



# AGENDA

## Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council

Thursday, March 16, 2023, 2:00-4:15PM  
**Virtual Meeting Using Zoom**

\*See bottom of agenda for meeting link and other connection information

### Meeting Packet Page

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |           |                                                          |                  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. | <b>Welcome and Review Participants</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |           | John Stokes, Chair<br>Councilmember, City of Bellevue    | <b>2:00-2:10</b> |
| 2. | <b>Public Comment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |           | John Stokes                                              | <b>2:10-2:15</b> |
| 3. | <b>Consent Agenda:</b><br>• Approval of Meeting Notes for January 19, 2023                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <u>3</u>  | John Stokes                                              | <b>2:15-2:20</b> |
| 4. | <b>Updates &amp; Announcements</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <u>10</u> | Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz,<br>WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager | <b>2:20-2:35</b> |
| 5. | <b>Legislative Priorities</b> (Information)<br>Hear an update on the status of WRIA 8 legislative priorities, including proposed budget provisos supporting WRIA 8 priorities, including:<br>• Management of predation on salmon in the Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish<br>• Complete pilot effort on Lake Sammamish to address impacts from artificial light at night on salmon survival and expand the effort to Lake Washington.<br>• Protection and restoration of priority riparian areas. | <u>12</u> | Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz                                    | <b>2:35-2:45</b> |
| 6. | <b>Four Year Work Plan and Grant Round Status</b> (Information)<br>Hear an update on revisions and additions to the WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan project list and an update on the status of the 2023 grant round.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <u>15</u> | Carrie Byron,<br>WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator | <b>2:45-3:00</b> |
| 7. | <b>Regional Stormwater Strategy</b> (Information)<br>Hear about the need and process to convene partners to develop a regional approach to managing stormwater that will move the needle on treating stormwater pollution and incentivizes multi-party stormwater management cooperation and shared priority setting at a watershed level.                                                                                                                                                         |           | John Brosnan,<br>King County Stormwater Services         | <b>3:00-3:45</b> |

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |                                                                                                              |                  |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 8. | <b>Success Story – Supporting Equity in Staffing</b> (Information)<br>Hear from two partners about their equitable hiring efforts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust will discuss their shift to hiring restoration crew staff at competitive wages.</li> <li>Whale Scout will discuss equity related aspects of their new intern program supporting riparian restoration and volunteer planting events.</li> </ul> |  | Mackenzie Dolstad & Tor Bell,<br>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust<br><br>Whitney Neugebauer,<br>Whale Scout | <b>3:45-4:15</b> |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|

**Next Meeting: May 18, 2023, 2:00-4:15PM**

Link to join Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82152049156?pwd=Uk5ZQXliYnlTY3JOeEZWOENwOTgrQT09>

Meeting ID: 821 5204 9156 | (253) 215-8782

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- Familiarize yourself with your computer's audio capability. If your computer has a microphone, use it to connect with the Zoom audio. Otherwise, you will have an option to call in using your phone after you enter the meeting. Even if your computer has a microphone, have a phone handy and be prepared to use the call-by-phone prompts in case the computer audio doesn't work. **USE ONLY ONE AUDIO CONNECTION AT A TIME** – otherwise, feedback may result.
- To enter the meeting, click on the meeting links you received in the meeting invite (and on the agenda). Your browser should prompt you to "Open Zoom." Chrome and Firefox are preferred browsers for Zoom.
- Please remember to mute yourself when you are not talking (but remember to unmute yourself when you do want to talk!)
- We encourage you to use your webcam and enable video so that we can see you and connect with you as much as possible using this format.
- The chat function may be used to take questions during the meeting. Feel free to type questions into the chat box.

# WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes

## Zoom Video Conference || January 19, 2023, 2:01 pm – 4:21 pm

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| Members Present    |                                |                                                  |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| #                  | Name                           | Affiliation                                      |
| 1)                 | CM John Stokes, Chair          | City of Bellevue                                 |
| 2)                 | CM Vanessa Kritzer, Vice Chair | City of Redmond                                  |
| 3)                 | Jeanne Zornes, Deputy Mayor    | City of Bothell                                  |
| 4)                 | CM Diane Buckshnis             | City of Edmonds                                  |
| 5)                 | Paul Crane                     | City of Everett                                  |
| 6)                 | CM Victoria Hunt               | City of Issaquah                                 |
| 7)                 | CM Kelli Curtis                | City of Kirkland                                 |
| 8)                 | CM Valerie O'Halloran          | City of Renton                                   |
| 9)                 | CM Rituja Indapure             | City of Sammamish                                |
| 10)                | CM Alex Pedersen               | City of Seattle                                  |
| 11)                | CM Ted Frantz                  | Town of Hunts Point                              |
| 12)                | CM Carl Scandella              | Town of Yarrow Point                             |
| 13)                | Corinne Helmer                 | Cedar River Council                              |
| 14)                | Larry Franks                   | Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH)   |
| 15)                | Kirstin Haugen                 | King Conservation District                       |
| 16)                | David Kyle                     | Trout Unlimited                                  |
| 17)                | Cleo Neculae                   | Washington State Department of Ecology           |
| 18)                | Stewart Reinbold               | Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife   |
| 19)                | Jordanna Warneck               | Washington State Department of Natural Resources |
| Alternates Present |                                |                                                  |
| 20)                | Michele Koehler                | City of Seattle                                  |
| 21)                | CM John Brock                  | Town of Woodway                                  |
| 22)                | Sarah Heerhartz                | Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group            |
| 23)                | David Bain                     | Sno-King Watershed Council                       |
| Other Attendees    |                                |                                                  |
| 24)                | Cheryl Paston                  | City of Bellevue                                 |
| 25)                | Janet Geer                     | City of Bothell                                  |
| 26)                | Allen Quynn                    | City of Issaquah                                 |
| 27)                | Richard Sawyer                 | City of Kenmore                                  |
| 28)                | Rowena Valencia-Gica           | City of Kent                                     |
| 29)                | Rachel Konrady                 | City of Kirkland                                 |
| 30)                | Tom Hardy                      | City of Redmond                                  |
| 31)                | Peter Holte                    | City of Redmond                                  |
| 32)                | Kristina Lowthian              | City of Renton                                   |
| 33)                | Toby Coenen                    | City of Sammamish                                |
| 34)                | Guillaume Mauger               | Climate Impacts Group                            |
| 35)                | Denise Di Santo                | King County                                      |
| 36)                | Lara Whitely Binder            | King County                                      |
| 37)                | John Klochak                   | King County                                      |
| 38)                | Dan Lantz                      | King County                                      |
| 39)                | David St. John                 | King County                                      |
| 40)                | Matt Maria                     | King Conservation District                       |
| 41)                | Rosa Mendez-Perez              | King Conservation District                       |
| 42)                | Larry Reymann                  | Environmental Science Center                     |

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|-----|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 43) | Tracy Banaszynski     | Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group    |
| 44) | Peggy Lee             | Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group    |
| 45) | Roger Urbaniak        | Puget Sound Anglers                      |
| 46) | Don Gourlie           | Puget Sound Partnership                  |
| 47) | Gary Smith            | Trout Unlimited                          |
| 48) | Stephen Munro         | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)     |
| 49) | Jim Schloemer         | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife |
| 50) | Hank Myers            | Washington Policy Center                 |
| 51) | Whitney Neugebauer    | Whale Scout                              |
| 52) | Carrie Byron          | WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator  |
| 53) | Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz | WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager           |
| 54) | Lauren Urgenson       | WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator             |
| 55) | Renee Lechlitter      | WRIA 8 Administrative Coordinator        |

- I. **Welcome and Review Participants** - Councilmember (CM) John Stokes, Chair, called the January 19, 2023, Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meeting to order at 2:01pm. Chair Stokes welcomed everyone and established quorum by conducting roll call.
- II. **Public Comment:** No public comment.
- III. **Consent Agenda:** SRC meeting minutes from November 17, 2022 were discussed. No edits were received prior to this meeting.

**Action:** The SRC voted unanimously to approve the November 17, 2022 meeting minutes.

- IV. **Updates & Announcements – Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager**
  - Jason MK reviewed how WRIA 8 staff are approaching work to advance priority actions in the SRC's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) strategic plan.
  - Jason MK summarized the 2022 Partner Satisfaction survey results. Generally good to excellent scores were received across the board regarding WRIA 8 services. Specific areas of interest or topics for future WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council meetings got a variety of suggestions, including King County Regional Stormwater Summit goals and process, local regulations and ordinances that support salmon, and how WRIA 8 connects with state-wide and Puget Sound regional salmon recovery effort.
  - The 2023 WRIA 8 grant round is open with upcoming notice of intent deadline of January 25<sup>th</sup>. Carrie Byron is available for review of proposals and any questions. There is currently an opening for a Salmon Recovery Council member on the Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Project Subcommittee to review grant proposals. Anyone interested in participating should reach out to Carrie Byron. Vice Chair CM Kritzer shared her experience on the Project Subcommittee and the site tours she got to be a part of. CM Buckshnis also shared her experience and encouraged others to consider serving on the Project Subcommittee even if they are not a scientist. She emphasized that being an elected official can provide a helpful perspective.
  - WRIA 8 staff is hosting a technical pinniped predation workshop focused on the Ballard Locks and Lake Washington Ship Canal using SRC approved funds. The goal is to share lessons learned based on past efforts and recommend future adaptive management

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- Jason MK noted the recently updated fish consumption Department of Health Advisory on Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish. High levels of “forever chemicals” have been found in the watershed, including several fish species.

Discussion:

- CM Frantz asked if there is a sense of how these chemicals work their way through the food chain and how it affects salmon? Lauren Urgenson stated fish species higher in the food chain contain the concentration of these chemicals. Adult salmon are not eating in the lake and have not been shown to contain high concentrations of the chemicals.
- Larry Franks added he has seen data showing ocean-reared fish have smaller concentrations of chemicals.
- Jason MK noted the newly formed WRIA 8 Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) had its first meeting in January and proved to be a good place to share information across all participants and partners in WRIA 8. The Technical Committee will keep meeting dates in the off months that the ITC is not meeting to focus on site visits, projects, or various priority science and monitoring questions.

### V. **Chair and Vice Chair Selection (Decision item)** – *Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager*

CM Buckshnis nominated CM Stokes for Chair and CM Kritzer for Vice Chair, which was seconded by CM Curtis.

**Action:** *The SRC voted unanimously to approve CM Stokes as Chair and CM Kritzer as Vice Chair of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council through 2024.*

### VI. **Legislative Priorities Update and Draft Letter to State Legislators (Decision item)** - *Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager and Don Gourlie, Puget Sound Partnership*

The 2022 legislative session was a “short”, 60-day session, and included a robust budget and more introduced legislation than usual. However, much of the introduced legislation didn’t make it into law but did start policy conversations that have carried forward into the current session. The 2023-2025 biennium is a long, 105-day session and development of the capital budget. The operating budget is currently at \$4.5 billion, which is substantial, but is likely to be consumed by inflation and maintenance of certain budget items. The capital budget has significant bond capacity, but Western State Hospital Project is scheduled to use \$895 million of that budget.

Jason reviewed the funding levels of WRIA 8’s 2023-2025 state budget priorities in the Governor’s proposed budget. While WRIA 8’s priorities include capital budget funding requests that are higher than the Governor’s proposed budget, the Governor’s budget provides good funding support for many key funding programs. Jason reviewed the draft letter to legislators expressing WRIA 8 support for key budget request and policy priorities. The letter is intended to be sent to legislators with districts in WRIA 8 and to leadership of key budget and natural resource committees. Letter to state legislators in packet has been reviewed and refined by the WRIA 8 legislative subcommittee and is being brought to the SRC for approval.

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Jason also reviewed a Puget Sound Partnership hand out highlighting federal priorities that were part of Congress' recently approved National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which provided funding and support for priority Puget Sound recovery and salmon recovery work, including creating a Puget Sound National Program Office within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This provides a much stronger focus on Puget Sound recovery work and better coordination across Federal Agencies, elevating Puget Sound to the level of Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes. Additionally, a significant amount is being sent to the Puget Sound Geographic Program and National Estuary Program which support Puget Sound recovery and salmon recovery priorities. A new provision in the Water Resource Development Act (part of the NDAA approval) authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a feasibility study of possible changes at the Ballard Locks including fish ladder improvements and efforts to fix high water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen conditions.

Jason praised the work of the WRIA 8 Legislative Subcommittee and noted that anyone is welcome to join and interested individuals should reach out to him.

#### Discussion:

- Vice Chair Kritzer added there are projects generally focused on salmon recovery on the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant program, so that's an important program to support even if there are no projects in WRIA 8 this session.
- CM Frantz asked if WRIA 8 is coordinating with other WRIAs on the funding request numbers included in the letter? Jason said the numbers are developed in coordination with other WRIAs and with various state agencies.

|                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Action:</b> <i>The SRC voted unanimously to approve the letter to state legislators.</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Don Gourlie joined the meeting later and spoke briefly on the status of the legislative session. Don highlighted House Bill 1215 that is focused on protecting and restoring riparian areas and would create a new \$100 million grant program administered by the Washington State Conservation Commission. He also highlighted Senate Bill 5104 that would create a new marine shoreline monitoring program, a bill at the request of the Department of Natural Resources to identify and remove derelict aquatic structures and House Bill 1181 and Senate Bill 5203 which are focused on housing and growth management.

#### **VII. Impacts of Climate Change on Watershed and Salmon (Information) – Lauren Urgenson, WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator, Guillaume Mauger, Climate Impacts Group, Lara Whitely Binder, King County**

Guillaume Mauger provided an overview of climate change impacts. He noted the average year in the Northwest has showed about 2 degrees of warming in the last century and projected changes are much larger. Sea level rise has risen roughly 4 inches in the last 70-90 years and 2 feet of rise is forecasted in the next 100 years. Snowpack has declined in the Cascades by 15-

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30% in the last 75 years and that number is projected to rise to 42-55% by 2050. This could increase flooding with more areas experiencing rainfall as opposed to snowfall. Heavy rain events are projected to become 22% more intense which translates to delivery of 22% more water, and since soil is already saturated during this time floods that result could be much larger. Salmon could be impacted across their full life cycle by climate change from floods, early peak flows, and warm and low streamflow. Recent studies done on flood benefits from tributary stream restoration have shown restoring tributaries may be more effective in reducing flood peak and storing sediment and could even be more effective than levee setbacks by comparison. Climate adaptation is iterative, it is most important to get started and improve over time.

Lara Whitely Binder discussed how King County is preparing for climate change and the direct and indirect impacts on salmon recovery. The good news is the work being done in WRIA 8 for salmon recovery are the types of activities necessary to reduce harmful effects of climate change on salmon. The not so good news is it needs to be completed faster and increased effects of climate change may make doing the work harder in the future. King County's commitment to fighting climate change is formalized in the 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP). This 5-year plan contains the strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preparing for the impacts of climate change, and advancing climate equity. King County is focused on accelerating climate preparedness through regional collaborations on several SCAP actions including, King County Cities Climate Collaboration and the Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative. Some direct SCAP actions that support salmon recovery are the Fish Passage Restoration Program, flood management infrastructure and mitigation activities, and stormwater facility and wastewater conveyance infrastructure design. King County is also investing in research and technical capacity to assess potential benefits of levee setbacks, evaluate projected changes in flood flows and summer low flows, and partnering with others to reduce climate change impacts on salmon. Lastly, King County is accounting for climate change in codes and policies by incorporating climate change into plan updates and updating shoreline codes to account for sea level rise.

Lauren Urgenson described actions in WRIA 8 to foster climate resilience in the watershed. The updated 2017 WRIA 8 Plan includes a section on climate change and a list of priority actions for the watershed. Some of these include reconnecting floodplain, restoring natural shorelines, protecting high quality habitat, and removing fish passage barriers. Lauren shared a few example projects. King County's Rainbow Bend restoration site on the Cedar River was initially a confined/straitened channel disconnected from its floodplain. High flows were concentrated within the straitened channel leading to riverbed scour and the fish had no place to hide with very limited access to any slower water refugia during floods. After construction, flood water was more able to spread along the channel, with reduced downcutting, reduced peak flows and scour, and increased refuge from floods. Spreading water across the floodplain also lifts the water table and reconnects with cooler subsurface flow. Storing water in the floodplain can also create thermal refugia in the floodplain throughout summer. Hyporheic restoration on Thornton Creek is a project completed by Seattle Public Utilities to improve stream habitat and

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address the effects of stormwater in urban areas. Urban areas contain more impervious surfaces that cause rapid runoff into streams that can contain pollutants and sediments that are detrimental to salmon. Increased flooding in winter and low flows in summer associated with climate change are exacerbated in urban areas where impervious surfaced lead to rapid run off into streams, also limited infiltration and groundwater recharge and exchange so lose the cooler ground water to help buffer high stream temps in summer. The hyporheic is an ecotone between surface stream flow and groundwater and is a very active area for stormwater contaminant absorption and treatment. The Thornton Creek hyporheic zone restoration showed significant reductions in 83 identified chemical pollutants linked to vehicle/roadway runoff. High temperatures in the Lake Washington Ship Canal are another climate change impact important to WRIA 8. Increased water temperature resulting from increased air temperature heating the surface water in Lake Washington. In the Lake Washington Ship Canal daily average surface temperatures between 2009-2019 were monitored and it was found that temperatures in the ship canal exceeded stress thresholds for salmon 87-95% of the time in the peak salmon season of May-September and 100% of the time during July-August which is when adult Chinook are typically making their way through the Ship Canal. WRIA 8 is working with Long Live the Kings and other partners to identify and model alternatives to address high temperatures in the Ship Canal.

#### Discussion:

- CM Frantz asked what models are being used to predict the future trends in temperature and sea level changes? Guillaume Mauger clarified the global modeling is beyond the scope of the Climate Impacts Group but they use those models to assess and build local models.
- CM Buckshnis asked if the financial implications are being looked at, what will it cost to implement these types of changes? Lara Whitely Binder mentioned King County has looked at the cost of specific actions and as components of projects, but currently most economic impact studies are on the national level are more specific to certain areas or commodities. There aren't many economic assessments that have looked holistically at climate change and it would be a large undertaking including many parts.
- CM Frantz added he read an article about recent flooding in Northern California and if storing snowmelt or water earlier in the season and metering it out over the summer has been something King County has looked at? Lara Whitely Binder clarified there aren't many sites that could support that and economically it is a huge undertaking. Guillaume Mauger added research in forest management is being done in addition to conservation and helps identify the most cost-effective management strategy.

#### **VII. Success Story – Community Action Training School (Information) – Tracy Banaszynski, Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group**

The Community Action Training School (CATS) educates and supports watershed residents in becoming active community champions for improved watershed health and recovery of wild

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salmon. CATS coordinates classroom and field experiences that provide participants with information about scientific, political, and social issues relevant to driving change in the watershed that benefits salmon. Tracy highlighted several of the projects from the 2022 cohort, including “StreamFest” in Kenmore which was a community education and outreach event, development and execution of a mural in Lake Forest Park, development of a story map and interactive history of Edmonds Marsh, forming a new citizen advocacy group surrounding the health of Edmonds Marsh, and a project focused on ecological zoning.

Discussion:

- Vice Chair Kritzer asked if there is a central place for all the documentation on projects in the past? Additionally, Vice Chair Kritzer asked if Tracy would be able to share more information about the ecological zoning project. Tracy wants to create a longer-term storage solution for people to access and view but currently that does not exist. Tracy said she would send information about the ecological zoning project to Jason MK to distribute.
- **Next Meeting:** Chair Stokes noted the [next SRC meeting](#) is March 16, 2023, from 2:00 pm – 4:15 pm.

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:21 pm.**



## WRIA 8 Updates and Committee Reports

March 16, 2023

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- **Puget Sound Regional Update** – The **Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC)** last met on January 26. The meeting focused on:
  - Legislative update.
  - Puget Sound investment priorities.
  - Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant program 10-Year Plan and findings from cost analysis report.
  - Legacy projects portfolio presentation of projects list and next steps discussion.
  - 2023 annual work plan.
  - Update from the Stillaguamish Watershed on implementation of salmon recovery priorities.

The PS SRC is scheduled to meet next on March 23. Diane Buckshnis, Edmonds City Councilmember, and Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz represent WRIA 8.

The **South Central Action Area Caucus** (Local Integrating Organization (LIO)) last met on January 17. Meeting topics included: Puget Sound Partnership updates; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion workshop update; Shore Friendly King County program presentation; shoreline permitting collective project update; Regional Stormwater Summit update; and discussion of a “deep-dive” focus topic for March. Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz represents WRIA 8 on the LIO.

- **2022 State of the Salmon Report** – The Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office released the updated [State of Salmon in Watersheds report](#) and [Web site](#). The report notes salmon are still struggling, including Puget Sound Chinook, which are considered “in crisis”. The report discusses the challenges salmon face and why recovery is so important. The report provides a good overview of the state-wide salmon recovery effort, which is centered on local watershed-based recovery plans and partnerships like WRIA 8.
- **2023 WRIA 8 Grant Round** – The WRIA 8 annual process to allocate Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant funding is well underway. Notices of Intent (NOIs) were due on January 25<sup>th</sup>. This year, we reviewed NOIs and invited only those well aligned with our recovery strategies or Monitoring and Assessment and Outreach and Education priorities to submit full applications. The SRFB process is moving forward first, with four project proposals to review. Site visits were conducted on March 13, and the Project Subcommittee will meet on March 20 to prepare funding recommendations. Next up is CWM, with applications due March 22. We anticipate having 10 habitat projects, 11 Monitoring and Assessment projects, and 12 Outreach and Education Projects to review. Those presentations and site visits will occur over the next month or so. The Project Subcommittee will prepare funding recommendations and bring them to the Salmon

Recovery Council for approval in May. Contact Carrie Byron ([cbyron@gmail.com](mailto:cbyron@gmail.com)) for more information and application instructions.

- **WRIA 8 E-News** – The [February edition](#) of the WRIA 8 E-news included the following topics and updates: Information on Congressional approval of increased federal funding for Puget Sound recovery, media stories related to salmon, and announcements of recent funding opportunities and partner project and program updates. The next edition is scheduled for April. Please submit proposed topics to Renee Leichliter ([rleichliter@kingcounty.gov](mailto:rleichliter@kingcounty.gov)) by April 5.

## **WRIA 8 Committee Reports**

**WRIA 8 SRC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee meeting** – We are shifting meetings of the DEI Subcommittee from bi-monthly to meeting on an as-needed basis to enable more time for continued progress on actions already identified in our DEI Strategic Plan. Priority actions include continued engagement with the South-Central Local Integrating Organization's (LIO's) DEI project and program review; continued progress in DEI aspects of WRIA 8 grant rounds; and strengthening connections with partner DEI/ESJ initiatives.

**WRIA 8 Implementation Technical Committee** – The Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) met March 8. The meeting included news on 2023 WRIA 8 grant rounds and legislative updates. Next, Deb Pessoa and Chris Brummer, King County, presented two neighboring projects on the Cedar River – the Rutledge Johnson partial levee removal and the Jan Road levy setback followed by small group discussion of cross project coordination. Curtis DeGasperi, King County, presented a recent Lake Washington sediment coring study which provides information on water quality change in the lake over the past 150 years.

**WRIA 8 Technical Committee** – The Technical Committee will meet next in April to review CWM monitoring and assessment proposal presentations. The TC continues to meet bi-monthly, during months we do not meet as an ITC.

**Legislative Subcommittee** – The Legislative Subcommittee met on February 10 and March 3 to discuss the status of WRIA 8 legislative priorities, review proposed legislation related to salmon recovery, and to hear about two proposed budget provisos aligned with WRIA 8's priorities related to managing predation on salmon in Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish and addressing impacts from artificial light at night on salmon migration and survival. The Subcommittee recommended WRIA 8 support for the two budget provisos. The Subcommittee will continue to meet periodically and as needed during the 2023-2025 state legislative session to discuss emerging legislation and funding proposals to assess how they align with WRIA 8's priorities and recommend taking action in support.



## Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) 2023 Legislative Priorities Update

This memo provides an update on the status of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council's 2023 state and federal legislative priorities.

### State Priorities

#### General Legislative Session Updates:

- Session runs from January 9 – April 24
- Legislative cut-off dates: 2/17; 2/24; 3/8
- Anticipate proposed budgets from House and Senate soon after March 20 revenue forecast

#### 2023 Budget Highlights:

- Expect legislature to start appropriating funds from Climate Commitment Act (Natural Climate Solutions account) – for ecosystem resilience and carbon sequestration
- \$5.5M to Department of Commerce to provide technical and financial support to local governments to incorporate salmon recovery into comprehensive plans.
- Proposed budget provisos supporting WRIA 8 priorities:
  - \$1.4M budget proviso for managing predation on salmonids in Lake Washington (WDFW Operating Budget)
  - \$365,000 budget proviso supporting efforts to reduce impacts on salmon survival from artificial light at night (ALAN). The proposed proviso would build on a 2022 budget proviso supporting pilot work in Lake Sammamish and expand the effort into Lake Washington.
  - Potential budget proviso supporting increased investment in riparian habitat protection and restoration (status, approach, and amount TBD).

#### Proposed bills directly relevant to salmon recovery:

- **HB 1181** – Incorporating climate change in land use planning under GMA (~ last session's HB 1099 bill) (Status: Passed policy committee and fiscal committee)
  - Updates existing goals of the GMA and adds a climate change and resiliency goal.
  - Updates mandatory elements of the comprehensive plan to include climate change.
  - Adds a climate change and resiliency element to comprehensive plans.

- **HB 1378 / SB 5433** – Concerning the removal of derelict aquatic structures and restoration of aquatic lands (Status: Passed policy committee and fiscal committee)
  - Establishes a derelict structure removal program at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the removal of qualifying structures on state aquatic lands.
  - Directs DNR to submit projects to the Puget Sound nearshore credits program.
  - Directs DNR to establish a grant program for lessees of state-owned aquatic land who need financial assistance to comply with DNR's habitat stewardship measures for the protection of nearshore habitat.
- **SB 5104** – Puget Sound shorelines monitoring (Status: Passed policy committee and fiscal committee)
  - Directs Ecology to conduct a baseline photographic survey of Puget Sound marine shorelines including creating a comprehensive on-the-water view of the shoreline by June 30, 2024.
  - Tasks Ecology with updating marine surveys of Puget Sound shorelines on a two-year cycle.

**Salmon-related bills not moving forward and presumed “dead” for this session:**

- HB 1720 and HB 1215 – Concerning the protection and restoration of riparian areas through the establishment of a fully voluntary, regionally focused riparian grant program designed to improve the ecological functions of critical riparian management zones.
  - NOTE: Legislators may choose to incorporate some elements into the budget via a budget proviso.
- HB 1735 – Adding net ecological gain (NEG) as a voluntary element of comprehensive plans under the Growth Management Act (GMA).
- HB 1686 – Concerning Salmon Recovery Reform – forming a legislative committee focused on salmon recovery.
- HM 4000 – Memorializing 2019 as International Year of the Salmon
- SB 5517 – Enacting recommendations on water resource mitigation.
- HB 1076 – Voluntary integration of salmon recovery in comprehensive planning. Authorizes counties and cities to include an optional salmon recovery element within comprehensive plans adopted under GMA.

## Federal Priorities

Members of Congress solicited federal appropriations requests in mid-March. Based on the WRIA 8 Council's 2023 federal legislative priorities, WRIA 8 staff submitted the following requests:

- \$70 million for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funding program in Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. The PCSRF program is the primary federal funding for salmon recovery and supports annual grants for priority salmon habitat protection and restoration projects.
- \$1.5 million to the Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District to implement a Water Resource Development Act (WRDA)-authorized feasibility study of modifications to the Ballard Locks and Lake Washington Ship Canal including fish ladder improvements, and efforts to address elevated water temperature and low dissolved oxygen levels in the Canal.



## Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)

### 2023 Four-Year Work Plan Update

This memo provides an overview of proposed changes to WRIA 8's Four Year Work Plan for 2023. The 2022 Four Year Work Plan can be found [here](#). Puget Sound Lead Entities develop Four Year Work Plans to identify priority salmon recovery actions within their watersheds. These plans outline the current status of active salmon recovery projects and identify future actions proposed to occur in the next four years that are necessary to advance salmon recovery in each watershed. For WRIA 8, this list represents the highest priority salmon recovery projects that are aligned with our recovery strategies, and helps focus our limited resources toward projects on the list.

#### ***Added to Work Plan – Tier 1 Locations***

| Project Name (Location and Sponsor)                                                             | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Perrinville Creek Fish Passage and Estuary Restoration ( <i>Puget Sound – City of Edmonds</i> ) | Replace two undersized crossings (a railroad crossing at the creek's outlet into Puget Sound and a road crossing 500 ft upstream) and remove a third fish passage barrier (a diversion structure that carries high creek flows due to the undersized culvert at the outlet) on Perrinville Creek to address the barriers and restore estuary/stream habitats currently impacted by existing culverts. All three culverts to be addressed are total barriers within the lowermost 500 ft of the creek and represent the only three fish passage barriers in the creek. |

#### ***Added to Work Plan – Other***

| Project Name (Location and Sponsor)             | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Addressing Fish Passage Barriers in WRIA 8      | Address priority fish passage barriers through replacement or removal that have been identified through fish passage barrier prioritization efforts such as those conducted by King County or other jurisdictions. In addition, support the development of plans and prioritization schemes to facilitate capital planning for barrier removal. |
| Landowner Outreach and Behavior Change Programs | Support behavior change and outreach and education for key audiences including shoreline and streamside property owners which will result in enhanced stewardship of shoreline, lakeside, and streamside habitat.                                                                                                                               |