



## King County

Water & Land Resources Division  
Department of Natural Resources & Parks  
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MEETING NOTES

### **CEDAR RIVER COUNCIL**

March 22, 2016 – 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Maplewood Greens Golf Course  
4050 Maple Valley Hwy., Renton, WA 98058

*Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.*

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#### **1<sup>st</sup> Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

#### **Presentation: WRIA 8, Chinook Salmon Recovery Update – Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager**

Jason Mulvilhill-Kuntz of KC DNRP presented on WRIA 8's Chinook salmon recovery program. It is one of 14 multi-jurisdictional watershed plans in the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan and was implemented in 2006. The Cedar and Sammamish watersheds comprise the two main salmon populations in WRIA 8. He said while progress has been made in habitat protection/restoration and increasing populations, much work remains and they face many challenges, such as uncertain funding, climate change, and effects of the Ballard Locks and Ship Canal. He added there are four major concerns determined from the 2016 Technical Forum: predation, artificial light effects on fish behavior, high water temperatures, and floodplain rearing/refuge.

#### **Cedar River Restoration Project Updates**

- Elliott Reach Mitigation Project: Jon Hansen, a Project Manager with KC DNRP, presented on the ongoing mitigation project at Elliott Reach. The primary focuses were bank revegetation and the construction of a “scour” hole in the river as a resting place for adult salmon. Tom Allyn then presented his own photos from Elliott Reach. He spoke of continuing stewardship group efforts to remove knotweed from the river, as overgrowth of this weed is an ongoing problem on the Cedar, as well as area roadways. He also expressed desire for KC's Noxious Weeds program to be involved earlier in the removal process.
- River Bend Project: This was removed from a previous draft of the agenda and not addressed tonight.

#### **Sub-Committee Updates**

- Leadership Nominating Committee: Discussion continued from a prior meeting regarding Chair/Vice Chair eligibility. Max Prinsen suggested simply stating there can be no “conflict of interest.” Frank Urabeck encouraged at least a broad definition of that terminology. Two recommended criteria were monetary and agency interests. It was also recommended that any conflicts be disclosed to the Council by the candidates. Nathan Brown agreed to draft language and follow up. He added that, as the LNC has completed its objective, it will be removed as a standing agenda item.
- New Member Recruitment Committee: Jeff Neuner said two new Council members, Norm Skjelbreia and Melinda Woodard, have been confirmed. Charles Rutherford and Marilyn Whitley were named as prospective members. It was mentioned this subcommittee is against term limits for this Council.



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What was developed is an ongoing recruitment process including annual review, with this subcommittee a starting point for applicant review. Mr. Urabeck recommended filling any Council vacancies as soon as possible to maintain a full roster. Mr. Neuner said all members of the subcommittee are willing to serve as a standing recruitment committee.

- Website: Mr. Brown reported a draft is being developed by the King County webmaster. The one-page site will be hosted on the KC server, and contain basic information on council members, meeting information, and meeting documents. Public commentary agreed a website would be useful to encourage Council participation. Jay Mirro asked about a possibility of business cards with CRC website and contact information; Mr. Brown said he would look into it but there were no guarantees.

### Other Updates and Announcements

- WRIA 8 Summit: Mr. Urabeck reported on the recent WRIA 8 meeting, where the Corps of Engineers expressed wishes for funding to maintain/update the Ballard Locks. Mr. Urabeck says there are concerns that the shallow water depths of the Ship Canal - 30 feet - create higher water temperatures and therefore increase salmon mortality there. His perception is that the Corps does not want to address this issue, but that he would press it, and that it will take a major project to resolve this. He went on to say that if sufficient data supporting these concerns can be gathered, then perhaps funding can be obtained to address them. The Muckleshoot Tribe is gathering data now.
- Seattle Public Utilities – Follow-Up: Mr. Urabeck said, despite attempted follow-up by Mr. Brown, there has been no reply to the Council's prior questions to Paul Faulds of SPU. He recommended a polite official letter from the Council to reiterate the request. Mr. Prinsen agreed this was appropriate. Mr. Brown said, despite invites, SPU representatives have not attended these meetings.
- Cedar River Corridor Advisory Board: Mr. Brown stated this group has not yet convened.

### Future Meeting Topics: April 2016

- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):
  - Fish Escapement and Returns Report: Aaron Bosworth with WDFW is scheduled to attend the April Council meeting to speak on this.
  - Lake Washington Predation Study: Mr. Brown tried to contact WDFW for someone speak to the Council about this, with no success. Mr. Urabeck will contact Jim Scott at WDFW.
- New Topic Suggestions: Mr. Prinsen suggested a presentation about the Ballard Locks. He also recommended a focus on the Cedar's sidestem tributaries and how they are affecting the main river in terms of water quantities. He asked if someone could be brought in to speak on these.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Comment Period

One citizen described his observations from living on the Cedar for 62 years. He said he has seen perhaps 12 sockeye, and found four dead trout in a pool when the Cedar was at its highest, deaths he believed were temperature-related. Mr. Prinsen and Mr. Brown advised him to photograph his findings and bring them and any related information to the Council.

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*Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.*

### Next Meeting

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Maplewood Greens Golf Course, Renton