

WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes

Zoom Video Conference || January 20, 2022 2:00 – 4:15p.m.

Members Present		
#	Name	Affiliation
1)	Councilmember (CM) John Stokes, Chair	City of Bellevue
2)	CM Jeanne Zornes	City of Bothell
3)	CM Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
4)	CM Victoria Hunt	City of Issaquah
5)	CM Melanie O’Cain	City of Kenmore
6)	CM Neal Black	City of Kirkland
7)	CM Connie Allison	City of Mill Creek
8)	CM Vanessa Kritzer	City of Redmond
9)	CM Ryan McIrvin	City of Renton
10)	Mayor Christie Malchow	City of Sammamish
11)	CM Alex Pedersen	City of Seattle
12)	CM Keith Scully	City of Shoreline
13)	Mayor Mike Millman	City of Woodinville
14)	CM Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
15)	CM Carl Scandella	Town of Yarrow Point
16)	Corinne Helmer	Cedar River Council
17)	Larry Franks	Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH)
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)	Gary Smith	Trout Unlimited
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
26)	Hank Myers	Washington Policy Center
Alternates Present		
27)	CM Jenne Alderks	City of Bothell
28)	Mike Mactutis	City of Kent
29)	CM Tracy Furutani	City of Lake Forest Park
30)	Angela Bolton	City of Mill Creek
31)	Michele Koehler	City of Seattle
32)	CM Valerie O’Halloran	City of Renton
33)	Diana Hart	City of Woodinville
34)	Sarah Heerhartz	Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
35)	Josh Thompson	Snohomish County
36)	David Bain	Sno-King Watershed Council
Other Attendees		
37)	Cheryl Paston	City of Bellevue
38)	Janet Geer	City of Bothell
39)	Paul Crane	City of Everett
40)	Allen Quynn	City of Issaquah
41)	Richard Sawyer	City of Kenmore
42)	Christian Geitz	City of Kirkland
43)	Rachel Konrady	City of Kirkland
44)	Tom Hardy	City of Redmond

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45)	Peter Holte	City of Redmond
46)	Kristina Lowthian	City of Renton
47)	Diana Hart	City of Woodinville
48)	Larry Reymann	Environmental Science Center
49)	Jim Loring	Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (F.I.S.H)
50)	Robin Kelley	Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (F.I.S.H)
51)	Denise Di Santo	King County
52)	Perry Falcone	King County
53)	Janne Kaje	King County
54)	David St. John	King County
55)	Joe Hoekstra	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
56)	Becca Kedenburg	Mountains to Sounds Greenway Trust
57)	Mike Burger	Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
58)	Emma Strevey	Participant
59)	Angela Harris	Port of Edmonds
60)	Roger Urbaniak	Puget Sound Anglers
61)	Alexandra Doty	Puget Sound Partnership
62)	Don Gourlie	Puget Sound Partnership
63)	David Kyle	Trout Unlimited
64)	Forest Wood	Trout Unlimited
65)	Aaron Bosworth	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
66)	Joe Short	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
67)	Michael MacDonald	Washington State Department of Transportation
68)	Eliza McGovern	Washington State Department of Transportation
69)	Whitney Neugebauer	Whale Scout
70)	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager
71)	Carrie Byron	WRIA 8 Projects Funding Coordinator
72)	Lauren Urgenson	WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator
73)	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 – No public comments.

III) Consent Agenda – SRC meeting minutes from November 16, 2021 were discussed.

Action: The Council unanimously approved the November 16, 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; 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:

- CM Diane Buckshnis asked if a decision has been made to replace former Salmon Recovery Vice Chair CM Mark Phillips. Jason affirmed that a replacement has been made and will be announced later in the meeting.
- CM Ted Frantz asked if a target number can be added to the salmon returns table in the “Updates and Committee Report”. WRIA 8 does not have targets for salmon returns through the Locks. State and tribal co-

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managers set a goal of 350,000 sockeye to open sport and tribal fishing seasons in Lake Washington. WRIA 8 does have escapement goals for spawning Cedar and Sammamish Chinook. The Cedar escapement goal is 1,680 Chinook, based on the state and tribal co-manager target. WRIA 8 also targets 80% natural origin spawners (NOS) on the Cedar. WRIA 8 goals for the Sammamish population are 1,083 naturally spawning adults, and to maintain or increase the percentage of NOS to 350. The target for the Sammamish population is based on WDFW surveys of specific index reaches on Bear/Cottage Lake Creek, Lower Issaquah Creek, and East Fork Issaquah Creek. WRIA 8 does not have a goal for Cedar sockeye escapement. Below is the escapement table, including set targets.

	Total Escapement	Percent of 10-Year Average	WRIA 8 Target
Cedar Chinook	963 (73% NOS)	84%	1,680 (80% NOS)
Sammamish Chinook	> 2000	~200%	1,083
Cedar Sockeye	21,500	~50%	

Additional information on WRIA 8 salmon populations targets and trends over time are located in the [2020 WRIA 8 Progress Report](#). Please do not hesitate to contact the WRIA 8 staff team anytime with questions about recovery goals and salmon population status.

- Noel Gilbrough asked for details on information he’s heard that 80% of adults are lost to pre-spawn mortality (PSM). Lauren responded that recorded PSM for Chinook is very low in WRIA 8. PSM is a much larger documented issue for sockeye. The Cedar sockeye hatchery has recorded >40% PSM and carcass surveys on the Cedar have indicated sockeye PSM levels of up to 50%. There are ongoing questions about inconsistent counts of salmon entering the Locks and counts from spawning surveys. State and tribal co-managers are assessing the Locks count method to try and better understand these differences. Noel added how some data support the theory of low dissolved oxygen.
- Larry Reymann commented that pre-spawn mortality for sockeye trucked from the Cedar Weir to the Cedar River Hatchery and held in rectangular pens, was about 45%; however, for sockeye trucked directly from the Ballard Locks and held in circular pens at the Landsburg Hatchery, the pre-spawn mortality rate dropped to .23%, less than 1%.
- Larry Franks asked Aaron Bosworth, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), if the Sammamish Chinook return numbers included Chinook from the Issaquah Hatchery. Aaron explained that the count is naturally spawning fish, not salmon returning to the Issaquah hatchery. Jason M-K asked the Council to send in any additional questions members may have on the data, or how it is captured.
- CM Jeanne Zornes asked for any information on the impact of flooding on Cedar redds laid last fall. Jason M-K answered that information regarding impacts of high flows on salmon redds is not yet available. Lauren explained that the scour threshold on the Cedar is based on 2200 cubic feet per second (cfs) measured at the Renton gage. Data on the abundance of juvenile outmigrants on the Cedar are also collected by WDFW at the screw trap in Renton and we will know more about the egg-to-migrant survivorship once those numbers are available.
- Michele Koehler added that scour at Renton’s Accelerometer captured flows at 2,200 cfs, and that has been exceeded during this important incubation period up to 2,700 cfs.

V) WRIA 8 Vice-Chair and Project Subcommittee Representative Selection – *Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager*

Jason M-K explained that the Council needed to fill two WRIA 8 leadership positions: 1) Vice-Chair and 2) Representative to the Project Subcommittee. The call for those interested in both positions was sent out to all partners. CM Vanessa Kritzer expressed interest in both positions. No one else expressed interest.

- CM Kritzer announced that she is excited to serve on the SRC as Vice Chair and admires how all entities come together to advance salmon conservation.

Action: The Council unanimously approved CM Vanessa Kritzer as the Salmon Recovery Council Vice Chair and one of the Council’s representatives to the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee.

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VI) [Legislative Priorities update](#) and [draft letter to state legislators update](#) – Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz and Don Gourlie, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)

Jason M-K provided an update on the Governor’s salmon recovery package and a detailed overview of important state legislation currently under review. Jason reminded the Council of the short “supplemental” legislative session (i.e., a short 60-day session) scheduled to be complete on March 10. Jason noted that a larger operating budget is expected this session due to a positive state revenue projection. Jason then provided a high-level update on legislative priorities important to WRIA 8.

Governor Inslee has proposed investments amounting to \$187 million in salmon recovery and out of the 49 state agencies requesting funding, 45 have been fully or partially funded. Jason explained the Lorraine Loomis Act (HB-1838) which is no longer moving through legislation.

Jason presented the draft WRIA 8 letter to share salmon recovery priorities with state legislators. The letter outlines the key priorities for WRIA 8, including: Support for the Governor’s salmon recovery package; support WDFW monitoring of salmon populations; support legislation that improves riparian area and marine shorelines protection and restoration; support improving existing funding for restoration priorities and multi-benefit projects; and support passage of SJR-8219 / HJR-4209 to amend the state’s constitution to add conservation and protection of natural resources.

Discussion:

- CM Victoria Hunt asked for the details on HB-1672 regarding Conservation Futures Levy (CFL) () as a priority legislation for WRIA 8 and to provide additional information to provide to her Council. Jason M-K stated that WRIA 8 staff will assist with providing more information to distribute to Council partners. Janne Kaje, King County, provided this [link](#) for additional information. Chair Stokes added that the legislation seeks to clarify existing state law on the current CFL as it is written, and noted this this legislation would not add a new funding source or directly raise the levy rate, he stated that this legislation is only clarifying what has already been approved. Jason M-K noted that Janne Kaje was available to answer questions Council may have surrounding this legislation.
- Chair Stokes believes there are other ways to improve riparian buffers and establish criteria for riparian management zones. He would like to see WRIA 8 support this priority and work directly with legislators to develop alternatives. As for the CFL legislation, he valued allowing counties the authority to increase levy rates to the maximum allowed in state law of 6.25 cents per \$1,000 assessed value, to support conservation efforts. He suggested the Council’s support will add to the strong unified message from the conservation community and the letter will need to be delivered quickly before the session ends in early March.
- CM Vanessa Kritzer suggested it would be helpful to have additional time to review the proposed bills to assess the impacts to cities. CM Kritzer was supportive of sending a letter similar to the letter WRIA 8 sent to Governor Inslee. She noted that staff inquired what the levy would be should this legislation pass and asked for an update. Janne explained that the proposed legislation is meant to be a technical fix and not a policy change, to clarify inconsistencies in state law to affirm CFL does not fall under the 1% limit on annual levy growth and enable counties the authority to propose raising the levy rate to the maximum allowed under state law. CM Kritzer noted her appreciation for legislation that supports land conservation.
- CM Neal Black supported the request for additional time for city staff to review the specific bills, including the Lorraine Loomis Act (HB-1838) which requires a deeper level of research than other bills.
- CM Victoria Hunt appreciated the clarification of HB-1672 and asked to receive any additional information to share with staff. Her primary concern was overall tax burden, and its impact on rate payers.

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- Mayor Christine Malchow explained that she will abstain from voting due to need for additional time to review the letter with her city council and staff but finds value in the list of priority legislation discussed.
- Jason M-K reminded Council the window to support legislation currently under discussion and review ends in early February. Jason then asked if Council would approve revised language that removes support for specific riparian legislation (HB 1838) but states general support for the need to protect and restore riparian areas. Chair Stokes asked if we could offer functions that affects survivability other than the size of trees, and this could be easily added.
- CM Ted Frantz supported removing support for the specific riparian legislation (HB 1838) in the interest of time and would like to understand if there are other options available for riparian buffers besides the one size fits all approach in the bill.
- CM Neal Black also agreed with striking HB 1838 from the letter and keep the statement that broadly supports the regulatory protection for riparian areas.
- CM Jeanne Zornes said she sees value in the proposed riparian legislation, but she would support softening the language or removing support if Council agreed to do so.
- CM Vanessa Kritzer supported removing HB 1838 to achieve consensus. She agrees that cities require time to review and develop messages to share the nuances with legislators. She also suggested, where possible, adding specific funding amounts to the specific salmon recovery requests.
- CM Keith Scully said he supports the proposed salmon recovery package but would like a consensus Council decision. Therefore, he agreed with removing support for HB 1838 from the letter. Based on the Council's feedback, Jason M-K suggested removing support for HB 1838, leave in support for protection and restoration of riparian areas and the funding necessary to implement this effort, and add dollar values for the specific requests. He also said WRIA 8 staff would continue to track legislation pertaining to WRIA 8's priorities and communicate with Council and staff.
- CM Victoria Hunt announced that State Representative Bill Ramos reached out to the City of Issaquah and is interested in developing a budget request to support addressing artificial light pollution and its impact to salmon, with the goal of producing model ordinance language to update local municipal codes. Larry Franks added that FISH also attended this meeting and is supportive of this effort. He noted Rep. Ramos is interested in helping to take action on the lighting issue to reduce impacts to salmon, including Lake Sammamish Kokanee. CM Victoria Hunt asked for those interested in participating in this effort to reach out to her directly.

***Action:** The Council approved the draft letter to state legislators, including revisions to remove support for HB 1838, include general support for riparian area protection and restoration, and add funding amounts for specific requests listed in the letter. Mayor Christine Malchow and Mayor Mike Millman abstained.*

VII) [Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Management Plan](#) – Joe Hoekstra, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Chair Stokes introduced Joe Hoekstra and his team to discuss the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Management Plan (Plan). Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust (MTSG) is a non-profit organization that leveraged federal funding support for development and implementation of a locally led cooperative management plan. In developing the Plan, they are considering interests of stakeholders; held two public meetings, and are responsible for submitting annual reports and financial documents to Washington D.C. Their goals include: Amplifying the region's rich history and natural heritage through interpretive and educational programming for the public; Uplifting tribal heritage and providing a platform for native voices to tell stories; Increasing visibility for communities across the Greenway NHA through an enhanced sense of place and opportunities to engage; Encouraging ecological restoration across multiple jurisdictions and watersheds;

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Growing funding opportunities through private-public partnerships and interagency coordination; and, Promoting regional tourism and attract new economic opportunities.

He provided an in-depth overview their Management Plan outline and thematic framework that shapes the relationships and narratives between the First peoples, resilience, relationships, corridors, landscape around the integrated narratives of: forests, salmon, Snoqualmie Pass, origins/arrivals that tell the story and raise awareness of the Greenway's resources. Next steps include continuing to gather and incorporate input from tribes, circulate their draft plan for review, and submit the final in early March. He invited WRIA 8 partners to write a letter of support on this effort and provided [this link](#) to view their color-coded map that support the integrated narratives mentioned in his presentation.

Discussion:

- No discussion or questions.

VIII) [Kokanee Salmon Recovery Progress Update](#) – Perry Falcone, King County

Chair Stokes introduced Perry Falcone, King County, to provide an update on Lake Sammamish Kokanee recovery efforts. He reminded the Council of the Kokanee Work Group and the Kokanee ILA Committee which includes several WRIA 8 partners, and the status of priority implementation projects. Perry provided a list of the 14 completed restoration projects, with 18 in the design/feasibility phase and 18 in conceptual design, specifically highlighting the following projects:

- Ebright Creek Middle Reach Restoration: (Snoqualmie Tribe/Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group)
- Ebright Creek Fish Passage Project: (Sammamish - with WRIA 8 CWM funding)
- Lewis Creek Spawning Reach Restoration: (Issaquah - with WRIA 8 CWM funding)
- Zackuse Creek Culvert Replacements: (Sammamish/King County)
- Zackuse Creek Restoration: (Trout Unlimited/Snoqualmie Tribe)

This fall, there were 2,071 kokanee counted which is the highest return in five-years. To help bolster the population, which had experienced extremely low returns in prior years, Perry presented the kokanee recovery strategy and series of emergency actions. He noted the issues most limited kokanee include disease, invasive fish predators, invasive aquatic weeds, artificial lighting at night (ALAN), and climate change, among others. He highlighted that there are now three generations of kokanee in rearing tanks in the San Juan Islands. This year's large return may be an indication that the current kokanee recovery strategy appears to be working. In 2022, the group will update the kokanee ecological survey; conduct outreach and develop policy changes to address ALAN and conduct pilot studies and expand on current aquatic weed control. The group's next steps involve finishing their final report, expanding project scopes, and developing and implementing methods of invasive aquatic weed control.

Discussion:

- No discussion or questions.

IX) **Next Meeting:** Chair Stokes noted the [next SRC meeting](#) is March 17, 2022, 2:00 – 4:15 pm, via Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:16 pm.