

WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes

Zoom Video Conference || May 20, 2021 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 Tom Agnew	City of Bothell
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 Adam Morgan	City of Mill Creek
10)	CM Vanessa Kritzer	City of Redmond
11)	CM Alex Pedersen	City of Seattle
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 Helmer	Cedar River Council
16)	Eli Tome	Forterra
17)	Kirstin Haugen	King Conservation District
18)	John Sherman	The Boeing Company
19)	Cleo Neculae	Washington State Department of Ecology
20)	Stewart Reinbold	Washington State of Fish and Wildlife
21)	Jordanna Warneck	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Alternates Present		
22)	Jeanne Zornes, Deputy Mayor	City of Bothell
23)	CM Kim Muromoto	City of Clyde Hill
24)	CM Lorri Bodi	City of Lake Forest Park
25)	CM Valerie O’Halloran	City of Redmond
26)	Michele Koehler	City of Seattle
27)	Josh Thompson	Snohomish County
28)	David Bain	Sno-King Watershed Council
29)	Sarah Heerhartz	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
Other Attendees		
30)	Cheryl Paston	City of Bellevue
31)	Janet Geer	City of Bothell
32)	Allen Quynn	City of Issaquah
33)	Rachel Konrady	City of Kirkland
34)	Mike Todd	City of Mill Creek
35)	Brian Miller	City of Newcastle
36)	Peter Holte	City of Redmond
37)	Tom Hardy	City of Redmond
38)	Kristina Lowthian	City of Renton
39)	Toby Coenen	City of Sammamish
40)	Toby Thaler	City of Seattle
41)	Diana Hart	City of Woodinville
42)	Kelly Steffen	Environmental Science Center
43)	Larry Reymann	Environmental Science Center
44)	Kayla Luft	Friends of North Creek Forest
45)	Denise Di Santo	King County

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46)	Joan Lee	King County
47)	Angela Harris	Port of Edmonds
48)	Roger Urbaniak	Puget Sound Anglers
49)	Alexandra Doty	Puget Sound Partnership
50)	Jim Vanden Brook	Public
51)	Whitney Neugebauer	Whale Scout
52)	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 team
53)	Lauren Urgenson	WRIA 8 team
54)	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8 team
55)	Carla Nelson	WRIA 8 team

I) Call to Order / Introductions

Councilmember (CM) John Stokes (Chair) called the May Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Chair Stokes welcomed everyone and conducted introductions.

II) Public Comment – No public comment.

III) Consent Agenda - SRC Meeting Minutes from [March 18, 2021](#) were discussed.

Action: The Council unanimously approved the March 18, 2021 meeting minutes.

IV) [Updates & Announcements](#)

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

- Puget Sound regional update; Lake Washington Ship Canal synthesis report on elevated water temperature and low dissolved oxygen and next steps; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Sockeye Workgroup; Legislative session recap on WRIA 8 priorities; WRIA 8 meetings with Congresswoman Kim Schrier and Congresswoman Suzan DelBene to discuss their support for federal priorities; and, highlights from a Regional Stormwater Summit hosted by King County.

Updates Discussion:

CM Victoria Hunt wondered why the state legislature funded so many priority programs higher than in past sessions. Jason M-K suggested increased advocacy for salmon recovery priorities in addition to an improved financial landscape were contributing factors. He noted there appears to be greater awareness of the benefits of programs like Floodplains by Design and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration. CM Mark Phillips asked for additional detail on the Lead Entity funding. Jason explained that the \$974K amount requested and approved in the budget by the legislature is the base funding that supports watersheds around the state, like WRIA 8, to administer the annual grant round, project list and review process. From this funding, WRIA 8 receives an annual \$60K grant for the 2022/20223 biennium. CM Ted Frantz thanked those that participated in advocating for salmon recovery priorities at the legislature. Jason M-K stated that the Salmon Recovery Council will continue to promote the value of restoration projects taking place in the watershed. Larry Franks asked if articles published in the Seattle Times surrounding conservation efforts and negative habitat impacts help with awareness? Jason affirmed that it does help. Chair Stokes praised the work of the DEI Subcommittee, emphasizing the value he sees in WRIA 8 taking on this work.

V) [Letter of Proposed Asphalt Plant Along SR169 in Cedar River Basin](#)

Jason M-K explained that Lakeside Industries has proposed building an asphalt plant along SR169 in the Cedar River basin. He presented a draft letter on behalf of the Council to the King County Department of Local Services emphasizing that permit review of the proposed asphalt plant along SR169 in the Cedar River basin must consider all potential adverse impacts to salmon and salmon habitat. Their claim states that if all land use and environmental regulations are complied with, potential impacts to salmon are considered unlikely given the site of the proposed plant is zoned industrial, is on the opposite side of SR169 from the

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Cedar River and is outside the Cedar River's channel migration zone, and all stormwater must be treated onsite. Jason said there is substantial community opposition, much of which expresses concern about impacts to salmon. He explained that WRIA 8 and partners like King County and Seattle Public Utilities have invested millions in salmon habitat restoration, with significant additional restoration planned. He suggested that as the watershed's primary salmon recovery organization, WRIA 8 should be on record emphasizing the need to consider all potential impacts to salmon and salmon habitat.

Action: The SRC unanimously approved the draft letter with proposed revisions to strengthen the current language.

Discussion:

CM Ted Frantz asked if the location of the proposed asphalt plant would negatively impact the river or any streams. Jason explained the site is zoned for industrial use and the plant would be across SR169 from the Cedar River and outside the Cedar River channel migration zone, so the area has low flood risk. If all environmental regulations are complied with, there should be little potential for impact to the river or nearby streams. Jason M-K suggested it is important for the Council to communicate WRIA 8's expectations in terms of reviewing and avoiding all potential impacts to salmon. Chair Stokes asked WRIA 8 staff to track this issue for more negative impacts to the Cedar River. CM Victoria Hunt stated that our letter should say Lakeside Industries should be responsible for identifying all potential impacts to salmon, and DLS's permit review should ensure any impacts are avoided and asked for stronger language to make it clear that we are protecting our investments and avoiding impacts on salmon. Many Council members added their agreement with the need to incorporate stronger language to express the importance of avoiding impacts. Corinne Helmer added that proper fire protection and seismic disruption are also community safety concerns. Jason agreed with the importance of those issues but noted his perspective that WRIA 8's focus should be on the salmon aspect, given that there are other advocates for the community concerns. David Bain stated it is important to emphasize that compensatory mitigation for any potential impacts does not adequately protect existing ecological function, which is vital to salmon recovery. Other Council members agreed with adding language to the letter to that effect. Jason said WRIA 8 staff would make the proposed edits to strengthen the letter language and send the letter to DLS in the next week.

VI) Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) 2021 Grant Round Funding Recommendations

Jason Wilkinson, WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator, provided the Council with an overview of the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee's 2021 Cooperative Watershed Management grant funding recommendations and the process to rank and score each project. Jason listed the projects, their priority and reminded the Council how the CWM funding is sourced from the Flood Control District (FCD), which doubled annual CWM funding in 2020 from \$1.8M to \$3.6M. Jason added that 2021 was the first grant cycle with a full year of planning for the increased amount and WRIA 8 received 35 proposals totaling \$5.3M in funding requests, leaving a \$1.6M balance between requested and available funding. Jason explained that the WRIA 8 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee developed supplemental application questions and evaluation criteria for all grant categories, representing one of the first actions to advance the WRIA 8 DEI Strategic Plan. He thanked Janet Credo, King County Equity and Social Justice Committee representative, who provided her subject matter expert review of the proposals. Jason acknowledged lessons learned and how WRIA 8 staff will work in the grant off-season to refine DEI criteria and the way they are applied in the review process. The 2021 funding recommendations were: \$2.4M for habitat restoration and acquisition; \$361K for riparian restoration/stewardship; \$724K for monitoring and assessment; \$172K for outreach and education.

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Discussion:

Chair Stokes stated his appreciation for Jason and the work of the Project Subcommittee for managing the process and making the hard decisions to form a recommendation for Council consideration. Toby Thaler appreciated the inclusion of DEI criteria and suggested the recommendation to fund the Be'er Sheva project along the south shore of Lake Washington was very positive. Jason M-K also thanked Jason and the Subcommittee for the substantial effort involved in preparing and carrying out the review process with the large number of proposals. CM Ted Frantz appreciated the balance of projects.

***Action:** The SRC unanimously approved the 2021 Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Funding Recommendations.*

VII) **Draft 2022 WRIA 8 [Budget](#) and [Work Plan](#)**

Jason presented the Council with the draft 2022 proposed budget and work plan. Jason reminded the Council of their decision not to increase the ILA cost share in 2021 given the financial uncertainty stemming from the pandemic. He then presented two proposed options for the 2022 budget – Proposed Option A, reflecting an ILA cost share increase of 2.5% based on the CPI-W rate (increasing the WRIA 8 cost share ~\$16,138), and Proposed Option B, reflecting no cost share increase. Jason presented the details on how King County's overhead calculations include a shift in billing visual communication projects and GIS mapping support as pay-for-service rather than a cost averaged across many County programs. Next, he presented the draft 2022 work plan with minor changes from 2021 to include adjusting staff commitments to engage in the 10-year update to the regional Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan; adding a section to support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee work; adjusting staff requirements to support a larger CWM grant program as well as reconfiguring the CWM grant round process and review criteria to account for additional funding, increased proposals and new priorities to support DEI principles.

Discussion:

CM Diane Buckshnis gave very positive feedback on the way the budget was presented, noting the footnotes were clear which she has been appreciative of in recent years. Susan Boundy-Saunders asked how WRIA 8 would decide to spend the cost share increase (CPI-W) if it's more than needed to cover base expenditures. Jason M-K noted there is a relatively large carry forward fund balance that staff would like to spend down, and that there are ideas on how those carry forward funds could be allocated; however nothing is confirmed at this time. Staff would work with the Technical and Implementation committees to develop recommendations for Council consideration. CM Mark Phillips asked for clarification about why some partner cost share amounts decrease and some increase from 2021 even with the 2.5% CPI-W increase. Jason explained that is because the elements (jurisdiction area, assessed value, and population) of the cost share formula were recalculated for 2022. CM Ted Frantz asked if the 2.5% CPI-W increase would be a problem for any of the jurisdictional partners. Several Council members said they do not have concerns about the increase as part of their jurisdiction's cost share. Chair Stokes noted how uncertain the financial picture was last year in the midst of unprecedented times caused by the pandemic. He added that he is pleased that we have gotten through this better than imagined last year. Jason said the next steps are for the WRIA 8 Management Committee to meet in June to develop a recommendation using today's discussion to inform their deliberations. The Council will consider approval of the Management Committee recommendation at the July 15 meeting.

VIII) **Best Available Science Synthesis Report: [Lake Washington Ship Canal Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen](#)**

Lauren Urgenson, WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator, summarized the recently completed Best Available Science Synthesis Report: Lake Washington Ship Canal Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen (Synthesis Report). She shared the data illustrating how high temperatures and low dissolved oxygen conditions in the Lake Washington Ship Canal (LWSC) and Ballard Locks (Locks) are critical limiting factors for juvenile and adult salmon in WRIA 8. Some past efforts to address these issues have had limited success.

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LWSC construction significantly changed conditions between Lake Washington, Lake Union, and Salmon Bay, affecting historical salmon migratory routes. Surface water temperatures in Lake Washington and Lake Union are trending upward, exceeding sub-lethal impacts and reaching lethal/migration barrier levels in areas in July and August. The effects on salmon populations include direct effects (higher mortality for juveniles leaving later/adults returning during high temperature periods) and indirect mortality, including vulnerability to predators, reduced spawning success, and disease. Lauren explained that a roundtable process would be convened by WRIA 8 in partnership with Long Live the Kings to develop common objectives and assess various potential solutions.

Discussion:

Chair Stokes thanked Lauren for the presentation as it highlights the challenges presented by the bottleneck caused by the Locks for out migrating juveniles and returning. CM Mark Phillips asked if the key source of warm water is Lake Washington. Lauren confirmed the Ship Canal is fed by the top 30 or so feet of Lake Washington, which is the warmest part of the lake. She explained one of the strategies the Army Corps of Engineers (ACoE) is modeling constructs ways to pump cooler water from the bottom of Lake Washington into the LWSC. Lauren reiterated that this idea, among others, would be the subject of roundtable discussion, and WRIA 8 staff will share the outcomes with the SRC. CM Ted Frantz asked if the dissolved oxygen and higher water temperature was the only barrier of migration, if not, what are other impacts. Lauren described local and extended impacts of temperature conditions in the LWSC including energy loss salmon are expending during extended holding at the Locks, which can impact reproductive success in the spawning reaches. Ted Frantz then asked if Lake Union could be cooled as a refuge? Lauren noted that the Army Corps of Engineers is conducting temperature modeling of the LWSC to examine effects of various operational adjustments as well as pumping cool water from Lake Washington below the thermocline. Roger Urbaniak stated that there are pictures showing potential “rest stops” instead of pumping water and pondered if they could use stormwater catch basins as spots where salmon can rest in specific areas. Chair Stokes asked if the use of bubblers to create more oxygen in the water is a possible solution. Lauren responded that feasibility of a number of possible strategies will be examined during the Army Corps modeling and upcoming Ship Canal Salmon Roundtable co-hosted by WRIA 8 and Long Live the Kings.

IX) Next Meeting: Chair Stokes noted the next SRC meeting is July 15, 2021, 2:00 – 4:15 pm, via Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:14 pm.