

WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes

Zoom Video Conference || July 16, 2020 2:00 – 4:15p.m.

Members Present		
#	Name	Affiliation
1)	Councilmember (CM) John Stokes, Chair	City of Bellevue
2)	CM Mark Phillips, Vice-Chair	City of Lake Forest Park
3)	CM Bruce Dodds	City of Clyde Hill
4)	CM Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
5)	CM Victoria Hunt	City of Issaquah
6)	CM Melanie O’Cain	City of Kenmore
7)	CM Neal Black	City of Kirkland
8)	CM Lisa Anderl	City of Mercer Island
9)	CM Ryan McIrvn	City of Renton
10)	CM Alex Pedersen	City of Seattle
11)	CM Keith Scully	City of Shoreline
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)	Kirstin Haugen	King Conservation District (KCD)
18)	Noel Gilborough	Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group (MSFEG)
19)	Eric Adman	SnoKing Watershed Council
20)	John Sherman	The Boeing Company
21)	Cleo Neculae	Washington State Department of Ecology
22)	Stewart Reinbold	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
23)	Joe Miles	Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
24)	Terry Lavender	Water Tenders / Trout Unlimited
Alternates Present		
25)	CM Jeanne Zornes	City of Bothell
26)	CM Lorri Bodi	City of Lake Forest Park
27)	CM Pam Stuart	City of Sammamish
28)	Brandy Reed	King Conservation District
29)	Jeanette Dorner	Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
30)	Josh Thompson	Snohomish County
31)	David Bain	SnoKing Watershed Council
Other Attendees		
32)	Jim Vanden Brook	Citizen
33)	John Velimesis	Citizen
34)	Tracy Banaszynski	Citizen
35)	Beth Mountsier	City of Bellevue
36)	Allen Quynn	City of Issaquah
37)	Richard Sawyer	City of Kenmore
38)	Mike Mactutis	City of Kent
39)	Rachel Konrady	City of Kirkland
40)	Kim Jones	City of Newcastle
41)	Peter Holte	City of Redmond
42)	Tom Hardy	City of Redmond
43)	Kristina Lowthian	City of Renton
44)	Toby Coenen	City of Sammamish
45)	Michelle Koehler	City of Seattle
46)	Larry Reymann	Environmental Science Center

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47)	Eli Tome	Forterra
48)	Robin Kelly	Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH)
49)	Denise Di Santo	King County
50)	Janne Kaje	King County
51)	Judy Blanco	King County
52)	Michael Murphy	King County
53)	Garrett Holbrook	King County
54)	Lucas Hall	Long Live the Kings
55)	Alexandra Doty	Puget Sound Partnership
56)	Elizabeth Butler	Washington Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO)
57)	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8
58)	Lauren Urgenson	WRIA 8
59)	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8
60)	Carla Nelson	WRIA 8

I) Call to Order / Introductions

Council Member (CM) John Stokes (Chair) called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm and welcomed John Sherman from The Boeing Company to the Council as a new stakeholder member. Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (Jason MK), WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, announced that Larry Franks of FISH has suffered the loss of his son. Jason MK asked that SRC members send notes to WRIA 8 staff, who will send a card/gift to Larry and his family with the Council's condolences.

II) Public Comment – None.

III) Consent Agenda - SRC Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2020 were discussed.

Action: The Council unanimously approved the May 20, 2020 meeting minutes.

IV) Updates & Announcements

Jason MK highlighted the following updates:

- **Puget Sound Regional Update** – The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) discussed development and adopting policies necessary for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) for the 2021-2023 biennium grant round processes. The Funding Subcommittee will continue to assess how well the county-based Conversation Futures Tax (CFT) programs integrate salmon recovery priorities. Jason MK is on the Funding Subcommittee representing WRIA 8 and will continue to keep the SRC apprised of developments on this program.
- **The South-Central Action Area Caucus** Local Integrating Organization (LIO) met to review the LIO's two-year work plan, bylaws, and membership. They discussed two large collaboration initiatives:
 - King County's Clean Water Healthy Habitat (CWHH) initiative, which guides outcome-driven investments in clean water, habitat protection and restoration.
 - The Shore-Friendly King County program, a collaboration between MSFEG, KCD, King County, WRIA 9, and WRIA 8. The initiative provides outreach and technical assistance to private marine shoreline landowners interested in removing shoreline armoring.
- **Snohomish County Council (SCC) approves WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement (ILA) amendment enabling County's return as a cost-share partner** – On June 24, SCC approved and the County has signed a WRIA 8 ILA amendment for the County to return as an ILA cost-share partner in 2020. WRIA 8 staff are working to secure signatures from the other 27 local government ILA cost-share partners.
- **Convening conversations to examine WRIA 8 salmon recovery with an equity and social justice lens** – In support of local and global conversations surrounding systemic racism, the WRIA 8 Management Committee discussed how the SRC can convene a series of conversations or a work group of interested Council members to use an equity and social justice lens to examine its salmon recovery and watershed health work. Members interested in participating were asked to let Jason MK know.

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- **WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) comments on proposed emergency flood-related scour repairs at Ballard Locks** – The WRIA 8 TC submitted comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) on proposed urgent interim scour repairs to the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks' (Locks) stilling basin apron, spillway ogee, and fish ladder. These are to occur during a proposed late-September to October 15 window. Repairs would overlap with migration of returning coho and, potentially, late-migratory Chinook. In the *Notice of Preparation*, the TC requested the Corps consider the following:
 - Extend adult Locks count data beyond typical end date (October 1) until October 15 to include the entire in-water repair window;
 - Monitor to assess delays in migration resulting from repair work and potential increased risk of predation by pinnipeds;
 - Conduct more frequent large lockages (i.e., false lockages) at times when ladder is inaccessible;
 - The Corps consider improvements to fish ladder as part of planning and implementation of ongoing Locks facility repairs and improvements; and
 - Design a system to monitor flows and gate openings to promptly identify and address issues with attraction flow and fish passage barriers.
- **King County Flood Control District (FCD) 2020 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant recommendations** – The FCD Board of Supervisors unanimously approved over \$3.7M to support 13 habitat restoration projects, four monitoring and assessment efforts, and five education and outreach programs.
- **Salmon SEEson program** – WRIA 8 staff seek feedback on partners' plans for salmon viewing sites, outreach programs, and ideas to communicate key salmon recovery messages to the community, despite a possibility of more limited viewing sites and program events due to COVID-19.
- **WRIA 8 E-News** – The June edition of the WRIA 8 E-News included topics surrounding climate change and restoration. The next edition will be released Friday, August 21.

V) 2021 WRIA 8 Budget and Work Plan – Management Committee Recommendation

Jason MK presented the Management Committee's recommendation to adopt the 2021 Budget with no cost-share increase for 2021 and the accompanying WRIA 8 staff Work Plan. While not approving a cost share increase reduces the resources available to the Council's ability to fund emerging priorities, anticipated base revenues appear to cover anticipated expenditures without this increase. Recognizing the challenging economic climate and budget conditions facing many local government partners, the Council expressed support for the no cost increase approach for 2021. Jason MK noted the updated Work Plan reflects CM Victoria Hunt's request to add integrating best available science related to salmon habitat needs into jurisdictions planning and regulatory updates as part of the team's technical services.

Discussion: There were no comments or questions.

Action: The Council unanimously approved the 2021 Budget and Work Plan.

VI) WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee 2020 SRFB & PSAR Funding Report

Jason Wilkinson, WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator, presented the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant recommendations. He discussed the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee's SRFB/PSAR grant proposal and review process. Of the \$2.6 million available, \$1.8 million is recommended for restoration construction, \$525,525 for restoration design and \$300,000 for property acquisition. Grant funding is recommended for the following four projects:

- Issaquah Creek Restoration at Lake Sammamish State Park, to enhance habitat and stream channel by placing wood and restoring vegetation (\$1,840,561);
- East Side Wayne Sammamish/Waynita Restoration Design, formerly a golf course, now publicly owned habitat and moving into restoration design phase, (\$183,400);

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- Lower Rutledge-Johnson Levee Removal, to remove lower levee, install wood and enhance side channel, (\$342,125); and
- Rutledge-Johnson/Rhode Reach Acquisition, advancing habitat downstream and restoration, (\$300,000).

The Lower Issaquah Creek Stream and Riparian Restoration project was not selected for funding but will receive Cooperative Watershed Management grant funding to advance design work. The Edmonds' Marsh Estuary Restoration Design project was also not selected for funding this round due to issues related to property ownership and design scope that need additional time to resolve.

Discussion:

Chair Stokes said the two projects not requested for funding are good projects but need additional design work to be poised for additional future grant funding investment.

The SRC unanimously approved the 2020 SRFB/PSAR grant funding recommendations to allocate \$2.6M for habitat restoration, acquisition and design projects in WRIA 8.

VII) 2021 State and Federal Legislative Priorities

Jason MK presented the draft state and federal 2021 legislative priorities for SRC review and approval. Approval of state priorities in July enables WRIA 8 to communicate them to the Governor's office in August during development of the Governor's biennium budget. The three primary components of the state priorities include capital budget programs, operating budget and policy legislation. Federal priorities focus on support for funding the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, critical Ballard Locks facility repairs, Puget Sound recovery programs and legislation.

Discussion:

- CM Carl Scandella commented that with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting school openings, are there opportunities to integrate outdoor-based WRIA 8 education programs and salmon science as part of remote learning for school kids? Jason MK welcomed the suggestion and noted WRIA 8 would explore opportunities to work with community organization partners on this. Larry Reymann added that the Environmental Science Center (ESC) is very active in south King County with education about salmon habitat; they lead field trips to the Locks on a regular basis.
- Larry asked if COVID-19 has closed down salmon viewing at the Locks, and if not having access is increasing predation and diminishing the return runs. Lauren Urgenson, WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator, said the Locks are currently closed to the public. She also noted that the degraded and outdated facilities at the Locks appear to be exacerbating marine mammal (pinniped) predation, which is why it is important to support Corps efforts at the Locks. Chair Stokes noted that WRIA 8 is supporting important work at the Locks and Ship Canal.
- CM Susan Boundy-Sanders asked if we should mention support for Orca recovery in the priorities. Jason MK said Orca recovery is important to reference, to make clear the connection between recovering Chinook salmon as the primary prey of the endangered Southern Resident Orca. He said the Orca-Chinook connection will be included in the letters sent to the Governor and legislators to share WRIA 8 legislative priorities.
- CM Pam Stuart and CM Boundy-Sanders asked if there was any prioritization to the capital budget priorities? Jason MK said the highest priorities will be listed first and marked as highest priority. He said a Fact Sheet of the priorities would also be produced to accompany the letters. Chair Stokes added that these priorities represent money and people on the ground, that they support the economy and habitat restoration. He reiterated the need for the letter to highlight the benefits to the economy and local communities in addition to salmon recovery efforts.
- It was asked if there are opportunities to support the priorities with specific local legislators. Jason MK said he would work with SRC members to set up meetings and project site tours with legislators to create an interactive exchange about specific projects and WRIA 8's priorities.

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- Vice-Chair Phillips proposed including a general policy priority to support addressing the effects of climate change on salmon and habitat.

The SRC unanimously approved the 2021 State and Federal Legislative Priorities as proposed, with the inclusion of a climate change policy priority, and authorizing WRIA 8 staff to pen a letter communicating the priorities to the Governor, legislature, and members of Congress.

VIII) King County Conservation Futures Tax (CFT)/Parks Levy (PL) Citizens Advisory Committee 2020 funding recommendations

Terry Lavender, Chair of King County CFT/PL Citizens Advisory Committee, provided a comprehensive review of 2020 CFT/PL funding recommendations focusing on those related to WRIA 8 priorities. CFT/PL funding serves as important local match funding for state and federal salmon recovery funding, and often supports WRIA 8 projects.

Discussion: There were no questions nor comments.

IX) Success Story: Community Action Training School (CATS) project protects Kenmore wetland

Tracy Banaszynski, City of Kenmore citizen, presented her experience with the CATS program. Her community project focused on advocating for protecting a Category 2 wetland in Saint Edward State Sport Park. City of Kenmore was to begin Phase I of a 3.5-acre sport park within 10 feet of the wetland and impact 90% of the wetland buffer. Tracy generated community support to protect the wetland, spoke at city council meetings, gathered signatures, raised awareness, and ended with a peaceful protest the night of the city council's vote. On February 3, 2020, the city council's 4-3 vote NOT to move forward with the project was the culmination of her efforts.

- X) Next Meeting:** Chair Stokes noted the next SRC meeting is September 17, 2:00 – 4:15 pm, via Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:20 pm.