



WRIA 6 Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee Meeting

November 20th, 2024

Member Participants: James Watson (WCD), Paul Williams (SWS), Fred Kiga, Kathleen Landel, Barbara Brock (Co-Chair), Jeff Cordell, Lee Chavez(WWS), Kelly Zupich (MRC), Kurt Shlimme (WCLT), Christine Stephens(SCD), Brittany Ahman, Mathew Lander(ICPW) **Others:** Clea Barenburg (LE Coordinator), Yuki Rice (SFEG), Jessica Reed, Lea Shields, Krista Loecher, Bridget Kaminski (RCO), Barbara Bennett, Libby Gier, Colin Hume (presenter)

Introductions & Updates

- Presentation by Colin Hume on Climate Resilient Riparian Funding Grant opportunity- Climate Resilient Riparian System Lead (CR2SL) are announcing a new grant program. Colin shared more about this riparian specific funding source, and we discuss potential projects and if they would be possible or competitive. Their goal is to fill the gaps –not do more of the same, making sure that these funds are addressing the barriers that partners are facing on the ground.
- \$25M Federal (EPA) funding arrived with a 7 year Agreement in Coalition with State Conservation Commission and Bonneville Environmental Foundation to Support restoration and protection of riparian areas in Puget Sound Innovative approaches to accelerate recovery. They are looking for programmatic proposals, Strategy of program matches Focus Area/Reach scale with Salmon Recovery and Water Quality Priorities. Land Use and Landowner demographics with proposals across multiple Investment Priority categories to create a holistic program that can be sustained. Aim to provide flexibility in grant management to address emerging opportunities. Potential for streamlined funding in the future. Restoration Implementation to focus on improving and restoring functional riparian systems along rivers and streams both at new sites and at existing. Plan for reach-scale priority restoration sites. This plan includes costs associated: Project planning and project management ,Plant procurement, site preparation, natural bank stabilization , Planting, plant establishment, and site maintenance for the initial 1-5 years after planting occurs. Minimum awards of \$500,000, Maximum awards of \$2,750,000, No match
- Website information- <https://ecology.wa.gov/water-shorelines/puget-sound/helping-puget-sound/riparian-restoration/riparian-systems>
- Riparian restoration and protection focused funding opportunity is open from the Climate Resilient Riparian Systems Lead to support the following community identified priorities in Puget Sound watersheds:
Priority A: Collaborative, reach-scale planning and outreach
Priority B: Native plant materials
Priority C: Landowner incentives
Priority D: Riparian restoration implementation
Priority E: Maintenance, monitoring, and adaptive management
Priority F: Permanent protection of riparian habitat

The 2024 fall solicitation will encourage applicants to propose collaborative and programmatic projects that include activities from one and up to all of the priorities. More funding opportunities are anticipated with potential funding for smaller program needs that will catalyze work in focus areas and for innovative research and approaches to address specific challenges. Applicants are encouraged to apply in early rounds.

During this funding cycle, the grant program will invest approximately \$9 million into proposals that support collaborative and programmatic approaches which include activities from one and up to all of the priorities listed above. More details about eligibility can be found on the [Climate Resilient Riparian Systems Grants](#) webpage. Grant funding solicitation, application materials, and additional resources, including opportunities for technical assistance, are available on the [Climate Resilient Riparian Systems Grants application resources](#) webpage and in the [November 2024 Funding Guidelines](#). Sign up for their Listserv:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_340Snohomish

Upcoming Climate Workshop: <https://snocd.org/climate-24>

- ILIO- Reviewed what Island Local Integrating Organization is and how our committees work together and differences in committee structure. Thanks to ILIO members for attending this meeting and anticipating that we will have another shared meeting in December. Next month we will hear more on the new PIC funding and LIO one time OSS funding received to be used with the Shore Friendly Program, from DNR manager. See ILIO website for updates, agenda, and minutes or other ILIO information- <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/348/Island-Local-Integrating-Organization>. The mission of the Island LIO is to achieve ecosystem recovery and improve resilience for the Island watershed through collaboration between multiple stakeholders. The ILIO weaves together strengths of existing watershed groups, tribes, and government agencies to facilitate and integrate environmental project development, planning and implementation. The ILIO structure does not duplicate efforts of the existing watershed groups, but rather coordinates these groups for planning and priority setting, project development and implementation. The ILIO is comprised of an Executive Committee (EC) made up of elected officials from the watershed as well as tribal representatives, and a Technical Committee (TC) staffed by the DNR manager.
- [Island County's 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update](#) Shared that workshops and survey for the future of Parks is happening. Community Invited to Help with Element 7 Parks & Recreation of the 2025 Island County Comprehensive Plan. The plan will provide directions and goals for the management of parks, recreation facilities, habitat areas, and natural resource areas in Island County. This project is critical because it provides an opportunity to address declining funding resources, which have made it difficult for the County to provide and care for parks and natural resources on Whidbey and Camano Islands. To make the Plan successful, County Parks would like to hear from as many people as possible. Residents are encouraged to participate in one of several public involvement events. Community feedback is needed to determine how the County can manage its existing resources, while working with other key partners to protect important natural resources and habitat areas countywide.
- MRC- Hard Armoring review survey report reminder and how it is being talked about at different workshops and meetings. Shared, Hoopus planting update related to the STRCC mini grant. See Armoring report [-071724-shoreline-armoring-survey-and-permit-analysis.pdf \(islandcountymrc.org\)](#)
- Outreach/Events- Updated outreach materials and recent translation of some material into Spanish.
- Whidbey Basin update- HSIL grant awarded <https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov/2024/07/09/sil-2024-investment-plan/> See [Investment List](#) for details of Whidbey Basin project- Building Reliable Habitat Restoration Information in the Whidbey Basin Lead entities (LEs), as the watershed-based groups tasked with working with project sponsors to implement salmon recovery projects, are uniquely positioned to document and share the story of restoration throughout a watershed. We reviewed some of the other projects in our area on this list. LE shared other projects receiving HSIL funding associated with WRIA 6 area. This included awards to the Fisheries Enhancement Groups that work in WRIA 6 - Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group and Sound Salmon Solutions.
- Whidbey Basin- LE coordinator has been attending monthly meetings the other Whidbey Basin LEs and sharing grant round details and funding distribution information.

Administrative

The August and October meeting minutes were approved.

Reviewed membership and approved co- chairs for 2025 renewing last years 2024 chairs!

Discussion

SRTCC members reviewed the project status from this year and reviewed status of funding allocations.

- The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Request for proposals (RFP) for 2025 WRIA 6 grant round will be advertised and available on December 13th. This is expected to be a small funding year around two hundred and seventeen thousand in SRFB allocation. Please check our website for details- <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/698/Salmon-Recovery-Funding-Board-SRFB-GRANT> When site visit date is determined (March 5 or 12), we will send out calendar placeholder. The

RFP will go out in Newsletters, on website and in the local newspapers.

We reviewed dates for 2025. Also, Zoom invites for 2025 need to be sent. The updated timeline includes: Jan 15, Feb 19, Mar 19 (maybe with site visits on the 5th or 12th), April 16, May 21, June 18, July 30 (Moved for SRFB meeting results), Aug 20, Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 17, Dec 17. Please save these dates. See the SRTCC website for more information on the 2025 grant round-
<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/698/Salmon-Recovery-Funding-Board-SRFB-GRANT> or details regarding yearly rotations, found on the [Salmon Recovery and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration](#) website.

- In 2024 we saw 5 projects in Island County receive Salmon Funding: Livingston Bay protection, Cultus Bay evaluation, Race Rd. culvert replacement and Double Bluff protection, not forgetting the Skagit LE contributed allocations to the Race Lagoon project and Enhancement of Maylor Marsh. See website for updates and links to 2024 project list-
<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/698/Salmon-Recovery-Funding-Board-SRFB-GRANT> This year regular SRFB year with only the smaller regular SRFB allocation to WRIA 6. Review [Manual 18](#) containing the updated appendices and visit PSP's [PSAR website](#). View the Targeted Investment Policy [Here](#). Double Bluff project looks to have funding allocated through the Target Investment route, as the Climate Commitment Act was not repealed. The press release for SRFB funding Grants in 2024-[State Awards \\$50.3 Million in Grants to Recover Salmon - RCO](#)
- The Habitat, Shellfish, and Stormwater Strategic Initiative Leads (SILs) [recording](#) and [pdf](#) of the October 30, 2024 All Boards Webinar: Celebrating SIL 1.0 Cooperative Agreements and Looking Ahead in Puget Sound Recovery. The SILs also have a [1-pager available](#) highlighting SIL and SIL-funded partner accomplishments.
- Keystone Cost overrun with confirmation and review of decision in 2023 to allocate what leftover funds we had available and that we did not fund the full ask. There are more funds required and they will look to ESRP and PSAR return funds, as we have no roll over and return at this time. Kurt gives update on Keystone project and where cost increases were associated with cultural resources and unexpected discoveries with house removal. <https://securedev.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=22-1085>
- Status of SRTCC committee with need to replace COG member. Need to find a replacement for Commissioner St Clair before March and BOCC is aware of need.
- [Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group](#) (SFEG) with Yuki giving us an update on the plan for the mini grant of \$10,000 to conduct outreach with willing landowners and a community restoration planting plan with native plants. She had met with LE, Watershed planner and Conservation District to work out a plan and see what approvals were needed. Since only one culvert is now to be replaced after 2024 grant round due to RCO conditions, the scope of mini grant has had to change. They propose to pivot as landowners are interested in restoration and the next important step would be to convert some of the open field areas to active wetland. They are looking in to permit requirements and cultural resources. PW and WCCD offer to help with this. ICPW Race 2024 project update that they are working with RCO on requests.
- [Whidbey Conservation District](#)- A project near Race Rd. culvert has been involved with the “[wet feet farming](#)” through the conservation district. James to give us a general overview on this program next month as many farms involved look to be from Whidbey.
- [Sound Salmon Solutions](#) shared recent attendance at Youth Summit. The event was created out of a workforce development group that includes the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, tribal education professionals, and environmental organizations. The group supports information exchange between tribes and organizations that support tribal education in natural resources. SSS recently hired a restoration manager and Brittany shared on this, [Native Youth Salmon Summit](#).
- ICDNR staff recently attended Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Natural Resources workshop-
<https://atnitribes.org/>
- WA State Noxious Weeds Board updates and meeting recordings- <https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/whats-new>

- Reports of good salmon runs of Coho and Chum in our area. Coho being caught off the shoreline near Keystone. Chum reported swimming upstream at Kristoferson creek. Talk of Beaver Dam and how high it is and how water coming from the beaver marsh and golf course flowing through Can ku culvert and if flow will change stream route at the beaver dam.
- Seven active projects 7 Active Projects: Keystone, Crescent middle and riparian lower, Race culvert replacement, Livingston Bay, Can Ku Culvert, and Hoopus. History of WRIA 6 rank and look to Salmon Recovery Portal to see information on projects. New feature available to sort by and LE showed example from funding that went to Conservation Futures. <https://srp.rco.wa.gov/site/200>
- Southern Resident Orca whales [return to Penn Cove](#). Southern Resident killer whales have been hanging out in Puget Sound much longer than normal this fall, probably because of an unusually large run of chum salmon coming into Central and South Puget Sound, experts say. L pod made a surprising visit to the infamous orca-capture grounds in Penn Cove for what may be the first time in more than 50 years.
- Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council to discuss the Salmon Recovery Plan Addendum Implementation Plan actions at meeting Nov. 18th. https://www.psp.wa.gov/SR_about.php

NEXT -December- Shared meeting with ILIO and updates from the LIO year. RFP goes out and LE transition.

Meeting adjourned about 4:15