



WRIA 6 Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee Meeting

June 21, 2023

Member Participants: Jessica Côté (Blue Coast Engineering), Kristin M (SCD), Kurt S(Land Trust) Todd Zackey (Tulalip, Co-Chair), Paul Williams(SWS), Barbara Brock (Citizen, Co-Chair), Fred Kiga, Kelly Zupcuh (MRC) Ashley Kees (WDFW), Renee Zavas Silva (ICCAO), James Watson (WICD) **Others:** Clea Barenburg (LE Coordinator), Jessica Reed (Watershed Planner IC DNR), Carlie Miller(ICDNR), Jen Schmitz (ICDNR manager)

Introductions & Presentations

PSP- Board updates on representatives for ECB, Leadership Council and SRC and turnover.

LIO - new coordinator Jen Schmitz with update also related to boards and turnover.

MRC- Climate Change and Sea level rise white paper to present in October to BOCC project. RFP out for armoring survey. 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 <https://sanjuans.org/2022/11/17/course-correction-needed-for-rapidly-changing-shorelines/> Update on monitoring at Cornet Bay with 10 year celebration and last seining event. Found forage fish and largest catch of chum recently. Hoypus Point restoration is also going well. Drone footage is going well with mini grant funding, draft version will be available in the next few months and planting plan is in progress. <https://www.islandcountymrc.org/projects/cornet-bay-restoration/>

LE coordinator- Hard Armoring update working with old data from previous LE to collect armoring permit information in coordination with new MRC survey. Site visit to Mutiny Bay with WDFW for their large armoring proposal. Ashley shared preliminary stage information with more to come later. Mention of the Surfcrest community bulkhead proposal to watch. Jessica question on explanation of need and alternatives analysis. Question of where the location is, in relation to boat ramp area and expresses concern of armoring impacts and challenges with suggestion of beach nourishment alternative. Concerns with the SMP and code related to flooding. Renee was sent review of wetland area and had done a site visit with Ecology there. Matt talked about flooding of that area low in elevation. Todd reports the area is priority area 2. Summer Chum report in 2005 has report of beach sein in the area. Ashley to send Todd an invite for a site visit coming soon. Clea shares history book and information on the history of fishing resorts in Mutiny Bay - <https://southwhidbeyhistory.org/special-topics/fishing-resorts/> Jessica asks how Sea Level rise work will have recommendations related to bulkheads and flooding. Kelly says there will be a recommendation section and encourages SRTCC to send her emails with information. Jessica suggests an agenda item at upcoming meeting for SRTCC to write a formal comment to contribute. SRTCC contribute to Sea level rise MRC white paper. Clea reminds group of Dawn's report and other research conducted in Island County as well as previous presentations and website information. The need to recover older information that is accurate and Clea will send out a collection of information for the group to review. Barbara confirmed the importance and accuracy of the previous information. Mention of older IC planning department report, UW report, Town of Coupeville report. Request to have help reviewing spreadsheets from ICGIS and planning related to armoring permitting. Todd mentions SRTCC has made comments or letter on projects in the past that could impact habitat and restoration. Clea brings up Umbrella project work through Salmon Recovery Portal that can be used to show volume of salmon funds have gone into a particular area for recovery.

Mini grants: Still determining details of 2 10k contracts and what went wrong with the new IC process. Last two to have final details for Camano boat rail removal and Race project restoration. Hoypus updates from Kelly (mini grant) and Jessica (PSP funded). Reminder of postcard and Shore Friendly outreach.

Administrative -The May meeting minutes were approved.

•Membership: Paul Williams who is approved by Sound Water Stewards is now BOCC approved June 7th. Doug Kelly has left the committee and needs to be replaced. Barbara and Jessica Cote confirmed.

2023 SRFB Grant Round -SRFB Funding of projects moving forward not sure of total allocation for WRIA 6, but looks like a little over \$270,000: PW reports that Deer Creek Mouth project has been placed in the wastebasket as property owners are not in support of project and do not have concerns for flooding at their location. Project was trying to fix some unpermitted work. We are waiting for updates from SRFB review of the 2 POC's (Humphrey Rd culvert, Scenic Heights) should get update by July 21st and that is why our next meeting is on the 26th.

- See what the RCO panel says before SRTCC “final discussion” and consider how to allocate PSAR 809K
Checked with Race and Keystone to see if they were experiencing cost overruns.
Keystone has filled out paperwork to RCO for a request for increase funding for cost overrun experiences.
RCO recommends looking first to local LE first.
- Ranking
 - Crescent Creek restoration- cleared look to SRFB to cover
 - Scenic Heights – POC higher ranked than Humphrey Rd – POC, if cleared look to PSAR for funding.
Reminder that we will not be contesting de-listing as POC as we are not interested in taking the risk of contesting and losing the funds that we could keep in our area. Todd does not think these projects would make it through POC change request. Working on the report for priority area 2 should help us in the future.
 - Cost overrun for Keystone interested in PSAR and Whidbey Basin groups interested in extra PSAR. Mathew asks if we could re-rank Keystone as we are ranking differently last year that we did this year.
 - SRFB for more Chinook specific and salmon recovery and PSAR can be used for other species recovery.
 - Even if all 2023 SRFB projects were funded, looks like there would be extra funds that could go to Keystone overrun or Whidbey Basin. We would not have enough to cover all of Keystone needs.
Request for Keystone to provide statement regarding where money would go to for overrun.

Project listings-

•RCO status- cleared

Middle Crescent Harbor Creek:

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=23-1081>

•RCO status- all 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>

Cost Overruns Update -Keystone

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=22-1157>

Criteria	Score		
	Humphrey Rd 281	Scenic Heights Rd 3345	Middle Crescent Creek
Areas & Ecosystem Components (10)	5.09	8.82	6.91
Watershed Processes & Actions (10)	4.55	6.18	8.45
Costs (10)	4.91	5.09	8.18
Certainty of Success (15)	5.18	5.18	11.36
Climate Resiliency Considerations (5)	4.09	3.73	6.91
Totals	23.82	29.00	41.82
Finals totals average	23.90909091	28.90909091	39.36363636
Last year		41.3	

Priority Area 2 report- Priority 2 Report – PW seeking feedback on report form SRTCC so they can update/improve report. Clea has asked for group feedback, please see past meeting emails and minutes. Working on setting up a meeting for report review with SFEG (meeting occurred after this meeting).

• Future Meetings – July 26th, this was moved to accommodate results from RCO on project status and August 16th.

Potential future projects for culverts from PW were discussed-

- EAST CAMANO DRIVE AT CAVALERO CREEK FISH PASSAGE CULVERT: Replace an aging culvert with a fish passage culvert is proposed to be removed due to the culvert not being at the end of its lifespan.
- HUMPHREY ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT (CLINTON) is proposed to be added. The project is most likely fish but there are human-made barriers downstream and the gradient of the stream would make the project rank low for a grant. Underground connections to Marshall end.
- NORTH BLUFF ROAD AT CROSSCREEK WAY (PRIVATE) FISH PASSAGE CULVERT: Replace an aging culvert with a fish passage culvert, a feasibility study could look at removing downstream barriers and one immediate upstream private barrier.
- Army Corps permitted EAST CAMANO DRIVE AT CANKU ROAD FISH PASSAGE CULVERT: Replace an aging culvert with a fish passage culvert, so it will be able to be built next year. Received Army Corps permit recently and WDFW permit. Budget for next year. Barbara would like to see plans.
https://apps.wdfw.wa.gov/fishpassagephotos/Reports/1320092_Report.pdf

Camano Country Club update and Livingston

- If you would like to review documents associated with this project or watch the presentation that was done for the subcommittee group, 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>
- Update from Land Trust on Livingston with time taken to transfer property to tribes.
<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=20-1461>
- New project Lagoon view presented by Mathew. When house is rebuilt over the stream projected. The house is on the market. Mathew wants a letter from SRTCC suggesting this property is a contender for a fish passage project and would new owners be interested in restoration. Committee chairs comment that this community is highly modified, having been developed before shoreline act. It is a highly impacted environment in priority area 3 with expensive project with limited fish habitat improvement. Would it be cost effective vs what you would be getting. Data does not support a lot of salmon fry habitat with minimal freshwater input, at this time. Reconnecting a marsh is important for other species and would better fit with “habitat restoration” funds. Mathew would like to see projects for the next 3 years lined up, so we are not in the same position as we are this year. Todd suggests distilling the parcel prioritization.

Questions on an inventory of parcels where homes are built over stream mouths or where tide gates are on parcels. Is their neighbor support? Barbara mentions salmon habitat upstream of Chapman Creek good for salmon and working on the mouth of the stream would be beneficial. Jessica mentions cost to habitat restoration vs fish benefit not balanced in this built-up environment. Challenge with grade and drop with all the hard armoring on the shoreline. The answer is not no for support, but it would be a lot of work. Jessica in support of finding more projects, different funding for different projects needs to be strategized. Bring together Confluence study with priority area 2 report. San Juan and Island have similar problems. Some of our projects are high priority but need full community buy in which creates an obstacle. This project on the west side of Whidbey will be hard to support with salmon funding. SIL grants or ESRP better option.

- Clea mentions that after the grant round is the time when we work on prioritization of projects. There is a meeting coming up to discuss how we can work to improve the Priority area 2 report so it can be used for our prioritization.
- Outreach and education. Classroom visits as well as events and fairs. Barbara mentioned the Camano 2nd grade Nature Discovery Days. Anyone interested in reviewing outreach information please contact Clea.
- LE coordinator contract happening now, it's time for renewal for 23-25. If anyone wants to review contract. <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=23-1235>
- Website, portal updates, outreach and education as well as supporting mini grants planned for the new contract. Please suggest ideas for what information we can add or share with the Salmon Recovery Portal or have on the website. Anyone interested in providing input on the Cramer Fish Sciences report. There will be future work on Umbrella projects. Cornet mentioned as an example. <https://srp.rco.wa.gov/projectmap?mlayer=projects>
- Input on recruiting members as well as input on predicting future projects and 4 year plans, SRTCC committee members please send input for future meetings.
- Kurt from Land Trust gives an update on the Keystone acquisition and restoration project. The house was deemed historic, and the permitting is exceeding expected spending. The property was an emergency purchase and 6 million in Bridge loans had to be taken out. Not all of the grants came back with funding requested. Requesting funding for cost overrun through RCO was recommended first to go through LE and SRTCC before requesting other PSAR funds. Requested number is 1.135 million. This is more than our PSAR available, so they will need to move forward with other PSAR request. Keystone received PSAR Large Cap, SRFB, and ESRP funds. Projects that have already ranked and are in progress are eligible for our roll over PSAR. PSAR for 23-25 needs to be either distributed to our PW projects if they come out of POC, then any left could go to Keystone for cost overrun or to other projects in the Whidbey Basin. Fred asks what percent Keystone acquisition was compared to restoration. Total project about 10.4 million in cost so overrun at about 10%. Barbara favors helping Keystone over Whidbey Basin. Whidbey Basin does not have salty projects. We need to work on a letter of support for any of our remaining funds going to Keystone overruns. Can we get a brief write up of cost overrun? Mathew asks for an update on Keystone presented at next meeting.
- Meeting adjourned a little after 4pm