

WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes

Zoom Video Conference || September 16, 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 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 Adam Morgan | City of Mill Creek |
| 10) | CM Vanessa Kritzer | City of Redmond |
| 11) | CM Ryan McIrvin | City of Renton |
| 12) | CM Keith Scully | City of Shoreline |
| 13) | CM Ted Frantz | Town of Hunts Point |
| 14) | John Sherman | The Boeing Company |
| 15) | Corinne Helmer | Cedar River Council |
| 16) | Eli Tome | Forterra |
| 17) | Larry Franks | Friends of Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (F.I.S.H) |
| 18) | Kirstin Haugen | King Conservation District |
| 19) | Noel Gilbrough | Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group |
| 20) | Tor Bell | Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust |
| 21) | Eric Adman | Sno-King Watershed Council |
| 22) | Katie McGillvray | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| 23) | Cleo Neculae | Washington State Department of Ecology |
| 24) | Stewart Reinbold | Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| 25) | Jordanna Warneck | Washington State Department of Natural Resources |
| Alternates Present | | |
| 26) | CM Kim Muromoto | City of Clyde Hill |
| 27) | Mike Mactutis | City of Kent |
| 28) | Michele Koehler | City of Seattle |
| 29) | CM Valerie O’Halloran | City of Renton |
| 30) | David Bain | Sno-King Watershed Council |
| Other Attendees | | |
| 31) | Christa Heller | City of Bellevue |
| 32) | Cheryl Paston | City of Bellevue |
| 33) | Janet Geer | City of Bothell |
| 34) | Paul Crane | City of Everett |
| 35) | Richard Sawyer | City of Kenmore |
| 36) | Eve Henrichsen | City of Kirkland |
| 37) | Rachel Konrady | City of Kirkland |
| 38) | Tom Hardy | City of Redmond |
| 39) | Peter Holte | City of Redmond |
| 40) | Kristina Lowthian | City of Renton |
| 41) | Toby Coenen | City of Sammamish |
| 42) | Diana Hart | City of Woodinville |
| 43) | Larry Reymann | Environmental Science Center |
| 44) | Olgy Diaz | Forterra |

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| 45) | Kyvan Elep | Forterra |
| 46) | Christine Stephens | Forterra |
| 47) | Denise Di Santo | King County |
| 48) | Joan Lee | King County |
| 49) | Evan Lewis | King County |
| 50) | Michael Murphy | King County |
| 51) | Mike Burger | Muckleshoot Indian Tribe |
| 52) | Angela Harris | Port of Edmonds |
| 53) | Alexandra Doty | Puget Sound Partnership |
| 54) | Don Gourlie | Puget Sound Partnership |
| 55) | Erika Harris | Puget Sound Regional Council |
| 56) | Daniel Howe | Snohomish County |
| 57) | Kristin Marshall | Snohomish County |
| 58) | Rob Plotnikoff | Snohomish County |
| 59) | Kathleen Pozarycki | Snohomish County |
| 60) | Aaron Bosworth | Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| 61) | Michael MacDonald | Washington State Department of Transportation |
| 62) | Eliza McGovern | Washington State Department of Transportation |
| 63) | Ruth Park | Washington State Department of Transportation |
| 64) | Jenifer McIntyre | Washington State University |
| 65) | Whitney Neugebauer | Whale Scout |
| 66) | Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz | WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager |
| 67) | Lauren Urgenson | WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator |
| 68) | Carla Nelson | WRIA 8 Administrative Coordinator |

I) Call to Order / Introductions

Councilmember (CM) John Stokes (Chair) called the September Salmon Recovery Council (“SRC” or “Council”) meeting to order at 2:02 pm. Chair Stokes welcomed everyone and conducted introductions.

II) Public Comment

Larry Franks from Friends of Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH) expressed his gratitude to the Council and the Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Subcommittee that approved grant funding for the Issaquah SalmonCam that is now streaming live. Larry invited Council members to view the live stream via a [YouTube link](#).

Whitney Neugebauer from Whale Scout invited the Council to participate in [Orca Recovery Day](#) on Saturday, 10/16 in Bothell at the former Wayne Golf Course. She also announced there have been a few orca pregnancies in the Southern Resident J-Pod.

Larry Reymann from Environmental Science Center provided the Council with an update on fish counts and shared information on the pre-spawn mortality findings in the Cedar River.

III) Consent Agenda

SRC Meeting Minutes from July 15, 2021 were discussed.

Action: The Council moved to approve the July 15, 2021 meeting minutes. CM Diane Buckshnis from City Edmonds and Michele Koehler, Staff Alternate from City of Seattle, abstained from the vote, noting they were not in attendance at the July 15 meeting.

IV) Updates & Announcements

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

- Puget Sound regional update; WRIA 8 staffing; Lake Washington Ship Canal temperature and dissolved oxygen roundtable process; Status of fish returns; Salmon SEEson; Tours of Cedar River floodplain restoration projects; and WRIA 8 committee reports.

Updates Discussion:

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- Paul Crane from City of Everett asked if there was a count available on the number of redds in the Cedar River. Jason M-K explained that Seattle Public Utilities and other partners conduct spawner surveys during the fall and will provide an update on the number of redds at a later date.

V) [Roads to Ruin – Will water quality retrofits save salmon?](#) – *Jenifer McIntyre, PhD, Washington State University and Christa Heller, City of Bellevue*

Chair, John Stokes introduced Jen McIntyre, Professor of Aquatic Toxicology at Washington State University and Christa Heller, Environmental Scientist from the City of Bellevue, to discuss their recent project to test approaches to reduce stormwater runoff in urban areas without stormwater retrofits. Jason M-K added how the project is an example of a tangible treatment alternative for implementers to consider. Christa provided the Council with an overview for their [bio infiltration study](#) aimed at helping address the high rates of coho pre-spawn mortality in urban creeks. The project achieved their goal to find a low-cost solution to reduce the impact of runoff and toxicity to coho and other aquatic species. The Bioretention Urban Retrofit or “BURito” concept is a low-cost treatment (~\$3, 500 for materials) using media-filled berms that were strategically placed in detention ponds to test removal of contaminants and reduce toxicity of stormwater runoff. Jen presented the details on the testing process, sampling location considerations and limitations and the key design parameters and findings.

Discussion:

- Mike Mactutis asked for the comparison of treatment levels between the ponds with BURitos vs. typical detention ponds without this treatment. Jen acknowledged that their study did not allow room to measure the difference between treatment versus no treatment as the focus initially was to determine the level of improvement as the water passed through the first BURito and then after the second BURito installation noting the additional reduction in contaminants as water passed through the second set BURitos.
- CM Ted Frantz asked how often the berms would require replacement. Jen said the life of the BURito installations is uncertain; however, noted that modeling data indicates they last decades before failing. She continued stating additional modeling and experimentation would be required. Christa Heller commented that City of Bellevue is earmarking funds to switch out the berms at the three- and five-year marks when maintaining the detention pond sites. She installation costs are low, and it may be most effective to change in 3/5 years.
- Paul Crane asked if this could be a hybrid system where smaller cities or areas could install a raingarden and clean the water that flows back out into rivers or Puget Sound. Jen said some areas are constrained by right of way easements; however, an undersized bio-infiltration system may be utilized.
- Vice Chair Mark Phillips asked if the results from this study could be published for the general public. Christa Heller stated that her colleagues and partners are working to determine the best approach for communicating results from this project.
- John Stokes asked what work is being done to implement this study on a larger scale given the variance in topography and soils. Jen provided the caveat that more data is needed to understand what application in larger areas would be most effective. Christa offered that Cedar Grove Compost may be working with the Washington Department of Ecology on certification of this process but cannot verify that as a fact.
- Noel Gilbrough commented that as more impervious surface is permitted, increasing stormwater runoff is inevitable. Christa Heller agreed and suggested any jurisdiction could fund another study, or a continuation of this study.

VI) [WRIA 8 2022 Legislative Priorities and WRIA 8 Letter of Support to Governor Jay Inslee](#) – *Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz and Don Gourlie, Legislative Director, Puget Sound Partnership*

Jason M-K reminded the Council that 2021 is a “supplemental” legislative session (i.e., a short 60 day session) to build on or fill the gaps in legislation action from the 2021-23 biennial legislative session. Jason presented the list of WRIA 8 priorities noting they were iterative and may be updated as current priorities change or new priorities emerge, and reviewed a draft letter to the Governor, sharing WRIA 8’s state legislative priorities. Don Gourlie, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Government Relations Director, provided a [detailed overview](#) and

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update on PSP's state and federal salmon recovery priorities as additional context for the Council to consider when reviewing the draft WRIA 8 priorities and the proposed letter to the Governor.

Discussion:

- Larry Franks asked if there were any legislative considerations on harvest management. Don replied that Governor Inslee sought recommendations that fit into four categories, and harvesting management was not one of the categories.
- Larry Reymann asked if the Ballard Locks' issues with fish passage and predation fit into one of the four categories. Jason M-K noted that those issues certainly fit into the categories presented by the Governor's Office, but there is also an effort being led by PSP and the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council to develop a list of "Legacy" salmon habitat restoration projects, and WRIA 8 plans to propose both of those efforts for inclusion.
- CM Vanessa Kritzer asked if WRIA 8 would send the letter before or after Governor Inslee announced the legislation in its final form. Jason MK clarified that the letter is intended to support WRIA 8 priorities for inclusion in the Governor's Salmon Package under the four categories: 1) Invest in clean water; 2) protect and restore vital salmon habitat; 3) correct fish passage barriers and restore salmon access to historical habitat; and 4) build climate resiliency. Jason added that WRIA 8 could submit a follow-up letter if there is a concern about what is included in the Governor's Salmon Package. She asked if WRIA 8 would be including a fifth topic that addresses funding, education, science and monitoring. Jason M-K stated that it could be added if that was the recommendation from the Council.
- Stewart Reinhold commented that pinniped management is complicated and a stronger push is needed to remedy predation, similar to what's been done to address the issue at the Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River.
- CM Diane Buckshnis noted that WRIA 8 should pursue private funding or engage in lobbying as a call to action and asked for consideration to pursue both private and public partnerships.
- Vice Chair Mark Phillips suggested that the priorities be rephrased to better align with Governor Jay Inslee's four categories and does not see the value of including a fifth category.
- Chair Stokes concluded the discussion that the Council should move forward soon to begin these important conversations to support WRIA 8 legislative priorities. He suggested that the Council continue to consider how we advance education and engage the community in our work.

***Action:** The Council unanimously approved the adoption of the WRIA 8 2022 state and federal legislative priorities.*

***Action:** The Council unanimously approved the draft letter to Governor Inslee to share WRIA 8 priorities to inform development of the Governor's Salmon Package.*

VII) [King County Fish Passage Restoration Program](#) – Evan Lewis, King County

Chair Stokes introduced Evan Lewis, King County's fish passage restoration program lead. This topic is of particular interest with Washington state taking action to remove fish barriers to meet legal obligations. Washington state is also working with local governments to coordinate and prioritize barrier removal efforts in local streams. Evan provided an overview of the [King County Fish Passage Restoration Program](#) where the goal is to invest \$920 million over the next 30 years to prioritize where restoration will have the most benefit by: streamlined permitting, focusing on high priority barrier remedies and funding strategies. He highlighted WRIA 8 projects at Derby Creek, Molasses Creek, and Cedar Grove tributary. He concluded noting out of the 1,311 total barriers in WRIA 8, 365 are county-owned and shared the funding analysis to complete remedy these barriers and restore access to nearly two-thirds of the currently blocked habitat.

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Discussion:

- CM Diane Buckshnis asked for details on tribal engagement, and if the program is connected with the recent “culvert case”. Evan clarified that Washington state’s mandate under the “culvert case” is from a Supreme Court ruling; however, King County recognizes its responsibility and moral obligation to remedy fish passage barriers to support tribal treaty rights, so this is a priority program.
- Eliza McGovern, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), noted that jurisdictions may contact her for any questions about the “culvert case” or WSDOT’s fish passage program.
- Daniel Howe, Snohomish County fish passage program lead, stated that Snohomish County’s program looks at cost, mobility of the species, production ability of the stream, potential habitat gain, and relative health of the species in a stream.
- Kathleen Pozarycki asked if there was a way to review and compare King County’s barrier prioritization categories and ranking between King County and Snohomish County programs. Evan agreed that would be helpful and noted that King County’s scoring framework should be available to share in November. He added that the framework will only score King County barriers and the county’s level of effort.
- Eliza McGovern announced that WSDOT is seeking partnerships on culvert removal and to contact WSDOT if any jurisdiction is interested.
- Daniel Howe commented that Snohomish County is working on making a mapping tool available to help with fish passage removal.

VIII) Next Meeting: Chair Stokes noted the next SRC meeting is November 18, 2021, 2:00 – 4:15 pm, via Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:29 pm.