



WRIA 6 Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee Meeting

April 24, 2023

Member Participants: Jessica Côté (Blue Coast Engineering), Tom Vos (SWS), Doug Kelly (Citizen), Todd Zackey (Tulalip, Co-Chair), Eric Mickelson, Barbara Brock (Citizen, Co-Chair), Fred Kiga, Scott Chaplin, Lee Chavez, Ashley Kees (WDFW), Matthew Lander (ICPW), Renee Zavas Silva (ICCAO), Tom Vos, James Watson (WICD) **Others:** Clea Barenburg (LE Coordinator), Jessica Reed (Watershed Planner IC DNR),

Introductions & Presentations

Meeting is called to order and introductions begin

PSP- staff turnover and Matt attending meeting for Hannah

LIO – Clea covering LIO and new coordinator to start next month. Shellfish SIL liaison assigned to the committee but note exact person yet.

MRC- upcoming projects to conduct a similar survey to that done by the friends of the San Juans on hard armoring and change over time with percentage of permitted and unpermitted work. San Juans found less than 10% permitted. See information at end of minutes.

Todd Zackey and Barbara Brock approve minutes, Lee Chavez moves to approve, and no one opposes.

-Clea reports that final Ranking meeting will be on May 17 and Clea will send poll out to determine best way to schedule meeting.

- Whidbey Basin funding – see information and updates section at end.
 - Barbara Brock – are there specific projects that are being funded by the Whidbey basin studies?
 - Eric – has one project that he knows of
 - Clea – links within links to find project details, announcement just out on Friday
 - Jessica Cote – Padilla Bay acquisition for Samish; very specific project details per dollar so there should be details out there
 - Keystone – ESRP, SRFB, and Large Cap funding with others like federal and Navy.
 - Maxwelton – ESRP funding, Clea has questions for RCO; funding projects with leftover SRTCC money – see information at the end.
 - Jessica Cote - 6pt spread on RCO projects, very close together in ranking as they were all ranked so similarly/close
 - Jessica Cote - Maxwelton – needs a tide gate, very surprised that it would have gotten funding for this reason.
- PSAR – 3 projects of concern, have some extra funding from last year all PSAR23-25
 - Keystone – understanding that if it did not make large cap, this funding would go there. We funded basic Keystone and Race Rd project with SRFB 2022 along with the Camano tide gate project (\$20k allocated to Camano tide gate project cost increase with extension)
 - Reminder to keep this in mind when ranking our projects this round.
- Membership- Barbara renewing, can send to commissioners. No one opposes to Barbara Brock being renewed.
 - Tom Vos stepping down, Paul Williams recommended by SWS for replacing. Todd and Barbara reviewed and approved so far. Clea will send information on appointment to anyone who asks, and we will vote to appoint next meeting.
 - Jessica Cote is renewing, Clea will send Barbara and Jessica approval to BOCC
 - Vacant local business position; Clea reached out to Watershed Company/DCG. Clea checking for Navy replacement.

- Discussed any conflict of interests not ranking/voting on projects that they would be personally involved with.
- Scott Chaplin – does not have a lot of time, does his position need to be mayor of Langley?
 - Needs to be COG, so someone in a similar status
 - Will stay on until someone else can potentially take over
- Todd Zackey – is Eric Mickelson looking to be back on? Eric confirms he is planning to be
- Clea – make sure anyone who is planning on leaving/changing to please let her know.
- Mini grant update – Clea has to write some contracts, Keith left, and process changed, needs last two mini-grants to have a formal approved contract. This is very delayed and a lot of extra work for grants that were approved last year.
- Camano Country Club – subcommittee met; three proposals presented. See links at end.
 - 1. Nothing 2. remove broken gate and some seawall & front of estuary, and 3rd choice would be larger bridge.
 - Sending PW some info through PRISM with details
 - Clea will send Snapshot out to group
 - Barbara still waiting for community feedback
 - Jess C – community wants good water quality and consistent water level, which sounds like they will not compromise, DNR required to create fish passage, so pond will be different after project and not saltwater pond. Property owners worried that values would decrease. Jessica has images and can-do virtual tours.
 - Snapshot will show updates and presentations, anything uploaded available there.
- Report – Priority Area 2 See links at end.
 - Supposed to help in determination for culvert replacement
 - PW and others noticed some inaccurate information, we asked RCO some questions about review process
 - Have been in contact with SFEG, are re-opening document for review to help correct some errors and resolve some inconsistencies
 - Allison is who Clea has been in contact with regarding this review, Clea can send link out to group regarding work
 - Lauren Burch – peer review from qualified individuals would be very helpful
 - Clea spoke with Kay – SRTCC needs some standards such as what we would like from a report, when we want to review it, etc so that it meets standards expected by the group.
 - Maps working on updates and this report being correct would be very helpful in that effort.
 - Eric Mickelson – confirms that SFEG has had a lot of turnover
 - Matthew Lander & Lauren – Background for habitat survey, how they came up with values, GIS review to ensure accuracy
- Outreach and education
 - Whidbey 101 coming up, Penn Cove water festival
 - Clea seeking feedback on one page doc describing SRTCC program and two ongoing projects (approved last year)
 - No objections noted, Clea sending out to group for quick review
- PRISM
 - Mid Crescent – cleared, a few things to touch up
 - Other three are projects of concern
- Ranking
 - Penn Cove – last year was highest ranking at prescore time
 - Maxwellton project did not get funded last year
 - How many have ranked last year vs this year of the committee

- Even if all projects were funded, looks like there would be extra funds
- Scott Chaplin – if we do not spend the money, does it carry over or do we need to spend it all?
 - This situation was extra money influx from last year – PSAR additional, not spend last year (809k), if we do not spend this year, it will likely go away
 - JC – don’t want to just fund anything, because what if project is not a good fit or not going to be used for restoration.
 - Barbara - If projects are ranked too low, they don’t get funding, ranking process with low scores don’t move forward.
 - JC – must have 20pts min. Nothing under (tier 4) Unique to our committee, not regional
 - Scott – doesn’t want to take money from another area that may have a better salmon project, wants what is best for the area not just the county
 - Clea – Past Les agreed with this notion, that the thought should be about the entire region fish populations.
 - Eric M – One of project comments from RCO – like to take culvert design to prelim vs conceptual, will increase their request. Meeting with PW to discuss, he will update in PRISM new numbers. Thought study on impact to community would initially be best, but had conceptual design proposed for culvert
 - Can likely get to prelim.
 - Design only = 18moths for match requirement.
 - Not going to be design only, needs clarity on time frame to spend money.
 - Clea will need to allocate for this round this year. Money would be following normal grant round, just can’t carry unallocated to next year (PSAR2023-2025).
 - Barbara – Possibility for IC to share and get reimbursed?
 - Clea asked LEs about this.
 - JC – Essentially a handshake deal for money going back and forth between counties/entities that are moving money, like a loan.
- Skagit ranking – site visits coming up. Looks like they would be short.
- Snohomish – has a lot of fed money. Looks like they will be short.
- Stilly – Also short. Clea working with LE on training and will be able to get info on their projects.
- Todd – looking through what projects we might give money to, would like to benefit something near us like Port Susan or something along those lines. Do we want to send money upriver or keep closer to our benefit?
- JC – Samish – not a tier 1 area so they will not be getting SRFB money
- Clea – wanted group to know about these bigger conversations
- Barbara – noted other times that we have given money away
- JC – We should really be getting better at project development
- Clea – been in a cycle of smaller/larger years and so people may not be applying based on that information. Project sponsors experiencing turnover and already maxed out on projects.
- Current ranking – All projects above 20pt threshold. All projects eligible. Nothing with average of 1 or below. All current 2023 proposals moving forward based on pre-scores.
- Barbara – POC – if we approve these will RCO fund them or kick back?
- Clea - have opportunity to clear with committee after projects are updated.
 - Matthew – Asked what information they needed further. Matthew and team answered questions, did best to describe conditions and how they could overcome concerns. Unclear as to how much more they need to send. Uploaded photos of presentation. They have plans to add more.
 - Deer Creek Mouth – need input from owners.

- Reminder of the need to do feasibility study to even find out what is possible, it is still conceptual.
- Barbara – If no community support, then the SFRB will not support
- Todd – RCO wants to see some conversation between the project and property owners, many projects have been killed in past due to no homeowner support. Need to show more outreach with them. Thinks good idea, would be nice to have the concept. SFRB will want support to fund the project. Need to know what the limits would be for the community. Rest of the stream project would be hard to fund if the mouth was not successful. Need to tell the story – fish, people, future. Process that could be used for future similar projects.
- JC and Todd – continual feedback on how/what details would be beneficial to the proposal, as the proposal was lacking in detail or history on the site.
- Eric M – Deer creek project more of a path to habitat vs creating a new habitat. Wants more of the story about the habitat or future or possible benefit.
- Todd – Advised that they should add money in proposal for outreach
- Lauren – could really use assistance reaching out to the homeowners, wording etc
 - JC – utilizing an org. that is not the county, would probably be beneficial due to distrust of government

Administrative

- The March meeting minutes and agenda were approved.
- Vacancy Updates – Jessica C and Barbara B to renew positions. Tom Vos retiring from position with replacement proposed as Paul Williams who is approved by Sound Water Stewards.
- Future Meetings – The May 17th SRTCC meeting can be in person and Clea will send out a poll to see who can be present, which location would be best or if hybrid is needed.
- Projects will need to meet the May 9th final local application deadline.
- Matthew Lander has recused himself from the Public Works projects ranking.

Grant Round – Updates

- Pre-scores/ranking
- RCO status- cleared
- Middle Crescent Harbor Creek: <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=23-1081>
- RCO status- all 3 POC's
- Scenic Heights Penn Cove Culvert No. 3345: <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=23-1086>
- Humphrey Rd Deer Creek Culvert No. 281 : <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=23-1084>
- Deer Creek Mouth : <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=23-1085>
 - Meeting adjourned a little after 4pm

Information and updates

- Camano Country Club update
- If you would like to review documents associated with this project, or watch the presentation that was done for the subcommittee group on then please use this link to the snapshot- Snapshot of Camano CC Tide gate Feasibility and Preliminary Design <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=18-1382>

- There was a request to review the ESRP proposal for Maxwellton-

Alternatives for the Lower Maxwellton Valley ESRP-

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=22-1228>

- This month we need to review and provide feedback to the report that was recently completed but we noted errors and wanted to get an improved version that will be more useful for us. Please take time to review the Priority Area 2 report and provide feedback. I have included many links that should work, if you prefer you can see the final report on PRISM Snapshot- <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=19-1343>

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshotAttachmentData.aspx?id=547966>

Please send me any comments or suggestions related to this report and updates you would like to see made.

Friends of the San Juans hard armoring study-

- Read the full report: [Changes in Shoreline Armoring in San Juan County, Washington, 2009–2019, Mapping, Analysis, and Regulatory Review](#)

NOAA Fisheries - Transformational Web Story: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/more-265-million-funding-recommended-transformational-habitat-restoration-and-coastal>

The 24 million NOAA Grant Award includes:

- Funding for North Whidbey Basin in the amount of \$11.6 million is divided among 6 projects, 4 of which received design dollars from the SRFB, and 1 that received most of its construction dollars from the PSAR Large Cap program.
- North Whidbey projects will restore 627 acres of estuarine tidal marsh and pocket estuary habitat in one of the most important watersheds within Puget Sound for recovery of the ESU.
- Funding for South Whidbey Basin in the amount of \$12.1 million is divided among 15 projects, 9 of which received SRFB and PSAR dollars for design and/or phases of construction.
- South Whidbey projects will restore over 1,200 acres of estuary and river floodplain function along over 17 miles of shoreline, and advance over 750 acres of future work.