



WRIA 6 Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee Meeting

August 16, 2023

Member Participants: Scott Chaplin (COG), Kristin Marshall (SCD), Eric Mickelson, Todd Zackey (Tulalip, Co-Chair), Paul Williams(SWS), Barbara Brock (Citizen, Co-Chair), Fred Kiga, Kelly Zupich (MRC) Ashley Kees (WDFW), Renee Zavas Silva and Travis Wilmont (ICCAO),James Watson (WICD), Alison S. (SFEG), Mary B. (Sound Salmon Solutions) **Others:** Clea Barenburg (LE Coordinator), Jessica Reed (Watershed Planner IC DNR)

Introductions & Presentations

Meeting started late with failed attempt at Hybrid meeting due to County Workspace technical difficulties. We will try hybrid again in the coming months, as we did have success with hybrid at the May meeting. Due to late start July minutes were not approved and will be brought forward again in September for approval.

General introductions made.

Announcements

- LE contract update- details were sent out in an email with PRISM link to snapshot and links to County meeting where contract was discussed. LE coordinator has been attending monthly meetings the other Whidbey Basin LEs and sharing grant round projects and funding distribution information. Sharing Manual 18 requirements and reports for end of the year.
- Whidbey Basin Coordination
 - Review SRFB grant round and projects funded. Review Riparian funding proposals together.
- Funding/SRFB
 - SRFB rank list submitted and reviewed with group. SRFB meeting Sept 13-14 for final project funding allocation. Rank 1 Middle Crescent Creek with remaining funding to Keystone Preserve cost overruns.
- Island County Marine Resources Committee (MRC)
 - The MRC is still working on the Climate Change and Sea level rise white paper to present to BOCC. MRC looking for support from SRTCC saying SRTCC agrees with suggestions in the paper.

Discussion and Decisions

- Lead Entity Contract that supports the Lead Entity coordinator position. Questions on funding pots. See meeting information from County Commissioners- The agenda for the Wednesday, July 5th work session can be found here: https://www.islandcountywa.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_07052023-582; the audio is here: <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3888/07052023-WS-Audio> Discussion on salmon recovery funding, mark 1:07:38 in the audio. Provide feedback if you have questions concerns or suggestions for LE contract. See Snapshot for details- <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=23-1235>
- Questions on big hard armoring project proposals coming to Island County including Mutiny Bay, Elger Bay, and SurfCrest. Are low lying beach communities being considered in Comp Plan? MRC hard armoring RFP proposal moving forward and results will help decisionmakers. MRC to present some information on these concerns at the next meeting. Fred has questions about permit review and information was shared about Shore Friendly program with request for Shore Friendly presentation.

- Mathew shares formal complaints need to come from public and can't come from internal agencies. Mathew shared that permits for hard armor can be found on the ICGeo map <https://icgeomap.islandcountywa.gov/Html5Viewer/Index.html?viewer=ICGeoMap#>
- SRFB- Submitted to RCO a description of our projects and our ranking process. 2023 SRFB Grant Round_-SRFB Funding of projects moving forward with allocation for WRIA 6 at 278,102 and PSAR from last year at 809,000. RCO status- cleared Middle Crescent Harbor Creek to receive PSAR: <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=23-1081>

Cost Overruns Update -Plan for remaining funding allocation to approved 2022 project Keystone <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=22-1157>

- Discuss 4 year work plan how to view in Salmon Recovery Portal- <https://srp.rco.wa.gov/site/200>

Project Prioritization and reporting based on the WRIA 6 Multi Species Recovery Plan- <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3520>

Paul asked about the Grant Round timeline and he had questions about the abbreviations and acronyms. Clea to send him link to PSP acronym list and the grant Manual 18 - <https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/SAL-Manual18.pdf>

- Project planning and projections for future projects- Camano Country Club Phase 2, Race Road phase 2, Crescent Creek projects building on previous work, Next phase Livingston, North Pen Cove fish passage culvert replacements on list. Strategies to recruit projects. Review PW culvert projects and TIP and Clean Water Utility.
- Invasive Species discussion with input from Todd Zackey, MRC, SFEG, and WDFW- Our first report of New Zealand Mud Snail in Island County- See map and website <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/potamopyrgus-antipodarum#:~:text>New%20Zealand%20mud%20snails%20invasive, and%20Capitol%20Lake%20in%20lympia>.
- Review of documents that guide our projects and how future Riparian funding will work with our project prioritizations.

Pick the top priority area projects from these 3 areas and reports also look at pocket estuary report for best areas consider CREP and riparian funding for separate project list -

Area 3 https://wildfishconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Whidbey_Final_Report-1.pdf

Area 2 [Final Island County Fish Passage Barrier Inventory report.pdf](https://www.islandcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3520)

Area 1 <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshotAttachmentData.aspx?id=236400>

Prioritize and Identify parcels for acquisition- Use the Nearshore Protection Tool Implementation report- <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=20-1134>

Other Reports- Sheldon – Island county Estuarine Restoration Program 2001, 2006 Beamer Habitat and Fish of Pocket Estuaries Whidbey Basin and N Skagit, Whidbey Small Streams Studies 2013

Other Riparian Funding- CREP- [CREP map](https://www.scc.wa.gov/programs/conservation-reserve-enhancement-program-crep) (Maxwelton and Glendale and Kristoferson) <https://www.scc.wa.gov/programs/conservation-reserve-enhancement-program-crep> Discussion of CREP program in Island County and what kind of future riparian projects we can prioritize. Shared Whidbey Basin group providing feedback on preference for option one where each LE gets a portion of riparian funding. LE allocation option would include- Acquisition, Riparian planting, Invasive removal, Stewardship, Assessment, and limited instream and floodplain restoration.

- Breakdown of poll for SRTCC and who would like to provide input for different topics. Review of information to be shared with smaller groups.
- Camano Country Club update

Kristin M of Snohomish Conservation District invited to give verbal update on the project. She thanked SRTCC members for helpful input. Country Club board is supportive of moving forward. SCD thankful for the SRTCC subcommittee feedback helpful to final proposal preference. New feedback from public works caused some frustration from SRTCC members. RCO has not given feedback as to comments on if the amount of restoration is salmon friendly enough. They will have to look at other funding if RCO does not think there is enough benefit. The Conservation District needs to hear from some key property holders. SCD is using internal funding to keep moving forward with the project. After we receive RCO comments then present this information again to SRTCC or SRTCC subcommittee. SCD would like input before next grant round. Mathew would like to see other options because the cost is so high. Each element has a cost impact. Kristin has been sharing information with Nick T in public works. Barbara has been at the site often this summer and will send out some pictures with how the channel has been changing. Todd mentioned that the County needs to use caution with the "No bridge" comment. The way the comment was written with all capital letters was disturbing and offensive. Public works continues to talk about how they do not have a bridge program. At some point the county will need to prepare for bridges. Todd is supportive and ready to help Island County prepare for bridge program. Camano CC Tide gate Feasibility and Preliminary Design <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=18-1382>

- Projects experiencing delays- Polnell 20-1559
- Review of funding opportunities, PSEMP, upcoming outreach events and opportunities (Fair-past, Camano 101, library) updating lessons learned document with our consistent main complication to projects being private owners.
- Priority Area 2 report updates, with all concerns addressed. Will send out final review to sub group interested and finalize what will be updated in PRISM. Penn Cove culvert replacement project was hoping to have the support of the priority review area 2 habitat report. In the future we would need to add reports together and create a list of top projects with hope of having an outside group bring these projects up to a percentage complete to prove they are projects that could be successful.
- Race Road project update 22-1089. If the project moves forward to phase 2 it would need to be sponsored by Island County, as they are county culverts needing to be replaced. Public works would like to know what year would be preferred to construct. Alison recommends applying this coming grant round for work in 2025.
- Future meeting plans for online, hybrid or in person meetings. We are one of the most diverse boards in Island County with many people attending at work, so hard to change meeting time or in person.
- Watershed characterization map questions from CAs. CAs are learning more and will share what they learn. Questions on off-site mitigation proposal.
- PSP, ECB, LIO are reviewing Sound Choices Checklist. Will send links to those interested.
- Meeting adjourned after 4:30
- Next Meetings September 20th, October 18th and November 15th