

**WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes**  
**Department of Ecology, Bellevue, WA || July 18, 2019 2:00 – 4:15 p.m.**

<i>Members Present</i>		
<i>#</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
1)	Don Davidson	Washington Policy Center
2)	Councilmember (CM) Bruce Dodds	City of Clyde Hill
3)	CM Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
4)	CM Victoria Hunt	City of Issaquah
5)	CM Ryan McIrvin	City of Renton
6)	Joe Miles	WA State Department of Natural Resources
7)	CM Hank Myers	City of Redmond
8)	CM Tom Neir	City of Kirkland
9)	CM Mark Phillips, Vice-Chair	City of Lake Forest Park
10)	Stewart Reinbold	WA State Department of Fish & Wildlife
11)	CM Carl Scandella	Town of Yarrow Point
12)	CM Keith Scully	City of Shoreline
13)	Gary Smith	Water Tenders/Trout Unlimited
14)	CM John Stokes, Chair	City of Bellevue
15)	CM Pam Stuart	City of Sammamish
16)	CM Paula Waters	City of Woodinville
<i>Alternates Present</i>		
17)	David Bain	Sno-King Watershed Council
<i>Others Present</i>		
18)	Alexandra Doty	Puget Sound Partnership
19)	Stephanie Eckard	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
20)	Peter Holte	City of Redmond
21)	Kim Jones	City of Newcastle
22)	Rachel Konrady	City of Kirkland
23)	Jim Loring	FISH
24)	Terry Lavender	CFT
25)	Kristina Lowthian	City of Renton
26)	Steve Miller	Trout Unlimited
27)	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8
28)	Cleo Neculae	WA State Department of Ecology
29)	Whitney Neugebauer	Whale Scout
30)	Kit Paulsen	City of Bellevue
31)	Brandy Reed	King Conservation District
32)	Lauren Urgenson	WRIA 8
33)	Laura West	WRIA 8
34)	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**

Brandy Reed shared information on King Conservation District’s proposed rate renewal. There will be two public hearings next week on the program of work that has been prepared to date through a stakeholder engagement process. One public hearing will be on Monday July 22 at the Green River College from 6-8pm and the other will be on Wednesday, July 24 at the Phinney Center from 6-8pm. The public can provide feedback directly at these hearings or as written public comment. After the hearings, the Board will meet to adopt the proposed system of rates and charges and transmit it to the King County Council for final approval on August 1, 2019.

# WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

July 18, 2019

---

## III) Consent Agenda

*The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the meeting notes for the May 16, 2019 SRC meeting and WRIA 8 Management Committee recommendations for SRC membership. There was a suggestion to reach out to existing members who haven't been sending members recently as well as Tribes.*

## IV) Updates & Announcements

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

- **Welcome Lauren Urgenson, WRIA 8's new Technical Coordinator** – The WRIA 8 team welcomed Lauren in early June, to fill the Technical Coordinator role previously held by Scott Stolnack. Lauren will lead technical aspects of salmon recovery in WRIA 8, including coordination with partners from local governments, tribes, community organizations, and state and federal agencies to inform and guide implementation and monitoring of the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan.
- **Snohomish County's status as a WRIA 8 cost share partner** – On May 24, Mark Phillips, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Vice Chair, and Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz met with Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers, County Councilmember Stephanie Wright, Executive Office staff, and County Surface Water Management Director to discuss the County's status as a cost share partner in 2020. Executive Somers and Councilmember Wright were supportive of the goals and work of WRIA 8, and expressed a willingness to try to find funding in their budget to enable the County to return as a cost share partner, but that it would be very challenging given the County's current budget condition. The WRIA 8 Management Committee approved sending a letter to the County Council on June 24 to request the County Council include funding for the County's cost share in 2020 and put the issue back in front of the Council during their budget development process. Councilmember (CM) Myers asked if Snohomish County is looking to increase their Surface Water Management (SWM) fee. Jason MK replied that Snohomish County is still trying to gain political support for a SWM fee increase. Jason MK plans to provide key messaging and contact information for WRIA 8 SRC members to reach out to individual Snohomish County Councilmembers, who might have the ability to shift funding around. CM Neir, CM Stuart, and CM McIrvin all offered to communicate with Snohomish County Council members.
- **Congressional member outreach** – As part of the strategy to support WRIA 8's federal priorities, WRIA 8 leadership and staff participated in two recent meetings with members Washington State's Congressional delegation. On June 14, WRIA 8 staff participated in a briefing for Congressman Dan Newhouse at the Ballard Locks focusing on Puget Sound salmon recovery challenges and priorities the briefing and Locks tour also involved staff from the Army Corps of Engineers, Puget Sound Partnership, and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. On July 2, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council members, John Stokes, Mark Philips, and Victoria Hunt participated with WRIA 8 staff in a briefing with Congresswoman Kim Schrier on WRIA 8 salmon recovery efforts and priorities.
- **Salmon returns update** – Historically, about 60% of the sockeye salmon run has passed through the Ballard Locks by this time. Sockeye salmon numbers are extremely low this year: as of July 7, about 8,557 sockeye are estimated to have entered the Lake Washington system. The 10 year average is around 53,000 by this time, so this year the run is just 16% of average. Chinook salmon do not arrive in large numbers until later in July. Typically only about 1% of the run has passed by this time. As of July 7, around 38 Chinook have been estimated to have passed into the Lake Washington system. The 10 year average for Chinook at this time is 86 individuals.
- **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. WRIA 8 supports WDFW leading development of a comprehensive, science-based sockeye management strategy to identify all limiting factors and guide actions to improve survival. Actions affecting sockeye salmon have the potential to also affect Chinook salmon (e.g., predator management or reducing artificial night-time lighting). 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. CM Scandella asked about specific pressures responsible for the downturn in sockeye. Jason MK replied that predation in Lake Washington is a big threat, as sockeye spend a year in the lake before heading out to the ocean. Sockeye are also more sensitive to temperatures

# WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

July 18, 2019

---

in the ship canal and ocean conditions. Stewart Reinbold added that because of artificial lighting, predation can now take place all throughout the night. WDFW and the City of Renton are in discussion with Boeing about lighting issues. CM Hunt suggested integrating the most up to date science on artificial lighting into city master plans and land use codes.

## V) 2020 WRIA 8 Budget and Work Plan

The WRIA 8 Management Committee met in June and recommends a dual scenario approach to approve the 2020 budget to account for Snohomish County's uncertain status as an ILA partner. The Management Committee recommends Scenario A if Snohomish County rejoins the ILA and Scenario B if they don't. For Scenario B, the Committee recommends that the shortfall be covered by Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) project development grant funds as opposed to an increase in the cost share for partner jurisdictions. If the PSAR project development grant funds can't cover the full amount, the Committee recommends using carry forward funds to cover the balance. Scenario B is consistent with the approach the SRC approved in the 2019 budget. The Management Committee also discussed unanticipated costs and suggests having a balance of reserve funds equal to approximately 10% of the overall budget, or \$62,000. The Council could reserve the right to dip into this balance for priorities to advance WRIA 8 work. The Management Committee also recommends approval of the work plan with the proposed edits.

*The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the 2020 budget, work plan, and cost shares as proposed by the Management Committee.*

## VI) 2020 Legislative Priorities

Jason MK introduced the draft 2020 WRIA 8 legislative priorities and acknowledged that each jurisdiction might need to see how priority policies and specific legislation mesh with their own city priorities. 2020 is a state supplemental budget year with no capital budget programs up for funding. Jason MK noted that the legislative priorities are iterative and will be updated throughout the year to reflect any changes or emerging legislation that merits being added.

*The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the draft 2020 WRIA 8 Legislative Priorities.*

## VII) King County Conservation Futures Tax and Parks Levy Grant Recommendations

Terry Lavender, Chair of the Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) Citizen Advisory Committee, presented on the WRIA 8 acquisitions recommended by the Committee for acquisition. Terry explained that when King County launched the Land Conservation Initiative (LCI) four years ago, the timeframe to complete all the identified acquisitions was 50-70 years. Using bonding against CFT revenue, this first year of LCI implementation will speed up the process, increasing the annual acquisition budget from \$20 million to \$64 million. The Committee's recommendation will go to the Executive for approval, followed by the King County Council. Terry walked through the Committee recommendations. \$200,000 would go to Little Swamp Creek Relocation in Kenmore to move the creek out of a ditch. \$600,000 would go to Thornton Creek North Branch and \$400,000 would go to Thornton Creek South Branch, which are both Tier 3 creeks. \$440,000 would go to Bear Creek, a Tier 1 creek. This begins acquisition on a significant 40 acre piece on Cottage Lake Creek where 10% of Chinook spawning happens in the Bear Creek system. \$2,066,057 would go to Cedar River priority acquisitions. \$400,000 would go to a Cedar River Mitigation Reserves project, which provides great side channel habitat next to the Cedar River Trail. \$420,000 would go to Crow Marsh Natural Area. \$400,000 would go to Evans Creek. \$1,402,000 would go to Issaquah Creek headwaters acquisitions, where the development rights were already purchased and there is an opportunity to improve spawning and rearing habitat. \$2,000,000 would go to George Davis Creek to fix culvert problems in an area previously utilized by kokanee for spawning. Terry highlighted that one third of the CFT money is going towards WRIA-related projects.

CM Frantz asked if these sites typically have public access. Terry replied that jurisdictions often allow public access, and if King County Parks Levy funding is used, it is required to include public access. Gary Smith asked how King County Parks Levy funding is used. Terry replied that King County Parks Levy funding often serves as a source of match for Conservation Futures funding. Chair Stokes thanked Terry for the Committee's work on this.

## VIII) 2018 Client Service Survey Results

Jason MK walked through the 2018 annual Client Survey results. Jason MK was hoping for more than 27 responses, especially from SRC members, and offered to change the format if that would lead to higher participation. Jason MK

# WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Notes

July 18, 2019

---

highlighted that 35% of respondents indicated that jurisdictions are only doing a fair job of implementing land use regulations. This is an area that WRIA 8 can do better in collectively and WRIA 8 staff will look for opportunities to bring this to the SRC. Jason MK asked that as WRIA 8 jurisdictions are updating regulations, they should get in touch with WRIA 8 staff regarding best practices for overwater structures, riparian buffers, and salmon related aspects. Survey respondents indicated support for increasing lobbying at the state and federal levels, and WRIA 8 staff incorporated more of that work into the 2020 staff team work plan. Jason MK commented that over 70% of respondents said public outreach and communications is important or very important, but the WRIA 8 team doesn't have much capacity to provide these services, instead relying on our partners for this work. The Implementation Committee is discussing a communications and outreach strategy to help identify and document priorities. The survey results also indicate support for a stronger and more forward thinking Technical Committee and the new Technical Coordinator, Lauren Urgenson, is interested in hearing more about SRC priorities to inform the Committee's work. Jason MK added that the Technical Committee also seeks to coordinate with project sponsors earlier in project design to incorporate feedback. The SRC discussed new information on impacts to salmon survival, primarily coho, from toxics in stormwater showing. WRIA 8 staff will discuss including that topic for a future meeting agenda. CM Stuart suggested highlighting overlapping priority areas, such as promoting public transit to reduce the impact of tires on salmon.

## IX) Success Story

Chair Stokes introduced the idea of using the Success Story standing agenda item to include lessons learned that are relevant to the SRC. Jason MK added that this could be a space to share lessons learned from neighboring watersheds. CM Stuart is supportive of sharing salmon recovery strategies and looking at the economic incentives of reducing certain actions. CM Stuart emphasized the need to present the business case in long term savings to push salmon recovery related actions. There was a consensus that the Success Story standing agenda item can be broadened to encompass lessons learned and other relevant topics. Jason MK asked for SRC members to send any ideas to him.

## X) Next Meeting

The next SRC meeting is September 19, 2019, 2:00 – 4:15 pm, at **Mercer Island Community Center**.