



WR6 Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee Meeting

February 21, 2024

Member Participants: Jessica Côté (Blue Coast Engineering), Paul Williams (SWS), Kathleen Landel (Citizen), Todd Zackey (Tulalip, Co-Chair), Barbara Brock (Citizen, Co-Chair), Fred Kiga, Jeff Cordell, Lee Chavez, Ashley Kees and Hannah Booth (WDFW), Renee Zavas Silva (ICCAO), James Watson (WICD), Kelly Zupich (MRC), Kurt S (WCLT), Alison S (SFEG) **Others:** Clea Barenburg (LE Coordinator), Bridget K (RCO), Heidi Stewart (Tulalip), Lauren M (WCLT)

Introductions & Updates

- The January meeting minutes were approved. Membership update with Kathleen and Jeff set to be approved by BICC Feb 27th COG position to be discussed at COG meeting Feb 28th.
- Whidbey Basin Coordination- WR6 first site visits in the grant round. Stillaguamish the next week after. Snohomish and Skagit later.
- James of WCD has been helping cover the Shore Friendly position open here at DNR. Hope to have this filled in a few weeks. He shared information about upcoming project and planting for our area. Bountiful Buffers as a way to have more profitable situations for agriculture supporting riparian habitat. For more about this program see-
<https://snohomishcd.org/blog/2023/12/27/bountiful-buffers-farming-highlight>
https://www.whidbeycd.org/uploads/1/1/6/8/11683986/working_buffers_final.pdf
- Update on Oak Harbor Marina Salmon Rearing Project, a project that was restarted in 2022 where baby salmon are raised in pens in the marina until early May. Island and Skagit LE plan to visit. For more info see- <https://www.oakharbor.gov/704/Salmon-Rearing-Project>
- Recent event- LE was at table for Sound Waters University. For more information-
<https://soundwaterstewards.org/education-center/sound-waters-university/>
- MRC update and presentation coming in April on Cornet Juvenile Salmon survey from Northwest Straits- <https://nwstraitsfoundation.org/project/cornet-bay-nearshore-restoration/>
- ESRP updates with 2 WR6 projects submitted for the 2025-27 grant round. In 2022 Keystone (22-1157) approved. Maxwelton (22-1228) just missed the allocation and plans to apply again this year. To see the 2023-25 investment list see here- <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/2023-2025-esrp-investment-plan-fact-sheet.pdf>
- WASDOT update on fish passage and presentation this spring-
<https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/protecting-environment/fish-passage>
- Update from visit to Olympia and anniversary of the Boldt decision with upcoming Puget Sound day on the Hill in DC- <https://psdoh.org/> WDFW- <https://wdfw.wa.gov/newsroom/director-susewind-statement-50th-anniversary-us-v-washington-boldt-decision> Legislative Updates PSP-
https://www.psp.wa.gov/legislative_updates.php

- Sharing Comp Plan update and Shoreline Mater Plan updates- PSP checklist for planners- [Sound Choices Checklist – 2023 \(PDF\)](#)
- Project proposal updates – Northwest Straits withdrew their project for Hidden Beach as a delay result of DNR. <https://nwstraitsfoundation.org/project/hidden-beach-shoreline-restoration/>
- New funding with the riparian grant- SCC's [Riparian Grant Program \(RGP\)](#). Funding is available. for Washington conservation districts to restore and maintain riparian management areas.
- In the 2023 legislative session, revenues collected as a result of the [Climate Commitment Act](#) were appropriated to the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC). This program has been funded wholly by Climate Commitment Act associated funding. The Climate Commitment Act (RCW 70A.65) created a market-based program to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the next few decades. A portion of the revenues are directed into the Natural Climate Solutions Account and were distributed into several standing grant programs, including this riparian specific program.
- SRTCC members reviewed the criteria for project scoring received handbook in last email. Site visit itinerary-Final itinerary, WRIA 6 Grant Round Timeline and site visits details will be distributed to SRTCC Members at site visit, also found in handbook. Poll was sent out to make sure all committee members feel that the projects submitted meet the basic requirements. Poll results show support for all projects. BICC approved Salmon Recovery Plan 2005 and the 2019 Mulit-Species Salmon Recovery Plan Update 2019 We do have the 2019 one linked on the salmon page- <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3520>
<https://www.psp.wa.gov/salmon-recovery-watersheds.php#:~:text=barenburg%40islandcountywa.gov-,2005%20Island%20Chapter,-2019%20Island%20Chapter>
<https://pspwa.box.com/s/e0d2wolqet6mvh1s09tieuyqz0p3kjag>
- Site visits are on February 28th. Review of policy for technical committee members who can't attend site visits. There was a review of meet up times and coordinating sharing of cars for the sites with limited parking. Some site locations have been changing the meeting spot and parking availability. Start 8am plan to be back at 5:30pm. Look for poll with follow up meeting details and for carpool information. Bridget informed us that two staff will be joining us on the site visit- John G(SRFB Review Panel), Marnie T (SRFB Review Panel). Comments should be back to us at the end of March.
- Funding/SRFB -Reviewed the timeline of Grant Round. Snapshots of projects were included in the email sent out. Other information will be coming out in email prior to the site visits. Asked the sponsors if they have questions or other information to share based on previous comments from LOI review. Review priority area as seen on <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/651/Salmon-Recovery>
- PSAR Large Cap information- All pre-proposal materials must be submitted via PRISM as part of an online application or attached to the online application by April 10, 2024 at noon. A letter of support from the sponsoring Lead Entity Committee (technical, implementation, citizens, or executive body). Letters of support must verify the project sponsors' or project managers' abilities to manage a project of this scope and scale, including examples of successful project management of similar project(s), if applicable.

Full Proposal – Supplemental Materials For projects that have been invited to submit a full proposal after the pre-proposal review, completed applications include all materials required for an initial proposal as well as:

Supplemental materials must be submitted via PRISM by May 21, 2024 at noon.

- Sponsors report that some of the project proposals are changing as sponsors are submitting all of the required application paperwork. A reminder that project information and cost can and will change with feedback from SRTCC and Salmon Funding Board feedback. Reminder that projects with more collaboration with multiple groups are often more successful.

SRTCC 2024 projects for Salmon funding under review-

- Cultus Bay Private Fish Passage Project (Design and permitting) 280K with no match: Sponsors- Tulalip Tribes
<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1274>
- Double Bluff protection (Acquisition) 2.8M with 6.3 M match: Sponsors- Whidbey Camano Land Trust- <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1119>
- Race Road fish passage culvert replacements (Construction) 1.9 M with 15% match: Sponsors- Island County Public Works and Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group-
<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1117>
- North Livingston Bay Sherman addition to previous project (Acquisition) 400K with 6K match: Sponsors Whidbey Camano Land Trust-
<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1118>

See the SRTCC website for more information on the grant round-

<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/698/Salmon-Recovery-Funding-Board-SRFB-GRANT>

Additional information on the SRFB Grant Round process can be found on the [Salmon Recovery and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration](#) website

- Discussed the upcoming meeting on March 20th where the presentations of projects will be shared. LE will be sent out a poll for time preference of presentations. Request made to keep normal time. Poll majority supports keeping presentation meeting time at the normal time. Review funding as seen on website- <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/698/Salmon-Recovery-Funding-Board-SRFB-GRANT> All projects over 1 million dollars will be looking to Large Cap or Target Investment<https://www.psp.wa.gov/PSAR.php> for funding.
- Quick review of some past projects this committee has reviewed
 - Polnell Armor Removal
 - Hidden Beach Armor Removal
 - Kristoferson Culvert under E. Camano Drive
 - Middle Crescent Creek Restoration
 - [Race Road culvert replacement design](#)
 - Lower Crescent Creek Riparian restoration
 - [Livingston Bay acquisition and restoration](#)
 - Keystone Farm acquisition and restoration
 - Hoypus Point Armor Removal
 - Cornet and Hoypus riparian restoration
 - Culvert Prioritization List
 - Camano County Club restoration designs.
 - Seahorse Siesta Barge and Shore Armor Removal

Adjourn

- Elger Bay Estuary Protection
- Sunlight Shores Armor Removal
- Possession Point Protection
- Barnum Point Protections
- Kristoferson Culverts under Russell Rd and Barnum Rd
- Ala Spit Armor Removal and Beach Nourishment
- Maylor Point Armor Removal

Meeting ended 4:15 February 28th – Site Visits and March 20th – Virtual Presentations

- April 8-9 LE call with review panel if we have POC's
- April 15th Prescores due- email or Cognito end of day
- April 17th meeting SRTCC members who are also sponsors may participate in the pre scoring of all projects

Grant Round – Site visit attendance on Feb. 28th was- Member Participants: Jeff Cordell, Fred Kiga, Kathleen Landel, Jessica Cote, Kurt Schlimme Todd Zackey (Tulalip, Co-Chair), Eric Mickelson (SRSC), Barbara Brock (Citizen, Co-Chair), Ashley Kees and Hannah Booth (WDFW), Lela Chavez (WWS), Renee Zavas Silva (ICCAO), Mathew Lander (ICPW), Paul Williams (SWS), James Watson (WICD), Kelly Zupich (MRC). Others: Clea Barenburg (LE Coordinator), Jessica Reed (Watershed Planner IC DNR), Sage Ince and Carlie Miller (IC DNR), Marlies W and Jackelyn G (PSP), Bridget Kaminiski (RCO), Lauren M (Land Trust), Joseph Sambataro and Brett Shattuck (Tulalip) Marnie Tyler and John Gaffney (SRFB review).

WRIA 6 SRFB proposals – 2024 Site visits

Wednesday February 28, 2024

Lead Entity Coordinator- Clea Barenburg

Agenda-9:30-9:45 – Introductions (at Cultus Bay location) followed by presentation with view of breach, Double Bluff beach start at County Park Race Road site with walk to two culverts, and end on hill at Camano Marketplace with view of Livingston properties. Back to Coupeville at 5:30p

-Participants: Jeff Cordell, Fred Kiga, Kathleen Landel, Jessica Cote, Kurt S and Lauren M(WCLT), Todd Zackey (Tulalip, Co-Chair), Eric Mickelson (SRSC), Barbara Brock (Citizen, Co-Chair), Ashley Kees and Hannah Booth (WDFW), Lela Chavez (WWS), Renee Zavas Silva (ICCAO), Mathew L (ICPW), Paul Williams (SWS), James Watson (WICD), Kelly Zupich (MRC), Alison S., Jay K. and Yuki R (SSEG), Clea Barenburg (LE Coordinator), Jessica Reed (IC DNR), Sage Ince and Carlie Miller(IC DNR), Marlies W and Jackelyn G (PSP), Bridget Kaminiski (RCO), Lauren M, Joseph Sambataro and Brett Shattuck (Tulalip) Marnie T and John G (SRFB review), Marlies and Jacklyn (PSP).

Materials provided at introduction:

1. Blank Site visit comment sheet with room for comments and suggested fixes to concerns for members to fill out and return to LE.
2. Site visit itinerary, timeline, and directions with maps to locations.
3. Scoring Criteria worksheet with rubric and sheet to use at Pre-scoring.
4. Copy of An Immemorial Indigenous Presence-
5. Email with Poll sent out after the site visits for SRTCC members to send in critical comments and suggestions.

Onsite presentations

- Cultus Bay Fish Passage #24-1274 (Design and permitting) 280K with no match: Sponsors- Tulalip Tribes

Brett and Joe detailed their vision of how the project will work and some history of the site. The proposed project is to develop alternatives and designs to reconnect the inner estuary of Cultus Creek including tidal inundation and provide access for several ESU listed species by replacing a flap tidegate with a fish passable structure. Recently, 100 ft. of the dike and road where the gate was located, blew out from flooding. The dike/road provides access to a private house structure, and the landowners are motivated in working with Tulalip to come up with a solution to restore landowner access, enhance fish passage, and return natural processes for the inner estuary of Cultus Creek. Plans to work with a coastal engineer and the landowner to develop alternatives, including alternative access routes, a muted/self-regulated tide-gate, alternative crossing structure (bridge, etc.) and/or setback berm/dike design. After that, select a preferred alternative and complete permit ready preliminary (60%) designs. Questions on when the decision will be made that no- action is the better action? How much effort has been put into looking at alternate route? Timing of funding for this project is essential to keep amenability of landowners and implement the most fish friendly solution for Cultus Bay. Landowners may seek other solutions, including rebuilding the road/levee, emergency repair solutions and/or replacing it again with a flap gate as before if we are not able to work with them on the issue in the near term. The big step was starting communication after multiple years of attempts and there is motivation to keep the lines of communication open regarding this historically important area. Does the project plan for climate change? Can we see more sea level rise projections included in the alternative analyses and how these projections would affect the longevity of the proposed alternatives. How many properties are owned by this family is it around 12 parcels? Will there be community input or just property owner feedback on options? Certainty of success higher with tribal support. Tier 1 Strategy in Geographic Area 2.

- Double Bluff protection (Acquisition) 2.8M with 6.3 M match: Sponsors- Whidbey Camano Land Trust #24-1119

Kurt shared WCLT prioritization of this iconic bluff associated with a community park and conversation points included in the proposed public access. Public access to stay available on the beach with plans to investigate connections on the upland trails. Question on how much development could be done on property. The constraints of access on property and critical areas limits development. The Double Bluff property is 257 acres of undeveloped forestland with 3,500 feet of iconic Double Bluff-backed shoreline plus the 17-acre Oliver Lake with a stream that flows to Deer Lagoon and associated riparian habitat. The Double Bluff property would be acquired and owned by the Land Trust for permanent protection of habitat and with the intention of providing public access to an established trail network. This is an important opportunity to protect an exceptional feeder bluff with associated beach that supports intertidal kelp and eelgrass beds that provide migratory habitat for salmon. Bluff listed as high importance for sediment, especially in Island county with more privately owned waterfront and additions of bulkheads to this area. The Double Bluff property has long been one of the Land Trust's top conservation priorities due to the size of the ownership and the long stretch of natural shoreline, along with about 25 acres of vegetated bluff and buffer. Project plans for climate change with protecting bluff shoreline and avoiding development. Likelihood of success with Land trust proven recently with Keystone. The project addresses one of the top priorities of the WRIA 6 (Island) Multi-Species Salmon Recovery Plan - protection of natural marine shoreline and processes. The property is the centerpiece of the Land Trust's Double Bluff Priority Area. The project would include the acquisition of 6 parcels.

Whidbey Camano Land Trust will be applying for funding through multiple sources including Puget Sound Partnership's Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program (PSAR) Large Capital Project program and ESRP Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/habitat-recovery/puget-sound/esrp>. Would this be a good fit for riparian funding? How many acres of riparian around shoreline, wetlands, streams and lake? Is it 50 percent riparian and shoreline? See appendix L of Manual 18 for riparian criteria. Shoreline acquisition is allowed with riparian funding but needs to be less than 50% uplands. Must follow Manual 3. Multi-Species Salmon Recovery Plan - protection of natural marine shoreline and processes. Exceptional bluff rated high for protection and importance for sediment transport as well as forage fish should be highlighted. Highlight the diversity of habitat types included on the property and restoration of ecosystem function. The project site is located in geographic salmon priority areas 2 and part of 3 Tier 1 priority- protect natural marine shorelines and processes. Provide links to information on salmon in that area. Tier 1 priority- protect and restore functional riparian vegetation.

- Race Road Fish Passage Culverts phase 2 (Permitting and Construction) 1.9 M with 15% match #24-1117

Part 2 of request. Many had visited the site in 2022 when project was first reviewed and now after preliminary design request for permitting and construction. Question with potential cultural resources complications. Cultural resources was completed with Phase I and there were not concerns. Island County Public Works has been working with the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group to replace two fish barrier culverts, culvert 1893 and 1894, under Race Road near Coupeville. Removal of these fish passage barriers will open up critical rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids including ESA-listed Threatened Chinook, pink, coho, and chum salmon. These two coastal streams drain to Race Lagoon which has been identified as important pocket estuary habitat for out-migrating salmon from the Skagit, Stillaguamish, and Snohomish Rivers. Pocket estuaries and small coastal streams such as these provide important feeding, resting, and refuge habitat as juvenile salmon transition from freshwater to saltwater habitat. These culverts were identified in the Culvert Prioritization Inventory conducted by SFEG and Island County in 2021 during which time a Chinook smolt was found in the stream above culvert #1893. In addition, SFEG has been working with local landowners who are open to additional wetland and riparian restoration upstream of these culverts. This grant would fund the final design and construction of two fish passable structures at culverts 1893 and 1894, as well as remove the privately owned barrier (RFEG053) immediately downstream of #1894. Fish passage barrier removal is one of the most rapid and cost-effective ways of increasing the amount of accessible habitat for salmon. There are 3 unnatural fish passage barriers upstream of #1893. The first one is 67% passable the second one is 33% passable and the 3rd is 0% passable to adult salmon according to a Level A analysis. There is one barrier culvert downstream of #1894 on private property (RFEG053). It is a barrier due to slope. It is a foot crossing and has been designed for removal as part of this project. 0.2 miles upstream of #1894 are a cluster of 4 private driveway culverts that are all 100% barriers. Questions about how many landowner acknowledgments are needed. Is there full support of all landowners and are they supportive of alternate access? Is there a potential for native plantings? This project did receive mini-grant from SRTCC for community outreach and native planting plan. What are alternatives for property owner to access all areas if bridge removed? In the Habitat and Fish Use of Pocket Estuaries in The Whidbey Basin and North Skagit County Bays, 2004 and 2005 report, Race Lagoon was listed as accessible to Chinook from the Skagit, Stillaguamish and Snohomish rivers. The Juvenile Salmon and Nearshore Fish Use in Shallow Intertidal Habitat Associated with Race Lagoon, 2006 and 2007, report found Chinook in Race Lagoon in all years where seining took place as well as other salmonid species, predominantly chum and pink. It would be good to highlight upstream restoration potential in the future. This project considers sea level rise and climate change in design. Likelihood of success high with support of SFEG, tribes and County public works. Feedback from 2022 was incorporated and groups consulted all through the design process. Highlight this group input and adaptation. Top culvert replacements in the Island County Culvert Prioritization report (PRISM #19-1343) Tier 1 strategy in priority area 2.

- North Livingston Bay Sherman property (Acquisition) 400K with 6K match #24-1117

This property unites and fills in the gap of property recently purchased with funds from Livingston Phase 1. Property acquisition of all parcels needs to be completed first before restoration of greater area. Phase one looked at restoration options and the preferred option is for full restoration. Going with the long view of trying to own the larger goal for acquisition of largest area for restoration. Work to be done within 5 years. Working with the Tulalip tribes to manage lands. How will ownership change? Parcel is next to WSDOT land and Tulalip property as well as Community Association. This project will involve the purchase of the 15.7-acre Sherman property, connecting 127 acres of adjacent land protected by the project sponsors in 2023 using funding from SRFB, ESRP, and National Coastal Wetland Conservation grant program. Acquisition of the property will move this former estuary a step closer to future restoration. This acquisition will also build off large scale protection that has been done at Livingston Bay/Port Susan Bay, including 3,218 acres of tidelands protected by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, nearly 4,000 acres protected by The Nature Conservancy, and an additional 13,000 acres managed by WA Department of Fish and Wildlife. The tidelands at Livingston Bay are identified in the Island County Salmon Recovery Plan as a top priority for protection as they are utilized by juvenile salmon and adults during their migration to and from the Stillaguamish River. Protection of the diked farmlands and historic tidally influenced estuary will protect the potential for future process-based restoration efforts prioritized by the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP). This plan incorporates future sea level rise and climate change. Likelihood of completion high. This nearshore project will provide secondary benefits to migratory birds, including large numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds that depend on coastal habitats. More than 30 species of shorebirds commonly use this area during migration or wintering. Between 65-

90% of Puget Sound winter populations rely on Livingston Bay/Port Susan Bay for forage and shelter. The initial feasibility study was completed in 2022 and presentations can be found in PRISM 20-1461. Some in this group would like to see the presentation on potential restoration ESA presentations. Riparian funding could be option. It looks like 50% of parcel would meet riparian, see Manual 18 appendix L. Acquisitions were recently completed for the parcels on either side of this one. Tier 1 strategy in geographic priority area 1.

Final Comments

- Questions on Riparian funding- This program has been funded in part or wholly by Climate Commitment Act associated funding. The Climate Commitment Act (RCW 70A.65) created a market-based program to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the next few decades. A portion of the revenues are directed into the Natural Climate Solutions Account and were distributed into several standing grant programs, including this riparian specific program. Funding comes with additional reporting, assessment, and tribal consultation requirements. Riparian Funding- This program has been funded in part or wholly by Climate Commitment Act associated funding. The Climate Commitment Act (RCW 70A.65) created a market-based program to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the next few decades. A portion of the revenues are directed into the Natural Climate Solutions Account and were distributed into several standing grant programs, including this riparian specific program. Funding comes with additional reporting, assessment, and tribal consultation requirements. Target investment is also funded in part or wholly by Climate Commitment Act associated funding. The Climate Commitment Act (RCW 70A.65) created a market-based program to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the next few decades. A portion of the revenues are directed into the Natural Climate Solutions. PSAR and Target Investment Funding comes with additional reporting, assessment, and tribal consultation requirements.

The only suggestion from the Review Panel for the general “take home” phase of the conversation was to encourage more accuracy for measurable objectives. The armoring report of Island County recently worked on by MRC should be considered in protecting shoreline. The Review Panel understood that the shortened time frame made scheduling a challenge and suggested the Lead Entity ask to go later in the grant round to give time for all sponsor materials to be submitted and more time for planning on site visit locations and agenda. Returned the comment that this was a unique grant round with surprising proposals that were not predictable and needed to be acted upon quickly as well as new grant funding types.

Adjourn Next meetings: March 20th – Zoom - Draft comments for projects based on site visits and Virtual presentations. Come to meeting with Critical Questions!
