



WRIA 6 Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee Meeting

October 18, 2023

Member Participants: Kristin Marshall (SCD), Heidi (Tulalip), Todd Zackey (Tulalip, Co-Chair), Paul Williams(SWS), Barbara Brock (Citizen, Co-Chair), Fred Kiga, Kelly Zupich (MRC), Renee Zavas Silva (ICCAO), Jessica Cote; Kurt Schlimme (Land Trust), Alison Studley (SFEG), **Others:** Clea Barenburg (LE Coordinator), Jessica Reed(ICDNR), Lisa K and Jason (Northwest Straits),

Introductions & Presentations

PSP- No representatives at meeting. Reorganization and structure changes in progress. New organization chart expected mid-November. <https://www.psp.wa.gov/salmon-recovery-overview.php>

MRC- Climate Change and Sea level rise white paper draft updates shared. MRC looking for support from SRTCC. Kelly to send LE an updated version to share with the group. Hard Armoring inventory has started comparing hard armor change since 2016. Shoreline homeowners workshop a success in Oak Harbor. For more MRC info- <https://www.islandcountymrc.org/>

LE coordinator- LE coordinator has been attending monthly meetings the other Whidbey Basin LEs and sharing grant round projects and funding distribution information as well as comments on riparian funding allocations related to Riparian funding and distribution announcements this month. <https://stateofsalmon.wa.gov/>

Upcoming outreach at community events – Shoreline homeowner workshop completed and plan to hold again in the future at Oak Harbor Library. Nurturing Nature Children's hour at Oak Harbor Library with Salmon Life Cycle and Burke Box this Friday.

Whidbey Basin- Meeting to discuss preferences for new Riparian funding. Discussion on how we have shared priority areas. Discussion on complications when one LE group funds work in another LEs region.

WDFW update- Island County to get a new Biologist. Eventually the new person will be the one who is assigned to cover our area and serve on this committee. New riparian mapping from WDFW <https://apps.wdfw.wa.gov/salmonscape/map.html>

SFEG update- 2022 Race road design project moving forward with a site visit coming next week with the Engineer planned. <https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/NEWS-252-SalmonGrants.pdf>. Final draft completed of the Priority Area 2 Report(<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=19-1343>).

Administrative

The September meeting minutes were approved.

Discussion and Decisions

LEC shares SRFB Grant Round information to include dates and calendar. Information from Washington Salmon Coalition meeting attended this week with more slides and data to share at the next meeting. Island County Surface Water Quality team just finishing up the last water year and they have new sites for the new water year starting in October. Barbara requests information on sampling sites.

<https://www.islandcountymwa.gov/693/Surface-Water-Quality>

Sharing of new PSP funding tool- Puget Sound Partnership's Strategic Funding Team's [Funding Announcement Tool](#). Use the Connections tab to find others that are interested in collaborating on the same funding opportunity. There is a UW survey that will be coming out on how groups like ours use scientific research in decision making. Look for a future email on this topic.

2024 SRFB Grant Round – Review of timeline and RFP wording. LEC to send out timeline draft for committee review and comment with request for input on in person site visit dates, as soon as possible, for request to RCO. Some dates for meeting changed from the third Wednesday for June and July because of conflicts. This year is a SRFB, PSAR and PSAR large cap year with additional riparian funding opportunity. Kurt S. gave a review of the PSAR Large Cap funded project and the complexities of the Keystone project and how they received funding from many grants. Information on previous PSAR projects can be found here- <https://www.psp.wa.gov/PSAR.php>

Riparian funding discussion at the state level with allocation specifics being worked out at this time. Will they distribute an amount to each LE with WRIA 6 looking to receive 300K or more like 445K. Will there be 10% given to create a riparian plan? Riparian funding coming to 2024 grant round at least 300,000. Future project to host a workshop on information for sponsors on the upcoming grant round with San Juan County. More discussion on this next month. https://www.scc.wa.gov/programs/salmon-recovery-funding?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Lower Crescent Creek to receive Riparian funding from Skagit LE. We have areas in WRIA 6 that are on priority lists for other LE's in the Whidbey Basin. <https://www.skagitwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-Lead-Entity-Program-Guide-final-3.15.2023-1.pdf>

LE presented at the shoreline workshop at the library. Kelly shared more on the success of the workshop. LE to send RFP for review first by co-chairs. Draft for soliciting projects for 2024 SRFB and 2025-2027 PSAR funding with additional new 2023-2025 Riparian Funding. The amount of funding available to the Island Watershed is not yet known but is anticipated to be approximately \$1,292,000 to \$1,337,000 with the addition of the Riparian funds that may be \$300,000-\$445,000 so final total 1,592,000-1,782,000. Based on previous allocations, the range of funds expected is \$292,000 to \$337,000 for 2024 regular SRFB funded projects and up to \$1,000,000 for 2025-2027 PSAR funded projects. Projects for both the 2024 SRFB and 2025-2027 PSAR with new Riparian Funding will advance through the regular Lead Entity process and will be approved at the September 2024 SRFB meeting. The Island Lead Entity will also be accepting applications for the Puget Sound Partnership's 2025-2027 PSAR Large Capital Projects List. Large Capital Projects in the Island Lead Entity are those with budgets over \$800,000. Large Capital Projects are reviewed through the regular local process but are ranked by a regional committee.

SRTCC co-chair of Tulalip tribes update on grants they are applying for at the federal level. NOAA fish passage funding for work in other Whidbey Basin areas, not Island, around railroads.
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/restoring-fish-passage-through-barrier-removal-grants>

Snohomish Conservation District with CCC tide-gate feasibility and Preliminary Design update- Final report to be submitted this week. They wanted to continue to do outreach to community and get feedback for project
<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=18-1382.>

They reached out to the beach side community members that were not at the community meetings. They received 55 survey responses originally. They recently encountered a property owner that missed out on all of the meetings and information that was sent out previously. One person, in particular, became concerned about the project and started handing out his own information in the form of flyers. SCD received 11 calls about the flyer. Using local assessment funding to continue with outreach, at this time. The HOA has reached out to request a shore friendly visit for basic community education. <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/365/Shore-Friendly-Program>

Hope to get realistic information from planning, Army Corps and WDFW to help people understand the no option choice. People do not believe there are fish here and there is no ecological benefit possible there. Some people call about being suspicious about the flyer, with no author called out and concerns about spread of misinformation. SCD has reached out to get more professional facilitators and elevated conflict resolution specialists. If the HOA does nothing, no tide gate and no dredging, what will the situation look like? The last June meeting there was community support and HOA support and now a few people are causing concerns to come up.

Jessica C shares POC related to Point No Point with community misinformation. If groups don't want to fund salmon recovery in these important pocket estuaries, then how are we going to have salmon recovery projects? There will always be people who choose their own narrative no matter how much science or evidence is presented. Need to come up with a decision-making framework for who has the ability to say no to projects when not everyone is in agreement. The need for Puget Sound Estuary projects supports for funding when there are concerns in the community. We need examples of successes in the Puget Sound. Mathew points out that HOA has the legal rights to make decision and are property owner there. The HOA has supported project at the June meeting. WDFW has said there will not be a new dredging permit. The HOA is gathering information to share with the community on some basic facts. Their annual meetings are Sept and March. They need to bring this to a membership vote at some point, HOA looking at long range costs. LE asks for history of community outreach funding or SRTCC bringing in technical experts in the past? Jessica shares Greenbank experience and how it was a good learning experience. If HOA asks us for professional experience, we can look at support. NWSF provided a Shore Friendly site visit to the Country Club back in 2018 to assess feasibility of removing the bulkhead. Support for Shore Friendly working with the group again with focus on basic information on reality of permitting and scientific facts. They can bring in regional technical experts if needed. Jessica mentions maybe we need an all Island County outreach and education presentation, as so many property owners are confused. There are others who could be helped by this information like Maxwelton and or using HSIL grant funding opportunity

<https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov/habitat-sil-rfp/>

SCD would ask for a sub committee meeting on a future proposal before investing more time in a project to propose for SRFB funding. Todd mentions maybe we should bring in people from Greenbank. LE brings up the workshop recently completed that give shoreline homeowners a chance to hear a variety of presenters and get information and questions answered. Jessica mentions ESRP grant for embayment strategies that will give technical information for high level screening of feasibility of different embayment restoration projects.

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/habitat-recovery/nearshore/conservation/programs/esrp/restoration-grant>

Northwest Straits update on Polnell Point Armor removal project.

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=20-1146>

Two grants one planning from 2020 is expiring in a few months and then implementation grant that comes next. They are hitting road blocks on how to move forward and if it should move forward. Polnell was brought to the Northwest Straits as a good project in the salmon corridor with forage fish spawning area and one landowner. The Navy is not responding or working with them in a timely manner. The feasibility was started in 2021 and they still don't have a determination on what can be done here. Navy has had a change in management that is responsive but has brought up more hurdles. The cultural resources findings make it too difficult to access by the road and the only option will be to access by water. This requires the use of landing craft which will significantly increase the cost and doubling the cost of the project. There is also mention of a 5 year monitoring plan for cultural resources. There is concern with unexploded ordinances on the property. The new review group needs information from larger region and waiting to give feedback on what kind of team would be required to do the work related to unexploded ordinances. NWS is reaching limit on ability to continue the project. Lisa mentions concerns of MOA that could take up to a year to complete. There are only 2 months left on the first grant. They will need to ask for an amendment and then ask for an extension of the other as well as ask for cost increase overruns to include matching funds from other groups. SRFB and ESRP are two main funding sources for construction. The design is mostly SRFB. Fred asks if they have reached out to congressmen or state representatives to help with the Navy. Barbara asks about Cultural resources questions on sea level rise. Mathew asks about barges and Lisa mentions landing craft and barges options and what kind of work companies will do at different profiles. Jessica mentions how the spits have complications and nuances in working with the tides with landing craft preferable. Sand Lance spawning will narrow window of work significantly. Working with EOD will slow the project down. LE mentions request to RCO for cost overruns. Not sure of the cost of EOD and that information is needed to make any decision on moving forward. Once they know the cost they will have to either drop the project or ask for doubling project

costs and extensions on time. Barbra and Todd talk about cost benefit to work done and the need to know costs. NWS feel positive about the benefit but can't move forward without information and a response from the Navy. Does SRTCC think it is worthwhile to keep moving forward with the project? LE mentions that there has been contact with Navy starting to attend SRTCC meetings again. LE asks if a sub committee meeting should be set up? LE will reach out to Navy contacts to check on the status of the project. Would it help to have state representatives get involved? Should we set up a sub-committee meeting? Members will look into their information and contacts to see if we can get the information, we need to make decisions to move forward. Being able to work at larger scales is desirable and a good opportunity, but don't have time for these delays. Other entities contributed to these projects, and they can't continue to roll over funding, they can't keep extending. USFW and PMEP funding involved. Co-chair recommends giving it one more try. Turnover in all agencies has been the biggest problem. NWS interested in looking at riparian funds for previous restoration projects. Thanks to Kelly for her efforts at monitoring and maintenance of Hoopus and Cornet.

Upcoming Outreach and education-

- October 20th- [Nurturing Nature: Life Cycle of Salish Sea Salmon](#) 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM4 Friday
[Oak Harbor Library](#)
Event location: [Oak Harbor Library](#)
Join Island County Natural Resources staff and learn about the salmon cycle of life and connections with the long-standing traditions that are still practiced today by the Native American peoples of the Puget Sound region.

Information we will look at more carefully in November-

- Input on approving new members as well as input on predicting future projects and 4 year plans, SRTCC committee members please send input for future meetings. Review project development recruitment approach and acquisition priorities. Meeting adjourned a little after 4

SRTCC Upcoming Meetings 2023:

- November 15th, 2023 – 2:00-4:00 PM – Zoom
- December 20th, 2023 – 2:00-4:00 PM – Zoom
- **SRTCC meetings 2024 please review and comment and look for invitations in November**
- January 17th, 2024 - 2:00-4:00 PM - Zoom