

WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes

Zoom Video Conference || May 19, 2022 2:01 – 4:04p.m.

Members Present		
#	Name	Affiliation
1)	CM Vanessa Kritzer, Vice Chair	City of Redmond
2)	Deputy Mayor Jeanne Zornes	City of Bothell
3)	CM Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
4)	Paul Crane	City of Everett
5)	CM Valerie O'Halloran	City of Renton
6)	Mayor Christie Malchow	City of Sammamish
7)	CM Alex Pedersen	City of Seattle
8)	CM Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
9)	CM Carl Scandella	Town of Yarrow Point
10)	Larry Franks	Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH)
11)	Kirstin Haugen	King Conservation District
12)	John Sherman	The Boeing Company
13)	Gary Smith	Trout Unlimited
14)	Katie McGillvray	United States Army Corps of Engineers
15)	Cleo Neculae	Washington State Department of Ecology
16)	Stewart Reinbold	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
17)	Jordanna Warneck	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Alternates Present		
18)	CM Tracy Furutani	City of Lake Forest Park
19)	Neal Black	City of Kirkland
20)	CM Ryan McIrvn	City of Renton
21)	Michele Koehler	City of Seattle
22)	Diana Hart	City of Woodinville
23)	Josh Thompson	Snohomish County
24)	David Bain	Sno-King Watershed Council
Other Attendees		
25)	Cheryl Paston	City of Bellevue
26)	Janet Geer	City of Bothell
27)	Allen Quynn	City of Issaquah
28)	Richard Sawyer	City of Kenmore
29)	Rachel Konrady	City of Kirkland
30)	Halley Kimball	City of Maple Valley
31)	Tom Hardy	City of Redmond
32)	Peter Holte	City of Redmond
33)	Amy Tsai	City of Redmond
34)	Kristina Lowthian	City of Renton
35)	Carol Volk	City of Seattle
36)	Perry Falcone	King County
37)	Janne Kaje	King County
38)	Dan Lantz	King County
39)	Joan Lee	King County
40)	Daniel Howe	Snohomish County
41)	Larry Reymann	Environmental Science Center
42)	Kayla Luft	Friends of North Creek Forest
43)	Antonia Jindrich	Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
44)	Mike Burger	Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
45)	Ryika Hoshangi	Sammamish Water Plateau Board of Commissioners

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46)	Alexandra Doty	Puget Sound Partnership
47)	Roger Tabor	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
48)	Aaron Bosworth	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
49)	Monica Shoemaker	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
50)	Eliza McGovern	Washington State Department of Transportation
51)	Whitney Neugebauer	Whale Scout
52)	Carrie Byron	WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator
53)	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager
54)	Carla Nelson	WRIA 8 Administrative Coordinator
55)	Lauren Urgenson	WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator

I) Call to Order / Introductions

Councilmember (CM) Vanessa Kritzer (Vice Chair) called the May Salmon Recovery Council (“SRC” or “Council”) meeting to order at 2:01 pm. Vice Chair Kritzer welcomed everyone and established quorum by conducting roll call.

II) Public Comment – Whitney Neugebauer announced that June is [Orca Action Month](#) and there will be a kick-off event on 6/5 and three community events on 6/11, 6/15 and 6/25 to celebrate the Stream to Sea theme.

Larry Franks announced that volunteers recently completed work at the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery Native Plant Garden that features climate resilient plants which require minimal irrigation and are salmon friendly.

III) Consent Agenda – Council meeting minutes from March 17, 2022 were discussed.

Action: The Council unanimously approved the March 17, 2022 meeting minutes.

IV) [Updates & Announcements](#)

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

- Puget Sound regional update; review of [Salmon Recovery Funding Board comment letter](#); pilot project to address effects of artificial light at night on salmon in Lake Sammamish; results of the 2021 WRIA 8 Partner Survey; results of the partner meeting preferences survey; an update on the Lake Washington Ship Canal temperature and dissolved oxygen roundtable process; an update on a proposal to increase the [Conservation Futures Levy](#) for the November ballot; and WRIA 8 committee reports.

Updates Discussion:

Vice Chair Kritzer echoed the positive comments provided in the Client Survey thanking the WRIA team for their work.

V) [Status of Assessing Predation of Juvenile Salmon](#) and proposed [Synthesis Funding Request](#) – Lauren Urgenson, WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator and Roger Tabor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Vice Chair Kritzer introduced Lauren Urgenson, WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator, to present a proposal requesting approval to direct \$35,000 of available carry forward funds in WRIA 8’s budget to support a best-available-science assessment on predation impacts to juvenile Chinook survival. If approved, this would build on prior predator evaluation and diet analysis in the Lake Washington Ship Canal (Ship Canal), Lake Washington, and Lake Sammamish and inform future funding decisions and management actions targeting a key limiting factor to salmon recovery. This request provides needed additional resources to supplement U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) technical staff time to review and synthesize primary data and available literature in cooperation with the WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator.

Roger Tabor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) described marked declines in the Chinook fry survival rate to the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks starting around 2015. Predation in the lakes and Ship Canal is suspected to be a key factor contributing to the declines in juvenile Chinook. Roger provided an update on recent studies tracking predator species, habitat use, and predation impacts on juvenile Chinook in South

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Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish (post-release from the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery), and the Ship Canal as hot spots for heavy predation. Primary predator species include native cutthroat trout and northern pikeminnow, and invasive nonnative predators such as black crappie, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, rock bass and yellow perch. Invasive nonnative species, especially yellow perch, small mouth bass, black croppie, and rock bass appear to be highly abundant predators of Chinook. USFWS and WDFW have tracked yellow perch movements between the Ship Canal and Lake Washington using acoustic tracking and described yellow perch as pack hunters, so predation may occur in specific spatial and temporal hotspots.

Discussion:

- CM Carl Scandella asked if a process exists to estimate predator abundance and how that impacts salmon recovery. Roger acknowledged the knowledge gap to determine predator abundance noting the work Muckleshoot Indian Tribe is doing to measure predator species assemblage and abundance in Lake Sammamish. It's challenging to get an estimate on abundance in large systems, such as Lake Washington. There are historical predator abundance data sets that could be replicated to identify any changes.
- CM Ted Frantz asked if Roger could comment on the drop in fry detection in 2015. He asked whether fry are being detected at Locks or is it a measure of how many fish are getting to Puget Sound. Roger explained that the juvenile Chinook (mainly smolts) were detected by the PIT tag readers at the Locks, which provides an estimate of survival between mouth of the Cedar River and the Locks. Lauren added that the proposed synthesis report is important to help document changes in predation habits and increases in predator efficacy as a result of habitat change including levels of artificial light at night and other factors.
- Larry Reymann asked if there are public events that could focus on predator fishing derby or bounty, or increased netting to reduce their numbers. Roger said WDFW is working on some removal efforts that use gill netting in the Ship Canal and Merwin traps on Lake Sammamish. There has also been events like Trout Unlimited's sponsoring a yellow perch derby on Lake Sammamish, but there are probably additional opportunities.
- Gary Smith noted that Trout Unlimited has been trying to remove milfoil, an aquatic weed and popular hiding location for predators, and asked the Council to contact David Kyle for more information.
- CM Scandella asked if there are ways to restrict predator access to WRIA 8. Roger answered that most species were introduced in the 1930s, and others may have migrated from neighboring watershed systems. He added that these invasive nonnative predator populations are likely here to stay, so we need to figure out how to deal with them.
- Cleo Neculae provided the Council with [this link](#) to learn more about fish consumption.

***Action:** The Council unanimously approved the allocation of \$35,000 in carry forward funds to support production of a synthesis report on data and information on predation on juvenile Chinook salmon in WRIA 8.*

VI) [2022 Cooperative Watershed Management \(CWM\) and Salmon Funding Recovery Board \(SRFB\) Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations](#) – Carrie Byron, WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator

Vice Chair Kritzer introduced Carrie Byron, WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator, who presented the Project Subcommittee funding recommendations for the 2022 Salmon Recovery Funding Board/Puget Sound Acquisition Restoration (PSAR) and King County Flood Control District's (FCD) CWM grant programs. Carrie provided a summary of the programs and ranking criteria. She updated the Council on the total funding available through each program. She reviewed the Council's updated funding guidance which allocates a percentage of the total available funds into four primary project categories: monitoring and assessment, habitat restoration and acquisition, riparian restoration/stewardship, and outreach and education. A total of \$5,759,362 was recommended for projects and programs. Carrie walked the Council through the funding recommendations, summary of the proposals and key highlights of projects from each category:

2022 SRFB/PSAR Habitat restoration and acquisition projects: 2 proposals, \$1,892,744 recommended.

2022 CWM Habitat restoration and acquisition projects: 7 proposals, \$2,893,743 recommended.

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2022 CWM Riparian restoration/Stewardship projects: 7 proposals, \$114,129 recommended.

2022 CWM Monitoring and assessment projects: 9 proposals, \$752,416 recommended.

2022 CWM Outreach and education projects: 8 proposals, \$220,459 recommended.

Discussion:

- Vice Chair Kritzer noted her appreciation for the Subcommittee’s work to develop the funding recommendations, which will significantly advance salmon recovery. She highlighted the outreach and education programs that incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion principles into education and outreach opportunities.

***Action:** The forum unanimously approved the allocation of \$5,759,362M in grant funding recommendations for 33 project/program proposals.*

VII) Draft 2023 WRIA 8 Work Plan – Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager

Jason presented the 2023 draft WRIA 8 team work plan that provides an estimate of time staff allocates to core services and responsibilities. Jason explained how King County Finance is still finalizing the WRIA budget, which is later than usual, so the timing to review the draft budget will need to shift from May-July to July-September.

Discussion:

- CM Ted Frantz asked if the full-time employee (FTE) breakdown in the work plan represents the total number of FTEs. Jason affirmed the work plan reflects a total of 3.4 FTEs, which is three full time employees, and the .40 FTE representing WRIA 8’s portion of the Administrative Coordinator position that is shared between WRIs 7, 8, and 9 (the position split is: WRIA 7 = .20 FTE, WRIA 8 = .40 FTE, and WRIA 9 = .40 FTE).

VIII) Affirm 2022 Management Committee Membership – Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager

Jason presented the list of Council partners that comprise the 2022 Management Committee, including:

Rod Dembowski	Councilmember, King County Council
Ted Frantz	Councilmember, Town of Hunts Point
Victoria Hunt	Councilmember, City of Issaquah
Vanessa Kritzer, SRC Vice Chair	Councilmember, City of Redmond
Valerie O’Halloran	Councilmember, City of Renton
Alex Pedersen	Councilmember, City of Seattle
John Stokes, SRC Chair	Councilmember, City of Bellevue
Stephanie Wright	Councilmember, Snohomish County
Joan Lee	King County Service Provider Representative
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager

Jason explained that the Management Committee will review and have an initial discussion of the draft budget in June to inform the Council’s discussion in July, and then meet again in August to form a recommendation for Council consideration at the September meeting.

***Action:** The forum unanimously approved the 2022 Management Committee membership.*

IX) **Next Meeting:** Vice Chair Kritzer noted the [next SRC meeting](#) is July 21, 2022, 2:00 – 4:15 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:04 pm.