

# WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes

## Skype Conference Call || March 19, 2020 2:00 – 3:00p.m.

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<b>Members Present</b>		
#	Name	Affiliation
1)	Councilmember (CM) John Stokes, Chair	City of Bellevue
2)	CM Lisa Aderl	City of Mercer Island
3)	Eric Adman	Sno-King Watershed Council
4)	CM Tom Agnew	City of Bothell
5)	Tor Bell	Mountains to Sound Greenway
6)	CM Neal Black	City of Kirkland
7)	CM Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
8)	Don Davidson	Washington Policy Center
9)	CM Bruce Dodds	City of Clyde Hill
10)	Larry Franks	Friends of Issaquah Fish Hatchery (FISH)
11)	CM Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
12)	Connie Grant	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
13)	Noel Gilbrough	Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
14)	Kirstin Haugen	King Conservation District
15)	CM Victoria Hunt	City of Issaquah
16)	CM Ryan McIrvine	City of Renton
17)	Joe Miles	WA State Department of Natural Resources
18)	CM Lisa Newing	City of Newcastle
19)	CM Melanie O’Cain	City of Kenmore
20)	Cleo Neculae	WA State Department of Ecology
21)	CM Mark Phillips, Vice-Chair	City of Lake Forest Park
22)	Stewart Reinbold	WA State Department of Fish & Wildlife
23)	CM Carl Scandella	Town of Yarrow Point
24)	CM Keith Scully	City of Shoreline
25)	Alex Selvey	Forterra
26)	Mary Shustov	WA Association of Sewer & Water Districts (WASWD)
27)	Corinne Young	Cedar River Council
<b>Alternates Present</b>		
28)	CM Jay Arnold	City of Kirkland
29)	David Bain	Sno-King Watershed Council
30)	Michelle Koehler	City of Seattle
31)	Lisa LaBrache	King County
32)	Christine Stevens	Forterra
33)	CM Josh Thompson	Snohomish County
<b>Others Present</b>		
34)	Denise Di Santo	King County
35)	Alexandra Doty	Puget Sound Partnership
36)	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8
37)	Carla Nelson	WRIA 8
38)	Lauren Urgenson	WRIA 8
39)	Katie Whitlock	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

I) **Call to Order / Introductions** Council Member (CM) John Stokes called the meeting to order at 2:08p.

II) **Public Comment** - None

III) **Consent Agenda** - Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Minutes from 1/16/2020 were discussed.

*The SRC unanimously approved the January 16, 2020 meeting minutes. CM Ryan McIrvin moved, CM Eric Adman seconded the motion.*

#### IV) **Updates & Announcements**

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

- **Puget Sound Regional Update** – The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) meets next on **March 26**. Diane Buckshnis, Edmonds City Councilmember (CM) and Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz were to attend the now postponed Puget Sound Day on the Hill event due to concerns surrounding the Novel Corona Virus (nCOVID-19). Jason encouraged Councilmembers to consider signing on to Puget Sound Partnership's letter to Congress to show support for additional funding for many WRIA 8 projects.
- The **South Central Action Area Caucus** (Local Integrating Organization (LIO) meets next in mid-February and will focus on developing a work plan for supporting efforts to address shoreline armoring. Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz represents WRIA 8 on the LIO.
- **Four-Year Work Plan update** – The WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan outlines the habitat projects and programs anticipated to begin or be implemented in the near-term. To be listed on the Work Plan, an action must have a connection to one or more of the recovery strategies outlined in the 2017 WRIA 8 Plan Update. Being on the Work Plan is also a prerequisite for receiving a WRIA 8 grant award. A call for updates and additions to the Four-Year Work Plan was issued in early November, and four projects were proposed as additions. Additions to the Four-Year Work Plan, along with other minor Work Plan updates, are shown in the packet.

CM Tom Agnew asked whether there is any order of importance to the list of additions? Jason said there is no priority order, but the projects are organized by habitat priority- Tier 1 being highest priority down to Tier 3. CM Mark Phillips noted that 4 of 11 newly added projects were in Snohomish County. He also appreciates seeing that the projects demonstrate that stormwater and habitat restoration priorities are aligned.

- **Artificial lighting impacts on salmon – interim guidance** – Over the next year, WRIA 8 staff and the Technical and Implementation Committees are completing a synthesis of information on urban light pollution to inform commonsense lighting recommendations for our watershed to support salmon recovery. In the interim, we drafted a memo for the WRIA 8 SRC and partners to consider during code updates and other relevant decisions. The memo summarizes best available science on lighting impacts to salmon and provides an overview of existing standards to reduce adverse consequences of artificial lighting at night.

CM Victoria Hunt suggested that interim guidance is difficult to apply without best available science. Jason said the guidance provided reflects the best available information to date. David Bain asked whether there are any known night events that have been cancelled due to social distancing safety measures? WRIA 8 staff will look into it and report back any findings. Larry Franks said he would like to know if there are any specific lighting numbers (metrics) that can be referenced in the interim guidance. Lauren said the goal of this study is to provide quantitative guidance. CM Diane Buckshnis asked if this issue is local to WRIA 8 or can/will this guidance become statewide? Lauren said this study will provide information focused on WRIA 8 but could also be useful elsewhere. Corinne

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Young asked if this guidance is online? Lauren said it is posted on the WRIA 8 website. Ted Frantz asked if there is any guidance with regard to distance of a light source from the water? Lauren said at this time, no recommendations or available guidance is salmon based.

- **Snohomish County's status as a WRIA 8 cost share partner** – As part of Snohomish County's 2020 budget, Snohomish County Council approved funding for the County to re-join the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council as an interlocal agreement (ILA) cost share partner. The amendment to the WRIA 8 ILA to enable Snohomish County to formally rejoin the ILA is moving through the County Council approval process.
- **February flooding update** – The consistently wet weather at the beginning of the year, along with heavy rains during the first week of February caused significant flooding in many places in the watershed, in particular the Cedar River and Issaquah Creek. Average flows in the Cedar River for this time of year are between 1,000 – 1,100 cubic feet (of water) per second (cfs). The severe flooding stage is described as flows greater than 5,000cfs. On February 7, Cedar River flows rose above 9,000cfs causing significant flooding and some road closures, including a four mile stretch of SR 169 near Maple Valley. The site of the Riverbend Floodplain Restoration project at the Cavanaugh Pond Natural Area, the river avulsed through the left bank levee, shifting the main channel through the lower portion of Cavanaugh Pond. While this event significantly impacts design of the Riverbend project, the result may be increased habitat benefit in this reach of the river. In places where the floodplain has been reconnected to the river, such as at the Rainbow Bend project site, the river spread out into those areas demonstrating how connected floodplains function to reduce water velocities and offer places for fish and wildlife to find refuge during flood events. Issaquah Creek also experienced significant flooding, closing Issaquah – Hobart Road for a period of time, requiring evacuations of some streamside residents, and widespread flooding at the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery.

CM Victoria Hunt asked what is the impact of this flood event on kokanee and are there any negative turbidity effects? Perry Falcone, King County Kokanee Recovery Manager, noted that while the details are forthcoming, kokanee fry counts at Laughing Jacobs Creek from March/April proved positive. Larry Franks said there was no direct mortality due to turbidity found at the Issaquah Hatchery. Overall impact of the flooding on juvenile survival will not be known until the fish begin to emerge from their redds. Department of Fish and Wildlife monitors the juvenile count and more information will be available later in the spring.

- **Update to the Statewide Strategy to Recover Salmon and opportunity to provide input** – The Statewide Strategy to Recover Salmon (Strategy) is being updated by the Governor's Office with support from the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The Strategy, originally adopted in 1999 to address the growing crisis of dwindling salmon populations, is a collaborative initiative to restore and protect salmon runs across Washington State, anchored in local expertise, experience, partnerships, and community support. In 2006, Governor Christine Gregoire added to the Strategy, highlighting the proactive approach to salmon recovery known as the "Washington Way." In 2019, Governor Inslee secured funding for an update to the statewide Strategy. The update to the Strategy intends to incorporate new science, policies, obligations or commitments captured in recovery plans, federal five-year status reviews, court decisions, and other pertinent

materials.

- **WRIA 8 Technical Committee** – In January, the Technical Committee provided feedback on a letter drafted by the WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator on artificial lighting concerns in our watershed and recommendations to address impacts on salmon recovery. The Technical Committee (TC) met on February 12. The TC reviewed a project implementation survey developed by WRIA 8 staff to gather data on implementation indicators for priority Chinook recovery strategies in the watershed. In spring/summer 2020, WRIA 8 will distribute a Smartsheet poll to sponsors on project implementation from 2005 – present.

The TC also provided feedback on advances in the Lake Washington Ship Canal temperature and dissolved oxygen scope of work. The TC reviewed a set of draft figures created to illustrate temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions during periods of salmonid use and to illustrate long-term changes in water surface temperatures over time. These figures will eventually be incorporated into a “state of knowledge” report. Based on the information provided, the TC concluded there is adequate existing information to complete the report and assessment and then move towards goal setting, and eventually begin to identify feasible solutions.

- **WRIA 8 Implementation Committee** – The Implementation Committee met on March 3. Meeting topics included general WRIA 8 updates; presentation on early February flooding in the watershed focusing on the Cedar River and impacts to the Riverbend Floodplain Restoration project design; presentation on the impacts of artificial light on salmon survival and interim WRIA 8 guidance to reduce these impacts; review of a project implementation indicators and a survey tool developed by WRIA 8 staff to gather data on implementation indicators for priority Chinook recovery strategies in the watershed as part of the 2020 WRIA 8 Progress Report; update on the draft WRIA 8 Communications and Outreach Framework; and, review of planned agenda items for the March 19 Salmon Recovery Council meeting.

#### **Next Meeting**

Chair Stokes reminded SRC members that the next SRC meeting is May 21, 2:00 – 4:15 pm, at the Department of Ecology Bellevue office.

**CM Diane Buckshnis** asked if the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting will still take place given the Governor’s order to limit gatherings of groups larger than 10. Jason MK said the meeting will take place in-person as planned, provided the ban on large gatherings has been lifted.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:08pm.**

#### **V) From 3:08p to 3:42p Jason MK reviewed the WRIA 8 Operating Guidelines for new SRC members.**

Jason discussed WRIA 8 governance structure, SRC member roles and responsibilities, and decision-making process. Mary Shustov of Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts (WASWD) asked if her position counts towards a quorum? Jason explained that only ILA delegates count towards a quorum; however, WASWD is a stakeholder member. He further explained the ILA cost-share framework. Mary Shustov asked if WASWD were to contribute to the WRIA as a cost share partner would they then have a vote? Jason MK said there is a precedent for adding new cost share members to the ILA, and that he is happy to discuss this further with anyone who is interested.