



# Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee Meeting

Mar 17, 2021

Member Participants: Barbara Brock (Citizen, Co-chair), Paul Marczin (WDFW), John Lovie (Citizen), Tom Vos (SWS), Jon Decker (WCLT), Jessica Côté (Blue Coast Engineering), Tim Hillman (Citizen), Carson Moscoso (SnoCD), Rick Baker (WWS), Eric Mickelson (SRSC)

Others: Dawn Spilsbury Pucci (LE Coordinator), Ann Prusha (IC DNR), Lori Clark (IC DNR), Laura Rivas (PSP), Hannah Liss (IC DNR)

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## Introductions & Updates

- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has assigned a replacement for Jamie Bails and a new member who will be attending our meetings and may become more involved in the future.
- Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Salmon Recovery Conference Registration: please let Dawn and Ann know if you are interested in attending by March 25.
- Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)
  - On March 2, the winter/spring near term action (NTA) reporting window opened. All NTA managers with actions in the 2018-2022 Action Agenda should log into the [Action Agenda Tracker](#) and submit their semiannual status updates by Wednesday, March 31, even if there has been no progress since the last report.
  - Save the Date! Puget Sound Days On The Hill will be held as a virtual event on Fridays from 1:00-2:30 pm (Pacific Time) April 23 - May 21. Additional notes will be provided prior to each session. PSP plans to discuss Puget Sound (PS) restoration and protection, salmon recovery efforts, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and infrastructure, among other topics. They will announce registration information soon. See [here](#) for the most up to date information.
  - The Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) is meeting March 25 for their regular meeting and March 26 for a retreat and focused discussion on Puget Sound habitat restoration investments. For general information on SRC activities go [here](#).
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Justice Grants
  - [Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving \(EJCPS\) Cooperative Agreement Program](#)'s total estimated funding for this opportunity is approximately \$3,200,000. EPA anticipates awarding two cooperative agreements of \$160,000 each within each of the 10 EPA Regions. To learn more about pre-application assistance calls and how to apply for funding, follow the link above.
  - [Environmental Justice Small Grants \(EJSG\) Program](#) estimates approximately \$2,800,000 will be awarded to approximately five applications per EPA region in amounts of up to \$50,000 per award. This

includes the EPA's [Ports Initiative](#) program which anticipates funding up to six additional projects that address clean air issues at coastal and inland ports or rail yards. To learn more about pre-application assistance calls and how to apply for funding, follow the link above.

- Applicants interested in **either opportunity** must submit proposal packages on or before May 7, 2021 to be considered for the available funding. Applicants should plan for projects to begin on October 1, 2021.
- Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO) is focusing on environmental justice (EJ), and is incorporating this into the Ecosystem Recovery Plan (ESR) update. ILIO wants to do this in a meaningful way; more than just checking a box. Lori sent out an [article](#) about operationalizing this as a conceptual idea and how to enhance engagement. Dawn will send this article to the group. Lori and Dr. David Trimbach are looking at data for understanding underrepresented populations, especially around climate change. For the Lead Entity (LE), we want to reach people who do not have a voice in order to give them a voice.
- Island County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) is hosting a Shore Friendly webinar tonight – see details in the newsletter if you are interested.
- Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD) staff have limited capacity right now due to staffing shortages.
- Funding/Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB): No updates.
- There was a suggestion to visit [King County's Equity and Social Justice page](#) and their [Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard page](#). Although this is in the solid waste division, they have several shoreline parcels. They provide some great trainings to their contractors and consultants, and IC might be able to sit in on them.
- Projects
  - Seahorse Siesta is finished!
  - Camano Country Club – Kristin Marshall from Snohomish Conservation District (SnoCD) will be giving an update next month.
  - The Crescent Creek reconfiguration will be going into construction soon.

## Administration

- Dawn has reached out to a coastal infrastructure business to gauge interest in the open Business seat but hasn't heard back yet.
  - Island County (IC) seat – Alex Plumb from Public Works would be a good fit when she has more capacity.
  - Mini Grant update
    - Some of this funding can be rolled over into the next grant cycle, and we are better off with \$30k instead of \$40k because of this. There will still be a cap of \$10k per project.
    - The proposal was sent to Keith Higman, Director of Island County Public Health. He has some questions about logistics, and believes we should take it to the BICC in 1 on 1 meetings.
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## Project Comments

As of this year, comments and questions are input directly in PRISM.

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Questions/ comments/concerns:

- 1) The work done has answered questions that were present last year which has increased the certainty of success.
- 2) Concrete foot – If there is any barge work on nearby projects in the future, maybe the footing could be removed at that time.
- 3) Will there be volunteering opportunities (such as with planting)? If yes, please add a note to the application.
- 4) Thank you for continuing work with WA State Parks on the potential for interpretive signage.

### Polnell

- 1) The LE Committee recognized that this project is not easily reviewed due to the delay in preliminary design but we encourage the Review Panel to permit this project to move forward at this time, conditioned if need be. The SRFB dollar request is very low and the project mechanics are straight forward (removal of armor with no private property around). This sponsor has experience with this project throughout North Sound.
  - 2) USN capacity support still remains a concern but is not solvable by the sponsor. However, we are encouraged that other sponsors working with the Navy have seen recent improvements due to staff being brought back off deployment.
  - 3) What is the contingency plan for this project if it is approved but the USN can/will not respond in time to requests from sponsor?
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## SMP Draft Proposal Review

- Review proposed changes
  - IC Planning received a grant from Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to bring the Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) code into alignment with state code. It is on a tight timeline; the grant expires in June. It also involves fixing ambiguous and inconsistent code. They have been able to hold line on regulations that would be more permissive (to not let them be more permissive). A lot of this has to do with canal and historical beach communities that have been grandfathered in as exceptions. For some, the best thing is to go to the BICC to review inconsistencies.
  - Mapping and sea level rise (SLR) prep
    - Mapping: They hired a consultant (The Watershed Company) to determine if there are any wetlands classified as freshwater that should be saltwater, and vice versa. They looked at 23 different sites. There is some scope for having a bigger conversation with Public Works around mapping.
    - SLR: Counties are supposed to consider climate change but there is not a real imperative to take it on. They are looking at developing best management

- practices (BMPs) for SLR adaptation particularly for bluffs, canal communities, and historic beach communities.
      - This would include community-based planning; talking to and working with people who live in communities to develop resiliency, particularly vulnerable communities, to develop a SLR framework.
      - This is the start. ILIO, LE, and MRC need to work with these community members and do a good job. When there's a broader base of support, you can make change from there; you can't drive change from the code.
      - FEMA funds have not been addressed yet; the SLR discussion will be in April.
      - IC Planning may need to focus on other things, but we need to be sure to pick this up as a community so we are ready to update at the next code revision.
    - There was a comment that, with Shore Friendly work, a goal is to try to reduce the number of beach access points and to communicate about multi-parcel or congregated access. This helps to avoid repetitive repairs of structures and debris in water.
- Draft feedback
  - When the dust has settled, we need to have a joint meeting with Planning, ILIO, and MRC about how to take this forward. Lori and John also want to build in EJ elements, so we also need to do more work in that area.
    - Lori, Dawn, Ann, and Laura had a conversation regarding co-hosting a large meeting about collaboration and leveraging each other's work. This could be part of that meeting as well.
    - Lori requested that Laura check if this forum could be used as an LIO task, to use funds for a local partner outreach forum. Laura will check, but believes it would.

## SRC Retreat

Lead entities have been asked by the SRC Executive Committee to answer a couple of questions (bold below) for their upcoming discussion at their retreat.

SRFB has initiated a program called targeted investment; if they receive a lot of funds, once they've given LE's the base amount, the rest will be put into one or two big projects. There has been recognition that some of the bigger projects have needed more funding, and it's possible that we are not seeing an uptick in fish because big projects are not getting implemented. It might be worth it to work as a watershed or larger region than a county. We have intentionally collaborated with other LE's in the past at the watershed level.

Dawn encouraged group to be bold in answering the questions below. If you believe the money we've spent would be better spent elsewhere, say so. If you believe we need to keep this funding, say so.

**Are you doing the right projects for salmon recovery in the right places? What is the biggest challenge(s) in bringing forth priority projects for funding in your LE?**

- Response
  - LEs can be around river watershed boundaries, rather than political boundaries. This way, the funding will gravitate towards populations that have the biggest impact.

Regional collaborations between LE's should be encouraged. We can be more intentional on collaborating between LE's in watersheds.

- We are doing the best projects that we have landowner permission to do within the timeline of the grant round. There are higher value projects that are not achievable because of land owner willingness, political will/perception, and flood risk increase to neighboring properties.
- We do question if these are the most regionally significant projects for salmon recovery. We would like to explore more intentional collaboration with Skagit, Snohomish, and Stillaguamish. We would also like to retain control of those conversations and decisions locally. We want to ensure a voice for the nearshore is not lost in the large estuary conversations.
- Challenges
  - There are challenges to recovery of population change between north and south populations. Limiting factors are different watershed to watershed.
  - Surrounding land use around Embayments makes them very difficult to restore (agricultural land, homes/wells/septic). Restoration of Embayments involves a huge visual change that is harder to convince people to support. They are still very valuable in supporting the fry migrant life history type.
  - There is no state-wide plan to manage sea-level rise in low lying communities. Often these communities are in or nearby the potential high value projects.
  - We need to fund what is feasible now, but also need to consider what needs to/could be done in the future. We need to know when to move presently or wait for SLR to achieve inundation or to reduce land values.
  - Sometimes a large project requires incremental implementation but salmon money will not cover a step if it isn't directly benefitting salmon, even if the overall project will.

**Tell us about a high priority project that got away or couldn't get done and why it couldn't be completed.**

- Livingston Bay (2012) – Property owner willingness. Lack of flexibility for SRFB funding.
  - Iverson – Property owner willingness. Lack of certainty of results/success.
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## Adjourn

April – Pre-scoring, Conflict of Interest declaration, CCC Update from SnoCD

May – Final scoring