



WRIA 6 Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee Meeting

August 21st, 2024

Member Participants: Jessica Côté, Paul Williams (SWS), Fred Kiga, Kathleen Landel, Barbara Brock (Citizen, Co-Chair), Jeff Cordell, Lee Chavez, Kelly Zupich (MRC), Mathew Lander (ICPW), Kurt Shlimme (WCLT), James Watson, Eric Mickelson, Hannah Booth **Others:** Clea Barenburg (LE Coordinator), Heidi Stewart (Tulalip), Brittany Ahmann (Sound Salmon Solutions), John Lovie (presenter)

Introductions & Updates

Minutes approved from July.

John Lovie presented an update of Saratoga Creek Salmon recovery grant application. The grant they applied for was not the intended source for funding as understood but RCO felt it was worthwhile. They encouraged reapplication but could not do this type of project for this particular grant. The City of Langley will not re-apply for the next funding as they are busy with their latest housing project. LE has added project into the Salmon Recovery Portal. Intent of grant was for Salmon recovery into Comprehensive plans. Langley City staff will be supportive if others want to take up where they left off.

Mathew asks about mini grants for habitat assessments for that creek. Could a mini grant be used for a biologist to complete required habitat assessment? Mathews asks about what size culvert would be needed. There had been discussions about the need for a bridge at road location. Reminder that Island County does not have a bridge program. James mentions he could do a habitat assessment and he has been learning more about the Riparian funding available for the Conservation Districts-

<https://www.scc.wa.gov/programs/riparian-grant-program>

ILIO and Surface Water Quality team received PIC funding and are attending a workshop today off island. The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) is pursuing a new LIO Target Setting Pilot Project in 2024, in partnership with the WA Department of Health (DOH) and the LIOs to help drive meaningful improvements to Onsite Septic System (OSS) management across Puget Sound. The goal of this work is to focus on persistent barriers and resource gaps Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) face, as there have been many programs and funding opportunities in the past with little change over time-

<https://progressindicators.pugetsoundinfo.wa.gov/>

MRC- Recently conducted a survey on hard armoring and change over time with percentage of permitted and unpermitted work in Island County. Report is under review by Island County planning department. Hopefully will be up on MRC website soon- <https://www.islandcountymrc.org/>

Whidbey Basin LE's recently applied for SIL grant to Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead program capacity grant to update data bases for shared goals- <https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov/habitat-strategic-initiative/>

Outreach/Events- Baby Salmon live here with Sound Water Stewards on Camano-

<https://soundwaterstewards.org/our-work/education-projects/baby-salmon-live-here/> Barbara , Brittany and Clea attending and helping host events. Coming up the SWQ team will be at the SWS event this weekend at Kristoferson Beaver Marsh. <https://snohomishcd.org/blog/2018/9/11/salmon-information-for-kristoferson-mythbusters-edition>

Reviewed upcoming meetings with September site visit with Land Trust at Keystone and October presentation by the Tulalip Tribe on fish passage priority mapping.

Past Projects- Construction has been completed on Can ku culvert replacements. Island County Public works received salmon recovery funding for this drainage project that provides for the improvement of Island County Culverts #1300 and #1301, for upgrading the existing plastic culverts with a 14-foot-wide concrete box culvert, and restoration of the site to provide fish habitat. Barbara quoted-

https://www.goskagit.com/scnews/east-camano-construction-nears-completion-improving-salmon-passage-in-kristoferson-creek/article_648889a0-5683-11ef-b6ce-0f2c50b2821c.html?utm_source=goskagit.com&utm_campaign=morning-headlines&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headline

Press release-
<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=105>

SRFB and Brian Abbot Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board at Can Ku Road and Shumway Road. Kristoferson and snapshot for project-

<https://secure.rcow.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=19-1578>

Discussion

-Discussed Tulalip Fish Passage Coordination [tool](#) and how we may use this in future ranking. Strategy to look at projects above blocked mouths of streams. October presentation on this tool from Tulalip scientist. The fish barriers are in the South Whidbey Basin (Tulalip U&A) and are in the Stillaguamish and Snohomish County; as well as parts of island county. The strategy is open for comment – please see it at the following link: [Tulalip Prioritization Tool and Coordination/Implementation Strategy](#)

The web map tool that is currently also undergoing review but you can find it here: [Tulalip Prioritization Tool Web Map](#)

Reports to use for evaluating projects priority streams for culvert replacement.

Area 1

[Island County Fish Passage Barrier Inventory-](#)

<https://secure.rcow.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=14-1015>

Area 2

[Final Island County Fish Passage Barrier Inventory report.pd.pdf](#)

[Island County Culvert Prioritization - Area 2 \(19-1343\)](#)

Area 3

https://wildfishconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Whidbey_Final_Report-1.pdf

[West Whidbey Nearshore Fish Use Yr 2 2005 \(Wild Fish Conservancy, Completed\)](#)

Reports to use for evaluating projects priority for Acquisition-

[WRIA 6 Nearshore Acquisition Prioritization Framework Report](#)

Nearshore Fish Use- The greatest impact to nearshore habitats along the west coast of Whidbey Island is from dikes and tidegates that restrict tidal access to marsh habitats in Cultus Bay, the Maxwellton Creek estuary, Deer Lagoon, and Mutiny Bay. Additionally, residential development has contributed to the direct loss of coastal salt marsh lagoon habitat in Cultus Bay, the Maxwellton Creek estuary, Deer Lagoon, Mutiny Bay, Bush Point, and Lagoon Point.

Funding/SRFB -Reviewed the timeline of Grant Round and the latest updates on projections of funding numbers. SRFB review panel funding allocation approval at September 24 and 25th meeting.

SRTCC 2024 projects for Salmon funding under review- all projects have had changes/ cost adjustments since start of grant round.

-Race Road fish passage culvert replacement- (condition)met condition to go down to one culvert cost went down. Ranked 3rd plan to fund with PSAR half from Island and half from Skagit
<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1117>

-Double Bluff protection (Needs More Information) now cleared – scored well on large cap list but ranked 3rd for us. Looks to be likely funded by Large CAP PSAR not Island allocation
<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1119>

-North Livingston Bay Sherman (cleared) – cost increase with survey showing more land ranked number 1 to be covered with Riparian funding and regular grant round SRFB funding
<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1118>

-Cultus Bay Private Fish Passage Project(conditioned) met condition- conditioned with presenting broad scope ranked second and to be funded with remaining SRFB and PSAR Island allocation
<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1274>

See the SRTCC website for more information on the grant round-
<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/698/Salmon-Recovery-Funding-Board-SRFB-GRANT> or found on the [Salmon Recovery and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration](#) website

-Ranking results with Livingston project highest, with Cultus next, then Double Bluff and Race tied for 3rd slot. Sherman to be allocated Riparian funding and SRFB yearly amount. Cultus will be allocated remaining SRFB with PSAR funding. Race will be funded half with Skagit LE funding and half of Island funding. Double bluff should be covered with Large Cap. There are 5 funding sources available through the lead entity this year:regular SRFB allocation – available fall 2024, regular PSAR (small projects)- available fall 2025, Riparian Program – Fall 2024 , PSAR Large Cap, and Targeted Investment (TI). We have 4 projects approved by SRFB to allocate funding to this year, which has not happened since 2018.

The Double Bluff WRIA 6 project is going for the PSAR Large CAP funding, as WRIA 6 LE allocation is not enough to cover requests. Double Bluff ranked in the top 5 for Puget Sound in Large Cap out of 9 projects now and ranked top 2 of Target Investment list- <https://www.psp.wa.gov/PSAR-CCA.php> ESRP updates with WRIA 6 project submitted and accepted for the 2025-27 grant round- Whidbey Camano Land Trust Double Bluff from ESRP (Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program)24-1200 with more information here- <https://rco.wa.gov/grant/estuary-and-salmon-restoration-program/>

The other WRIA 6 project going for Skagit grant round should be approved and funded by their committees-Maylor Marsh Enhancement – looks to be fully funded
<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1734>

Discussed Planed Project Forecast List and the 4-year workplan. Review of TIP and CWU as well as Parks proposed projects. Swantown tide gate replacement is actively being permitted. Swantown has not had success with grants or support for salmon funding with type of project proposed. Other projects have been proposed for grants in the past that are on this list and have not been successful. Talk of Chapman Creek and house over mouth of the stream, just one of many of Island Counties streams like this. Public works is replacing a fish passage culvert on Chapman creek at this time. From press release- On Tuesday September 3, 2024, Island County and Konnerup Construction, Inc. will begin construction for the improvement of drainage facilities for fish passage at Chapman Creek crossing of Chapman Road on Camano Island. Commissioner St. Clair shared that- Virtual Town Hall coming soon, Oct 3rd, to learn more about the intersection between stormwater management and Salmon Recovery! Other maps to review where work is needed on fish passage: WASDOT- <https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction->

planning/protecting-environment/fish-passage WDFW
<https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/hp/fishpassage/index.html>

Govenors Salmon Recovery Office contacted WRIA 6 as they are working on an effort to understand the status of fish passage barrier inventories/prioritization processes across the state and the status of the WDFW Fish Passage Barrier Database. This effort has two goals 1) have this information on hand when engaging with WDFW on their fish passage prioritization strategy and 2) to assess the status of monitoring and prioritization of barriers in each region. Maps were reviewed recently with LE.

Cramer review, Jessica's organization has provided comments on this, especially related to beach strategies and this Cramer project has many errors for Island County. Mathew shares that there are problems with the WDFW barrier map because anyone can upload information on this map and it is often inaccurate. In 2015 there was a barriers analysis on Camano.

<https://wdfw-hub.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e34a3dd15fee4abf93ddfa910beb449a>

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3729f0c7207d48dea3171d627b4940f9>

Washington has developed a statewide fish passage strategy to fix the state's fish migration barriers.
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/habitat-recovery/fish-passage/assessment>

Statewide fish passage prioritization strategy-WDFW kicked off an effort in summer 2023 to develop a [comprehensive statewide strategy](#) outlining an approach to prioritize the removal of small-scale barriers that prevent salmon and steelhead from swimming upstream.

Eric shared information on the Skagit SRC GIS tool- <https://skagitcoop.org/wp-content/uploads/Mickelson-2024-Estimating-habitat-above-Skagit-Basin-fish-passage-barriers-A-GIS-tool-to-support-restoration-planning.pdf>

Island County Public works website- Clean Water Utility (CWU-no fee and TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan) and Parks work plan. Projects of interest and reviewed by SRTCC in the past include Tide gates like Swantown and Marshal, Boat ramp at Mutiny Bay looking at pier that can turn into a boat ramp, there is a design for Carp creek drainage, Freeland Park soft shore armoring, Cavalero bulkhead replacement.<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/agendacenter/board-of-county-commissioners-work-sessions-5/?#06122024-770> see list-
<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2947/2023-2028-TIP-and-CWU-Budgets---Combined?bidId=>

Other items recently talked about: Green Crab- <https://wsg.washington.edu/crabteam/greencrab/>
Shellfish safety map- <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/biotoxin/biotoxin.html> **Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead Fall Forum** - Planning for sea level rise and climate related hazards to nearshore habitat in Puget Sound. October 24 - October 25, 2024, in Lynwood, WA. Learn more and register [HERE](#).

September 18th Keystone Site visit October 16th Tulalip mapping presentation

Meeting adjourned a little before 4pm