



## WRIA 6 Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee Meeting

December 20, 2023

**Member Participants:** Christine Stephens (SCD), James Watson (WCD), Eric Mickelson (SkagitRSC), Paul Williams (SWS), Barbara Brock (Citizen, Co-Chair), Fred Kiga, Mathew Lander (ICPW), Lela Chaves (WWS), Kelly Zupich (MRC), Renee Zavas Silva; Ryan Elting, Todd Zackey **Others:** Clea Barenburg (LE Coordinator), Heidi S. (Tulalip), Jessica Reed (DNR), Sage Ince (DNR), Jen Schmitz (DNR/ILIO), Jeff Cordell, Kathleen Landel

### Introductions & Presentations

PSP- No representatives at meeting. Reorganization and structure changes in progress, shared updated draft graphic of governance structure. LE and ILIO coordinators gave Board meeting updates for Salmon Recovery Council, All Boards, Science Panel and Leadership Council. Hannah Liss to be the contact for LEs as Salmon Recovery Coordinator. Board notes see here- <https://www.psp.wa.gov/partnership-boards-overview.php> . Shared Core Principles of Engagement from PSP. Shared historic relationship and goals from PSP <https://www.psp.wa.gov/shared-salmon-strategy/watersheds/watershed-island.htm#Changes> . Shared Science panel Salmon Forward scenario- <https://www.psp.wa.gov/future-scenarios.php>

ILIO- meeting was held recently and executive group engagement reviewed. See website for updates, agenda, and minutes- [https://www.islandcountywa.gov/348/Island-Local-Integrating-Organization\\_SIL](https://www.islandcountywa.gov/348/Island-Local-Integrating-Organization_SIL) and NTA connection to LIO discussed. LIO put in for Shellfish SIL funding for a PIC program, similar to what was done in previous years. See website for SILs- <https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov/rfp/>

MRC- Hard Armoring review survey results shared. Hoopus video, result of STRCC mini grant shared and feedback provided. Climate Change and Sea level rise white paper was presented to commissioners this morning. The agenda for the work session is here:

[https://www.islandcountywa.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/\\_12202023-672](https://www.islandcountywa.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_12202023-672) The White Paper can be found beginning on page 101 of the agenda; the PowerPoint begins on page 107. The recording is here: <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5729/12202023-WS-Audio>. See MRC website for other updates and agendas- <https://www.islandcountymrc.org/>

LE coordinator- LE coordinator has been attending monthly meetings the other Whidbey Basin LEs and sharing grant round details and funding distribution information as well as comments on riparian funding allocations updates and draft changes. Review LE RCW77.85.050 <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=77.85> WRIA 6 LE following the same guidelines and rules as the 25 other LEs in the state and 16 LEs in Puget Sound who are connected to PSP. Review timeline for grant round. All members were sent RFP with calendar and new funding guidance documents. Some are in draft form and will be re-sent to members when finalized. [2024 SRFB Grant Round](#) -See website for updates- <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/698/Salmon-Recovery-Funding-Board-SRFB-GRANT> This year regular SRFB, PSAR, PSAR Large Cap, and special riparian funding. Review the final Riparian Funding Policy [Here](#), [Manual 18](#) will contain the updated appendices containing this new policy in early 2024. Review the PSAR Large Cap RFP [Here](#) or by visiting PSP's [PSAR website](#). View the Targeted Investment Policy [Here](#) Review final RFP [Here](#)

### Administrative

The November meeting minutes were approved.

Review membership and a chance for everyone to introduce themselves and share their experience with working with the committee. This includes introductions from applicants sharing their background and interest in the committee. Review of SRTCC committee guiding document for membership breakdown- Resolution C-107-16 Establishing the Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizens Committee. From this BOCC approved resolution- MEMBERSHIP: The Committee shall be comprised of nineteen (19) members APPOINTMENT: The Board of Island

County Commissioners (BICC) shall appoint the nine (9) citizen members to four (4) year terms. The remaining member groups shall designate their representative(s). Alternate members, for the non-citizen groups, may be selected by the group they are representing.

Reviewed members and appointment dates and required representatives from Conservation Districts, Regional Fisheries enhancements groups, County, State, Federal and Tribal groups. Question on COG with new elections and change in government elected officials. Who will replace Langley COG? Looking into Langley Mayor departing suggestion and waiting to hear from new Mayor. For more information on SRTCC see our webpage-  
<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/652/Salmon-Recovery-Technical-Citizens-Comm>

#### Discussion and Decisions

Poll conducted prior to meeting- Survey results were shared and discussed with more discussion on certain topics at the next meeting. Meetings- all members want Zoom or Hybrid 8 members 8-10 meetings online and 2-4 in person 6 members no in person at all! We can talk about this more at the next meeting. We can offer a few hybrid options like we did last year and then our one site visit day a year. 8 members vote to keep regular meeting time, two to switch to 11-1 and 2 for the later times of 4-6 or 3-5. We can talk more about this, but the idea is to have more members of the community and a larger diversity of types of people that joining our meeting and serve on our committee. We could at least have our presentation day during after work hours so more community members could attend or host a video presentation. Site visit majority February 28, we reviewed that RCO sets the date and that we are supposed to provide 2 weeks of application package review prior to site visits. WRIA 6 applications due February 9<sup>th</sup> and ESRP applications due February 8<sup>th</sup>. Feb is too early with required submittal dates. We are the first site visit in the State and the only one in February. All members who voted chose to renew chairs. All members who voted support approval of the two new members – New application requested and moving forward for BICC to review and hopefully approve at a January meeting. County administrators would like a new pdf form filled out for member review. Areas for future projects- Livingston, Useless Bay, Maxwelton.

Past project review- Snohomish Conservation District gave an update on Camano County Club and why they will not be moving forward for the project. Community misinformation shared. Fred asks why the HOA can't make decision for the group. SCD will use their own funds to keep the conversation moving forward. More education and sharing of science and permitting needed for the community-

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=18-1382>

Maybe something like Myth busters is needed again- <https://snohomishcd.org/blog/2018/9/11/salmon-information-for-kristoferson-mythbusters-edition>

Land Trust gives update on Keystone project and excitement about future projects.

<https://securedev.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=22-1085>

Future projects - At the next meeting we should be reviewing projects, as LOI is due on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Projects eligible to move forward in the grant round to get PRISM number from LE. All projects will need to start in SRP and be sent to PRISM (the LE coordinators do the sending). Encourage your sponsors to attend the training that the salmon section will be having about the grant round so sponsors know about the information they need to put in SRP in order to send the project into PRISM. All projects need to be on the proposed list in the portal.

How we recruit projects- From other natural resource project lists (SMP, MRC, ILIO), As they are identified by WDFW staff, As they are identified by ICPW staff, As they are identified through IC Shor Friendly Beach Program, As they are identified by sponsors as opportunities (Whidbey Camano Land Trust, Northwest Straits Foundation, Conservation Districts, Fish Enhancement Groups), As they are identified in project development assessments (Culvert inventories and Island County's Protection Prioritization framework tool).

Announcement Shore Friendly position will soon be advertised, as Ann is leaving this position. See website for more information on Shore Friendly- <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/365/Shore-Friendly-Program>

- January 16th: Letters of Intent are due to LEC [Here](#). Grant round is open in PRISM. Projects can be entered into the Salmon Recovery Portal (SRP) before this date but cannot be sent from SRP to PRISM until January 16th.
- February 9th: All draft SRFB /Riparian/PSAR applications due in PRISM. February 21<sup>st</sup>, we meet to review ranking criteria. February 28th: Presentations and Site Tours all SRTCC to attend and sponsors. March 20<sup>th</sup> sponsor to present projects virtually. March 28<sup>th</sup> Applicants receive their first comment from the SRFB review panel which will identify their projects as Clear, Conditioned, Needs more information, or POC. We had 5 projects last year and only 2 made it to final ranking. We had one project come back to us from a previous year, as a cost overrun.

2025-27 PSAR Large CAP- The Puget Sound Partnership is pleased to announce the release of the [2025-2027 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration \(PSAR\) Large Capital Projects request for proposals \(RFP\)](#) and supplemental questions. The PSAR Large Capital program funds projects that are regionally significant and provide the most benefit to salmon species in Puget Sound.

See- Appendix B – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Glossary The following terms and their definitions were selected from the Washington State Diversity Equity and Inclusion Glossary of Equity-Related Terms EPA Environmental Justice 2020 <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej-2020-glossary#:~:text=Overburdened%20Community%20%20Minority%2C%20low%2D,disproportionate%20environmental%20harms%20and%20risks>

New- Riparian guidance for funding Riparian Funding- This program has been funded in part or wholly by Climate Commitment Act associated funding. The Climate Commitment Act (RCW 70A.65) created a market-based program to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the next few decades. A portion of the revenues are directed into the Natural Climate Solutions Account and were distributed into several standing grant programs, including this riparian specific program. Funding comes with additional reporting, assessment, and tribal consultation requirements. Core Funding Objective- Enhance salmon recovery through the protection and restoration of fully functioning riparian ecosystems. Riparian projects include freshwater, marine near-shore, and estuarine activities that will improve or protect the riparian habitat outside of the ordinary high-water mark or in wetlands. Review the final Riparian Funding Policy [Here](#)

This is also an ESRP grant round year- <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/habitat-recovery/puget-sound/esrp>

In the past we have been able to recommend projects seeking this funding when projects do not have enough salmon benefit potential for success in SRFB review.

Need to review some documents used to evaluate projects and prioritization, we would like to give more productive and faster feedback this year.

4 year work plans found in the Salmon Recovery Portal <https://srpsecure.rco.wa.gov/sitemap>

Island County IC GEO- <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/159/GIS-Mapping> - Was not working during meeting, but LE can review at future meeting.

SRTCC Lessons Learned document and Island County WRIA 6 Salmon Recovery Plan- See if they meet our Watershed Recovery plan- [2005 Island Chapter 2019 Island Chapter](#)

#### **Reports to use for evaluating projects priority streams for culvert replacement**

Area 1

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

<https://secure.rco.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](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](#)

Meeting ran long and ended around 4:15

Next meeting- review new proposals and project evaluations with request to discuss consensus decision making:

- January 17<sup>th</sup> - 2:00-4:00 – Zoom
- February 21<sup>st</sup> – 2:00-4:00- Zoom
- ***SRTCC and RCO Site Visits- One Day visit- all members attend! 28***
- Anticipated Letters of Intent 2023: Race Lagoon (Phase 2),Keystone Preserve (Phase 2), Camano CC Tidegate (Phase 2),Livingston Bay Protection and Restoration Planning (Phase 2)

**SRFB 2024 grant round:** SRFB regular ~\$290K • This total is likely to increase based on the final approved budget. Funding will be available in Fall 2024. This is only for this year.

- SRFB New Riparian: ~\$445K • Funding will be available in Fall 2024 Manual 18 will contain the updated appendices containing this new policy in early 2024. Money may not carry to the next year
- PSAR: ~809K • Used to fund restoration and acquisition through the Lead Entity SRFB process. Funding will be available in Fall 2025. Money may roll

***PSAR Large Cap***

- Projects must be greater than \$1M.
- Review the PSAR Large Cap RFP [Here](#) or by visiting PSP's [PSAR website](#)

***Targeted Investment – Money could come this summer or they may have to wait for the next year***

- Project must be greater than \$1M. ( Only 6 for all of Puget Sound may be submitted)
- View the Targeted Investment Policy [Here](#)
- Review final RFP [Here](#)

