> <i>City of Seattle</i>	\$50,000	\$25,000	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Monticello Riparian Planting</b> <i>City of Redmond</i>	\$25,114	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$229,914</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>

## Highlights and discussions on specific projects:

- **Issaquah Creek Headwaters Protection:** The property is currently under conservation easement, which reduced the acquisition cost. King County also has acquisition funding from Conservation Futures. King County owns the adjacent parcel and will restore that parcel next summer. CM Myers asked if the hatchery allows fish to pass upstream. Stewart Reinbold confirmed that WDFW passes fish upstream but don't need to truck them anymore due to the removal of the hatchery intake dam a few years ago.
- **Monitoring/Studies:** The Technical Committee went through prioritization process to identify the highest monitoring and research priorities. The Technical Committee met with project sponsors to review grant proposals and developed monitoring and research study recommendations for the Project Subcommittee. The Technical Committee prioritized fish in/fish out monitoring on the Cedar River and recommended funding only the Cedar River portion of King County's Fish In monitoring proposal. Similarly, the Technical Committee recommended funding only the Cedar River component of WDFW's Fish Out PIT Tagging proposal. WDFW indicated a willingness to find other funds or scale the work. The Technical Committee also recommended funding Trout Unlimited's Parasite Detection proposal, which would evaluate the presence and identify hot spots of salmonid parasites that could be leading to pre-spawn mortality or juvenile survival issues. This is a data gap and collecting this type of information is consistent with the WRIA 8 Plan Update. The Technical Committee doesn't recommend funding WDFW's Fish Out monitoring study on Bear Creek. Gary Smith asked whether WDFW would continue to fund this work on Bear Creek and expressed concern that this will create a gap in the existing data. Jason Wilkinson replied that WDFW indicated they were unlikely to continue this work in the next biennium. Jason reminded the SRC of the letter the SRC sent to WDFW to urge them to find other funding for this work. Stewart Reinbold added that WDFW is planning to request funding for this work in the state supplemental budget as this data set is important to both WDFW and WRIA 8. CM Scandella asked if WRIA 8 has a way to track progress towards defined monitoring goals. Jason Wilkinson replied that the WRIA 8 Plan includes juvenile productivity goals as well as abundance targets. CM Scandella suggested presenting legislators with more quantitative data on progress towards goals when meeting with them. Jason agreed that having accurate data helps tell the story. CM Scandella asked if there is an estimate of how much money it would take to complete the 10 year goals in the WRIA 8 Plan. Jason Wilkinson replied that it is a huge number. The state has recently started estimating costs in four year timeframes. Chair Stokes suggested that a portion of the remaining balance of CWM funds (\$125,280) be used to increase funding for WDFW's Fish Out PIT Tagging proposal. Jason Wilkinson explained that the Project Subcommittee's recommended funding levels were limited by the SRC's desire to keep monitoring and research study proposals under \$300,000 total. The SRC can decide to increase that

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amount. Chair Stokes made a motion to increase the amount for WDFW's Fish Out PIT Tagging proposal to \$48,270, which would fully cover the Cedar River component of the study.

- **One Million Trees:** The WRIA 8 grant recommendations will plant over 18,500 trees. As of last week, King County has planted 831,598 trees towards their goal of one million.

*The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the Project Subcommittee's funding recommendations as amended to increase the WDFW Fish Out PIT Tagging grant award amount to \$48,270.*

## VII) King County Flood Control District Project Implementation

Chris Brummer, Supervising Engineer with King County River and Floodplain Management Section (RFMS), overviewed the six year Capital Investment Plan (CIP) list for the Cedar/Sammamish Basin. Chris noted the projects that have a nexus with WRIA 8 restoration goals, such as floodplain reconnection, off channel habitat, removing armoring, and therefore a potential to expand the project to provide both flood and habitat benefits.

Kathy Minsch asked Chris whether the flood risk reduction and habitat restoration work on the projects that have a nexus with WRIA 8 habitat priorities would happen simultaneously and if the Flood Control District (FCD) has funding for both aspects. Chris clarified that the habitat restoration aspects of those projects would not get funded as part of the FCD projects, he was just pointing out the nexus. Kathy clarified that WRIA 8 would have to seek other funding for both WRIA 8 and FCD projects to happen simultaneously. Kathy noted that it is often more cost effective for projects to happen at the same time on the same site. Chris confirmed that other, additional funding would have to be provided for the habitat restoration aspects of projects. The FCD can give WRIA 8 updates on when they plan to do certain projects, with notice via the six year plan. In some cases the FCD adds habitat elements needed for mitigation. Kathy asked what opportunities for input exist during the FCD's process for considering alternatives. Michelle Clark commented that the FCD would reach out to WRIA 8 when the timing was right to see whether economies of scale existed or whether the FCD's required mitigation met WRIA 8's habitat goals. If there was a small funding gap needed to achieve greater habitat goals, the FCD could discuss options with WRIA 8. Jason MK asked for more clarification on how WRIA 8 would engage with the FCD at that point in the process when alternatives are being discussed and funding gaps identified. Michelle replied that as this would be a new process, and the FCD hasn't finalized a formal process yet, but indicated they would reach out to WRIA 8. Chair Stokes suggested that WRIA 8 and the FCD communicate frequently around this process. Michelle agreed and noted that another WRIA group invited the FCD to their Forum, allowing for easier facilitation of communication. Chair Stokes emphasized that habitat restoration can contribute significantly to flood control, such as the creation of side channels or removal of houses, so there really is mutual benefit to considering multiple benefits at these project sites. Chair Stokes reiterated that WRIA 8 would like to work with the FCD to accomplish these shared goals. Chris Brummer agreed there are mutual benefits to opening up the floodplain. Chris stated that it is helpful for the RFMS team to know where WRIA 8 seeks to reconnect the floodplain. Jason MK reiterated that WRIA 8 will plan to work with the FCD on the habitat nexus of project areas, including discussing design elements and potentially expanding the footprint of some of the FCD's projects to capture important habitat elements. Garrett Holbrook inquired about the formal process to invite the FCD to the SRC. Chair Stokes replied that WRIA 8 would look into it.

## VIII) Success Story: Holder Creek Acquisition and Restoration

Mason Bowles, Senior Ecologist with King County Ecological Restoration and Engineering Section, presented the County's acquisition and restoration of Holder and Carey Creeks, tributaries to Issaquah Creek. King County purchased the 24.6 acre property from the State Department of Natural Resources with the purpose of enhancing riparian and instream conditions. Parts of the creek had become impassable for fish due to creek widening from livestock crossing and barriers. With the help of Washington Conservation Corps, King County planted over 33,000 plants in phase one and will plant an additional 13,000 plants in phase two this winter. In 2020, they will place around 100 pieces of large woody debris in the stream as part of phase three. CM Scandella commented on the importance of wood and asked if Mason's team is monitoring microbial fauna as part of their restoration. Mason replied that they consulted with a soil scientist at UW and in the future will test out adding bio solids to certain plots. CM Myers asked if large woody debris increases the benthic index of biotic integrity (B-IBI). Mason wasn't sure, as they don't have baseline B-IBI scores for this area.

## IX) Next Meeting

The next SRC meeting is July 18, 2019, 2:00 – 4:15 pm, at the **Department of Ecology Bellevue office.**