

## CRC 11/19/19

### DRAFT Notes

#### I) Call to Order – by Chair Max

- Welcomed Nathan back.

#### II) General Public Comment

- Reminder for everyone to sign in.

#### III) King County Capital Projects Update by Jon Hansen, Environmental Restoration and Engineering Services (ERES) Unit Supervisor

- Riverbend is on target for construction this summer. Demolition is underway. Have all permits except local permits but working on it. Someone asked if the clubhouse was salvaged, but Jon wasn't sure, especially since the demo was handled by the Rivers section, not ERES.
- Taylor Creek mitigation project. The county's Mitigation Reserve Program collects impact fees from all over and put it into a single project to build something better. (Dan Eastman had previously presented at a meeting to discuss Taylor Creek phase I and there was also a site visit.) The project was built during the summer of 2019 and the total cost was around 3.5M.
- This project is not directly connected to Taylor Creek due to threat of beavers.
- Megan Webb runs the Mitigation Reserves Program.
- The overall goal is to create linkages that create habitat for juvenile salmonids and other species.
- Question: is there pedestrian access? Yes, it's on public land but they didn't build parking or trails. It will be wild/natural.
- Question: what is it mitigation for? Partially from WSDOT impacts and impacts to other service areas.
- There was a comment that the mitigation for a small wetland is astronomical. Jon said it includes the cost of buying property, design, construct, monitor and manage into the future.
- Someone asked about Riverbend so Jon discussed the Riverbend project for a few minutes. Design is 90% done. Question: will the project affect the 100-yr floodplain? Yes.
- Question: Who can we talk to about how to control that site? There's an agreement that Parks will manage the access to the bridge. Signage against encampments will likely be posted.

#### IV) Cedar River Council – I Love Cedar River Annual Event

- Reschedule discussion. April or May was agreed upon.

#### V) Standing Topics

- a) WRIA 8 CRC Rep. Appointment: Used to be Charles Rutherford but he's no longer with the CRC. Looking for volunteers. Corinne volunteered and was approved.
- b) SPU: Lots of water in the reservoir. It was suggested that at a future meeting, SPU (Amy) talk about flood management and SPU projects within Cedar River Basin.
- c) Sockeye Management – Governor Inslee's response to sockeye letter: We got a letter back from WDFW and there will be a conference call to start discussing cooperative ways to look at the sockeye issue. Also, Larry made contact with the Governor's aide and they have it in hand but are currently on vacation. It will likely be deferred back to WDFW. Have not heard back from other participants. Comment was made that with the door open to discuss, should take a comprehensive look at it. Tribes are looking at similar discussions and want to look at it themselves. There may be an opportunity with the Executive's Clean Water Healthy Habitat Initiative and the Orca problem. There was a discussion about the sockeye not being native, but being iconic and the value in that. Someone also commented that due to habitat change, the river wouldn't even be good for native salmon anymore.
- d) Fish Counts: No report. Every year in April is the annual fish meeting and that's when we'll get updates on current management activities.
- e) Cedar River Asphalt Plant: Nathan received copy of the Local Services comment letter to Lakeside Industries, which was forwarded to CRC members to review. Max said the CRC and public comments have been addressed, but there are still some concerns that should be looked at. Melinda said her

students are reviewing the comment letter because the Cedar River is an extension of the classroom. Deadline for response on comment letter is March 18. There was discussion that the plant is for sure going to happen, but what the Council can do is make sure the improvements are made. There was also discussion of whether the decision can be appealed; it can and may be appealed by the tribes or another group, and the CRC can join them. The zoning question came up; seems suspicious that the site suddenly changed from residential to industrial. Nathan said there should be a small group reviewing the comment letter and getting back to the larger group. The small group will be: Melinda, Tom A, Steve H, and Phil K.

f) CRC Membership and Operations:

- Discussion of current roster, which goes from 2020 – 2021. In total, the Council has 28 recognized positions, and 21 are voting. There are 3 vacancies to be filled.
- 2020 meetings will no longer be at the golf course because it was too expensive so a new venue will be found. Nathan also proposed having an online meeting every other month during a lunch timeframe.

**VI) Public Comment – None**

Nathan proposed ending with an activity for everyone to re-introduce themselves and talk about their interest/role in the Cedar River and what value they've gotten out of the Council as a way to get to know each other.

- Greg Fischer, Renton Lions Club, has property on the river.
- Steve Hiester, GMVUAC [Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Community], has learned a lot and can go back to his meetings and fill people in.
- Jeff Neuner, Mainstem 2 Rep, has been on CRC a while, has seen some good work but feels the group has lost momentum because fewer citizens are coming.
- Phil Kitzes, land developer, has done a lot of permitting and projects throughout area but he does spend a lot of time designing around critical areas. He's used to public negotiations and contacting politicians and appreciates all he's learning about the river.
- Norman, lives across from the golf course, used to be a FEMA rep in Snohomish. He also used to be part of a council formed in Snohomish, but that one fizzled out after the last big flood. He says to keep fighting.
- Jon Hansen, King County, isn't a member of the Council, but appreciates what they are doing and the reduction of tension that has happened because of it. He wishes each basin had one.
- Tom, got involved after doing volunteer restoration work. Came to realize the quality of life in the community depends on the quality of life of the river. He's happy to be part of it.
- Melinda, Director of Advancement at Cedar River Montessori and is also an aquatic ecologist. She got involved after meeting Max while checking out Shadow for her own environmental project. She likes the scientific presentations given at the CRC and believes it's the emotional connection to places that draws people out.
- Max, recently retired, became involved after being part of Shadow Lake Nature Preserve as well as being on the board of the Conservation District. Believes strongly that through public comment and involvement and doing things, can implement change.
- Nathan, King County facilitator, has been impressed with the influence of the Council. When he first became involved with the Council years ago, he remembers KC staff struggling with public complaints. Now, there is much more public confidence and trust.
- Jay Mirro, has been at KCD for 19 years and lives in Cedar River basin. Invited the group to meet again at his house.
- Larry Fisher, State Fish and Wildlife, has been a biologist for over 20 years. The meetings are a great opportunity to interact with other shareholders in the basin. The three major things he's involved with are the dredging project at the mouth of the River, large wood, and restoration projects.

- Jamie, an alternate for SPU, fish biologist. First time being involved in a council so it's been interesting. He accepted the position because he grew up in Hobart.
- Corinne, has been a member for a year, got involved due to the asphalt plant and appreciates the in-depth information that most of the public doesn't get. Recreating in and around the River gives you a connection and makes you care. She wants to help the greater community.

**VII) Adjourn**