

# WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes

Zoom Video Conference || May 21, 2020, 2:00 – 4:15p.m.

<b>Members Present</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
1)	Councilmember (CM) John Stokes, Chair	City of Bellevue
2)	CM Mark Phillips, Vice-Chair	City of Lake Forest Park
3)	CM Tom Agnew	City of Bothell
4)	CM Bruce Dodds	City of Clyde Hill
5)	CM Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
6)	CM Victoria Hunt	City of Issaquah
7)	CM Melanie O’Cain	City of Kenmore
8)	CM Neal Black	City of Kirkland
9)	CM Lisa Anderl	City of Mercer Island
10)	CM Varisha Khan	City of Redmond
11)	CM Ryan McIrvine	City of Renton
12)	CM Susan Boundy-Sanders	City of Woodinville
13)	CM Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
14)	CM Carl Scandella	Town of Yarrow Point
15)	Corinne Young	Cedar River Council
16)	Alex Selvey	Forterra
17)	Kelly Steffen	Environmental Science Center
18)	Larry Franks	Friends of Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH)
19)	Kirstin Haugen	King Conservation District
20)	Eric Adman	Sno-King Watershed Council
21)	Gary Smith	Water Tenders/Trout Unlimited
22)	Cleo Neculae	Washington State Department of Ecology
23)	Joe Miles	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
24)	Mary Shustov	Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts
25)	Don Davidson	Washington Policy Center
26)	Stewart Reinbold	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
<b>Alternates Present</b>		
27)	CM Jeanne Zornes	City of Bothell
28)	CM Lorri Bodi	City of Lake Forest Park
29)	CM Valerie O’Halloran	City of Renton
30)	CM Pam Stuart	City of Sammamish
31)	Michele Koehler	City of Seattle
32)	Eli Tome	Forterra
33)	Brandy Reed	King Conservation District
34)	Josh Thompson	Snohomish County
35)	David Bain	Sno-King Watershed Council
36)	Terry Lavender	Water Tenders/Trout Unlimited
<b>Other Attendees</b>		
37)	Jim Vanden Brook (phone only)	Citizen
38)	Beth Mountsier	City of Bellevue
39)	Allen Quynn	City of Issaquah
40)	Richard Sawyer	City of Kenmore
41)	Rachel Konrady	City of Kirkland
42)	Kim Jones	City of Newcastle
43)	Peter Holte	City of Redmond
44)	Diana Hart	City of Woodinville
45)	Kristina Lowthian	City of Renton
46)	Toby Thaler	City of Seattle

# WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes

Zoom Video Conference || May 21, 2020 2:00 – 4:15p.m.

---

47)	Larry Reymann	Environmental Science Center
48)	Jim Loring	Friends of Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH)
49)	Dave Upthegrove	King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors
50)	Michelle Clark	King County Flood Control District
51)	Diana Phibbs	King County
52)	Kate Akyuz	King County
53)	Thomas Bannister	King County
54)	Judy Blanco	King County
55)	Denise Di Santo	King County
56)	Perry Falcone	King County
57)	Joan Lee	King County
58)	Alex Lincoln	King County
59)	Sarah McCarthy	King County
60)	Stephanie Shelton	King County
61)	Tracy Winjum	King County
62)	Ben Saari	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
63)	Mike Burger	Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
64)	Alexandra Doty	Puget Sound Partnership
65)	Erika Harris	Puget Sound Regional Council
66)	Rodney Pond	Sound Salmon Solutions
67)	Rob Plotnikoff	Snohomish County
68)	Brian Footen	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
69)	Ezekiel Rohloff	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
70)	Elizabeth Butler	Washington State Recreation Conservation Office
71)	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8
72)	Lauren Urgenson	WRIA 8
73)	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8
74)	Carla Nelson	WRIA 8

**I) Call to Order / Introductions** Council Member (CM) Mark Phillips (Vice Chair) called the meeting to order at 2:04p.

**II) Public Comment** - None

**III) Consent Agenda** - Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Minutes from 3/19/2020 were discussed.

*Amended to add CM Valerie O'Halloran, City of Renton, to the roster of attendees, noting that she attended the 3/19 meeting.*

*The SRC unanimously approved the March 19, 2020 meeting minutes.*

## IV) Updates & Announcements

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

- **Puget Sound Regional Update** – The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) is discussing strategies to increase resources for salmon recovery. The Puget Sound Partnership is advancing a “Mobilizing Funding” initiative to identify opportunities and the PS SRC Funding Subcommittee is recommending to focus on assessing the Conservation Futures Tax programs in Puget Sound counties as part of improving the understanding of how existing funding programs integrate salmon recovery and Puget Sound restoration priorities. Jason MK is participating on the Funding Subcommittee and will keep the SRC informed as these efforts progress.

# WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes

Zoom Video Conference || May 21, 2020 2:00 – 4:15p.m.

---

- The **South-Central Action Area Caucus** (Local Integrating Organization (LIO) selected the “Shore Friendly King County Program” to recommend \$100,000 in LIO-directed grant funding under the National Estuary Program. The program is a collaborative effort between Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group, King Conservation District, King County, WRIA 9, and WRIA 8 to provide outreach and technical assistance to private marine shoreline landowners.
- **Results of 2019 WRIA 8 Client Satisfaction Survey** – Twenty-one survey responses were received out of over 250 recipients. Survey results and feedback were consistent with prior years. Overall, partners indicate good/excellent satisfaction with WRIA 8 services. Some places for improvement include assisting project sponsors to identify, develop, and fund projects; how the collective WRIA 8 partners support and implement land use programs and outreach, education, and stewardship. Survey responses also noted a preference for fact sheets, progress reports, and newsletters/e-newsletters as the most useful communication products.
- **Status of ILA Amendment enabling Snohomish County to return as a WRIA 8 cost share partner** – 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, which has been delayed a couple times. It is currently scheduled for public hearing on June 24, and assuming approval would be signed by the County Executive soon thereafter. Once the amendment is signed by Snohomish County, making the amendment effective requires signature of all ILA partners.
- **Project implementation survey** – The first “progress report” on implementation of the updated WRIA 8 Plan is scheduled for the end of 2020. On April 22, WRIA 8 staff distributed a survey to WRIA 8 partners to gather data on implementation indicators for priority Chinook recovery strategies in the watershed. The survey covers projects from 2005 – present, and requests updates to existing projects and information on new projects. This information will be used to inform the 2020 Progress Report as well as for reporting to the state and federal government on the progress of salmon recovery in the watershed.
- **State Agencies Letter to Congressional Delegation re: Potential Economic Stimulus Funding** – Washington state natural resource agencies sent a letter to members of the Washington state Congressional delegation to support investing in habitat restoration and water infrastructure priorities to create jobs and bolster local economies as part of any stimulus funding in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Economic data demonstrate that every \$1 million invested in this work results in an average of 16.7 jobs and \$2.2-\$2.5 million in total economic activity.
- **February flooding improves habitat along Cedar River** – Large scale flooding on the Cedar River in early February caused substantial and dramatic changes to the river channel and floodplain in some sections of the river. Changes at two King County habitat restoration project sites – Riverbend and Rainbow Bend – illustrate the function of floodplains and the importance of restoring them to improve habitat and reduce flood impacts. King County scientists and habitat restoration project managers will monitor the changes at these project sites to document how the river and its floodplains respond to large flood events, which will be featured at a future SRC meeting.
- **Staffing update** – Jason Wilkinson, WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator, has accepted a temporary six-month special duty assignment with King County Parks, working to support open space acquisitions. He will continue to manage key aspects of his WRIA 8 work program while

# WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes

## Zoom Video Conference || May 21, 2020 2:00 – 4:15p.m.

---

serving in this capacity until mid-late November.

- **WRIA 8 Technical Committee** – The Technical Committee (TC) reviewed monitoring and assessment proposals submitted for Cooperative Watershed Management, and provided feedback on a King County Water Quality Benefits Evaluation and Chinook model intended to support decision-making around billions of dollars King County will spend on water quality actions over the next 10 to 30 years.
- **WRIA 8 Implementation Committee** – The Implementation Committee is working to develop an online resource page of best management practices and best available science resources for WRIA 8 partners and the public the draft WRIA 8 Communications and Outreach Framework.

**Discussion:** CM Diane Buckshnis, City of Edmonds, asked how will the grant funding work continue without Jason Wilkinson? Jason MK noted that most of the grant round funding work has been completed and that Jason W will continue to manage key aspects of his WRIA 8 work while in his temporary assignment and some tasks will be covered by other WRIA staff in the interim. Beth Mountsier, City of Bellevue, asked what could be done to improve the participation in the service provider survey? CM Victoria Hunt, City of Issaquah, suggested the email requesting participation should note the survey is brief and the number of questions could be reduced. Jason added that WRIA 8 staff is open to all suggestions to increase participation.

### V) King County Flood Control District – Chair’s Vision and Opportunities for Collaboration

David Upthegrove, Chair of the King County Flood Control District (FCD) Board of Supervisors, presented an update on the FCD’s recent budget amendment approval and reorienting the work of the District. He highlighted three new grant programs: 1) Urban Streams grant program; 2) Coast Erosion/Coastal Flooding program; and, 3) Culvert Replacement/Fish Passage grant program, which strengthen focus and commitment on multi-benefit floodplain management. These approaches will improve habitat and reduce flood risk, as well as increase opportunities for coordination and implementation of projects outside major river corridors. Chair Upthegrove discussed his plans for making the FCD budget and decision-making process more transparent and participatory. Chair Upthegrove asked for continued WRIA 8 partnership and engagement in this work.

**Discussion:** CM Mark Phillips, thanked Chair Upthegrove for doubling the Cooperative Watershed Management grant funds to the WRIAs. He noted the WRIAs are well-positioned to spend the additional funds allocated to stream and habitat restoration to get work done quickly and effectively. CM Jeanne Zornes, City of Bothell, asked about the schedule of the Flood Control District Advisory Committee meetings. Michelle Clark, Executive Director, King County FCD said she would provide the list of committee members, and the dates of the Advisory Committee meetings for distribution to the Council. CM Ted Frantz, Town of Hunts Point, liked the proposed changes to the FCD budget and decision-making process. CM Victoria Hunt asked how local elected officials might best participate in the new processes being implemented? Chair Upthegrove encouraged all of the WRIA partners to engage, and to provide feedback on FCD budget proposals, attend the Advisory Committee meetings, and work with their communities to support the body of work and tough decisions that need to be made.

# WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes

Zoom Video Conference || May 21, 2020 2:00 – 4:15p.m.

---

## VI) Cooperative Watershed Management 2020 Grant Round Funding Recommendations

Jason Wilkinson, WRIA 8 Project Coordinator, presented the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee's (Subcommittee) recommendations to approve funding for 23 grant proposals for the SRC's consideration to. The total funding for the CWM grant program was doubled in March as part of the King County Flood Control District's (FCD) budget amendment approval. WRIA 8 now receives \$3.6 million per year to allocate to grants. In the 2020 grant round, a total of \$3,746,793 is available to award to proposals. The Subcommittee's recommendation includes awarding more than the SRC's funding guidance of \$300,000 for monitoring and research proposals and \$96,000 for outreach and education proposals, as the quality of the proposals merited full funding and the total available amount of grant funding was doubled. Recognizing the interest in considering refinements to the CWM grant funding guidance for these grant categories, WRIA 8 staff will work with the Technical and Implementation committees to develop alternatives, which would be presented to the SRC for consideration in September or November.

**Discussion:** Corinne Young, Cedar River Council, asked why so many projects focus on the Sammamish River as opposed to the Cedar River? Jason noted that it happened that way this year as many of the projects located at the Cedar River were much larger in size and scale than the other proposals submitted. Jason noted that last year the Riverbend Floodplain Restoration project on the Cedar River received substantial funding and will provide substantial habitat restoration benefits. Larry Reymann, Environmental Science Center, asked hasn't the latest predation research indicated Yellow Perch as a major factor in juvenile salmon losses? Jason W and Lauren Urgenson, WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator, agreed, noting the proposed predation study will focus data collection efforts specifically on perch by tracking movement throughout Lake Washington to help inform potential management actions. Currently, there is not a lot of information on their movement or habitat preferences.

*The SRC unanimously approved the 2020 Grant Funding Recommendations to allocate \$3,746,793 for salmon recovery projects and programs in WRIA 8.*

## VII) Draft 2021 WRIA 8 Budget and Work Plan

Jason MK presented the draft 2021 budget and work plan information for the Council's initial review and feedback. The draft budget includes an option (1) reflecting the budget principle in the WRIA 8 interlocal agreement and memorandum of understanding of annually increasing the budget to account for rising staffing and operating costs, and an option (2) that reflects no increase from 2020 recognizing the current challenging financial situation for many local government partners. The Council will be considering the approval of the 2021 WRIA 8 budget and work plan in July. Jason MK affirmed the members of the Management Committee, and noted the annual meeting is being schedule in June to develop a budget and work plan recommendation for SRC consideration in July. The 2020 Management Committee members include: City of Seattle; King County; Snohomish County; City of Bellevue; City of Lake Forest Park; City of Issaquah; City of Renton; and Town of Hunts Point

**Discussion:** CM Ted Frantz asked when we will know what the State Lead Entity grant amount will be given pending proposed state agency general fund budget reductions? Jason noted that a potential reduction to Lead Entity funding has not been determined, but we will know before the SRC's budget decision at the July meeting. CM Mark Phillips asked whether cost savings are anticipated from Jason W's salary given his special duty assignment? Jason MK said he expects some salary savings from Jason W's

# WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes

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---

special duty assignment, but the actual amount is uncertain based on how much WRIA 8 work he does between now and November. The salary savings will be clear in the 2020 budget actuals and would be captured in the WRIA 8 carry forward fund balance. Beth Mountsier, City of Bellevue, asked for clarification on the budget approval process. Jason MK explained that initial feedback from today's meeting will be integrated into the draft budget and work plan for the Management Committee meeting in June to develop a recommendation for SRC consideration at the July 16 meeting.

## VIII) Success Story: Post-Flood Redesign of Riverbend Floodplain Restoration

Sarah McCarthy, King County Ecological Restoration and Engineering Services, provided an update on the status of the 52-acre Riverbend Floodplain Restoration project, and highlighted the dramatic changes at the site after the large flood event on the Cedar River in early February. The presentation shared the latest thinking about the project design moving forward.

**Discussion:** Corinne Young, Cedar River Council, asked: 1) Why were the septic systems left intact during the first phase of the project, and when are they due to be removed? Sarah said the window for their removal was too short given the amount of permitting required to move forward in 2019, but they are planning to remove them this summer; 2) How will changing the depth of Cavanaugh Pond effect wildlife? Sarah noted that the current pond ecosystem supports sockeye salmon, birds, and amphibians. They found that the number of sockeye had significantly diminished over time, based on the small size of the spawning area and the pond silting in. They are hopeful that increasing and improving the habitat will support sockeye spawning and rearing. Their models indicate that over time other wildlife populations in the area will rebound. CM Mark Phillips asked if flood events like this happened in other areas of the Cedar River? Sarah confirmed that several other areas on the river experienced changes from the flooding, which are expected to result in increased habitat. Eli Tome, Forterra, asked whether King County looked into a "Stage 0" model for restoration? Sarah noted that in its current state the area is closer to a "Stage 9" restoration, given there are some constraints that limit the process-based approach of a true "Stage 0" design.

**IX) Next Meeting:** Vice Chair Phillips noted the next SRC meeting is July 16, 2:00 – 4:15 pm, via Zoom.

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:29 p.m.**