

West Sound Watersheds Council Retreat Summary

December 1-2, 2009

Location: Kitsap Administration Building and Cowling Creek Center

Organized by: Paul Dorn, Suquamish Tribe
John Meyer, Puget Sound Partnership
Kathy Peters, West Sound Watersheds LE Coordinator
Doris Small, WDFW

Purpose: To engage WSWC participants in development of draft work products to bring back to WSWC for further discussion in the following categories:

- *Establish goals and work plans for salmon recovery in the watershed*
- *Develop a portfolio of potential projects to address recovery*
- *Develop a strategy to prioritize potential recovery actions and projects*
- *Advance local integration of ecosystem and salmon recovery plans*
- *Other topics of interest*

December 1 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Nearshore Assessment Training (Kitsap Admin. Bldg.; organized by Sue Donahue and Battelle Labs)

The workshop was well attended, and included many non WSWC participants from state, federal, and other local jurisdictions and organizations. Battelle provided copies of their materials to all 31 workshop attendees electronically. The purpose of the training was to introduce potential users to the assessment, their methodologies, and work through an example of how this can be applied in decision-making.

<http://www.kitsapgov.com/dcd/nr/nearshore/nearshore1.htm>

December 1 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

WSWC Retreat (Cowling Creek Center)

Attendees: Doris Small, Kathy Peters, Paul Dorn, Bob Johnston, John Meyer and Keith Folkerts

The group worked through a review of all documents available relevant to the West Sound Watersheds for informing salmon recovery plans and strategies. Most participants brought hard copies and maps for sharing. We spent most of our evening reviewing the *East Kitsap WRIA 15 Salmon Recovery Planning Implementation and Habitat Analysis Matrix*. **While the chapter text & appendices were included with the Puget Sound plan (submitted by Shared Strategy), the matrix was added several months later & may not be formally included as part of the chapter.** One idea is to include it in the 3 Year Work Program documents, and to speak with Norma Jean Sands of the RITT about using it in our adaptive management work when that occurs. It was clear that much of the matrix content will be valuable to current SMP update processes underway in the watershed and that shoreline planners should be updated on this document's existence.

- Recommendation to WSWC: review the matrix and its relevance to West Sound salmon recovery (e.g., advancing/informing projects, education/outreach)
- Recommendation to WSWC: add to the 3 Year Work Program docs
- Recommendation to WSWC: discuss with Norma Jean (RITT) about using it in adaptive management

The group also discussed the “old” lead entity strategy, located in the Salmon Recovery Plan as an appendix. The group agreed to highlight the strategy summary as a part of the Action Agenda implementation.

- Recommendation to WSWC: connect the strategy summary explicitly to the Action Agenda

One other clarifying issue that was discussed was how the East Kitsap Chapter was written. Apparently the “East Kitsap Sub-Area” (Chapter 6) refers only to the unincorporated Kitsap County areas, because the cities of Bremerton, Poulsbo and Port Orchard did not contribute to the document. This included the matrix referred to above, which was authored by a Kitsap County staff person. The City of Bainbridge Island preferred to have its own “sub-watershed” section, which is why there is a distinct and different section for that jurisdiction (7) in the plan.

The group agreed on the need to re-invigorate participation by the other cities. It was also noted that the City of Gig Harbor and the part of the West Sound north of the Narrows in Pierce County were not included in the Recovery Plan at all. This is because “East Kitsap” covers the Kitsap County portion of the lead entity and “South Sound” covers the rest of the area south of the Narrows.

- Recommendation to WSWC: For discussion – how do we reinvigorate cities to participate?

We were treated to Keith’s water stick demonstration that we hope he will share with WSWC. Water resource management is critical to natural resource management and needs to be integrated into WSWC’s work plan.

- Recommendation to WSWC: Bring water resource discussions into WSWC work plans

The last two discussion items on day one included:

1. The RFP for the EPA grant, due in January. All felt that there are substantial opportunities in the West Sound for this funding. Such opportunities include:
 - a. Stormwater Management Implementation
 - b. Reclaimed Water Implementation
 - c. Shoreline Restoration
2. Climate Change – it is unclear to what degree climate change is being considered in projects around the west sound. WSWC may consider adding a mechanism to capture this in the ranking criteria for the lead entity technical review.

December 2 9:00 AM – 5 PM WSWC Retreat Con’t (Cowling Creek Center)

Attendees: Doris Small, Kathy Peters, Paul Dorn, Bob Johnston, John Meyer, Keith Folkerts, Brian Reese, Danielle DeVoe, Kathlene Barnhart and Brenda McMurray.

The group decided to start the day by discussing the WSWC organization itself. They discussed how WSWC was formed, with the letter sent to the other counties, cities and tribes. The formal Interlocal Agreement for all the parties was in the process of approval by several cities in mid-2008 when the Kitsap Board of Commissioners requested deferral until the organization could be modified to include broader representation to e.g. non-governmental groups.

There was a broad ranging discussion on this issue. The group resurrected the original documents regarding the proposed WSWC structure and worked to update the original “Summary of the Proposed Organization” to reflect changes in the Partnership and the development of the Action Agenda. The updated documents appear to address most of the concerns heard to date and should be presented again to elected officials and representatives.

The group also discussed how to approach elected officials from the cities, no decisions were made. It was noted that both Patty Lent (now mayor of Bremerton) and Becky Erickson (mayor elect of Poulsbo) have participated in or expressed interest in the Puget Sound Partnership and the Action Agenda. It was also noted that WSWC needs to have a representative on the Salmon Recovery Council, to be determined prior to their next meeting on January 28 in Edmonds. Kathy and/or John will follow up with this topic with Steve Bauer.

- Recommendation to WSWC: finalize the ‘Summary of Proposed Organization’
- Recommendation to WSWC: For discussion – how do we approach local electeds and get them on board?
- Recommendation to WSWC: connect with Steve Bauer on WSWC structure and Salmon Recovery Council representation

The next topic was how to do nearshore project prioritization, with the goal of having a suite of projects and a tool for prioritizing them. The group discussed various approaches to this:

1. Doris led the discussion with a description and sharing of the document used to describe Carr Inlet, developed by the South Sound salmon technical committee.
2. Brenda described the process used by the Bainbridge Island Land Trust to prioritize parcels for protection. She showed a map of southern Bainbridge, and the group discussed the BILT approach.
3. Keith shared a set of maps with which he attempted to add various species and other criteria to the NAU units, which are the units used in the Nearshore Assessment. All agreed that the information needs to be verified – the sources were via WDFW website and are not complete.

It was then decided to try describing one body of water, and to begin a prioritization method for restoration or protection projects. The group chose Miller Bay, since they could use Paul’s local knowledge to assist us. They used all available plans and analysis

to do this work. The group agreed that the description/analysis exercise for Miller Bay was valuable and that they should continue this task on a regular basis (quarterly?). They also agreed that the Habitat Work Schedule would be a good place to store this information. This effort can be overlaid with Keith's work on resource inventories and maps and the Nearshore Assessment.

The Miller Bay example document will be presented at the next WSWC meeting.

- Recommendation to WSWC: finish written assessment of Miller's Bay
- Recommendation to WSWC: For discussion – is this approach useful and worthwhile to guide WSWC's decision making in establishing priority projects?
- Recommendation to WSWC: complete assessments for each of the major inlets in West Sound

It was also agreed that there are a lot of other sources of information about the watersheds and shorelines that we are trying to protect – in museums, oral history projects, etc. It was suggested that perhaps a project for citizen scientists would be to capture this information and organize it.

- Recommendation to WSWC: For discussion – is this a project ripe for citizen science, and how to we facilitate it?

The group then worked on a scoring sheet for Priority Shoreline conservation Areas. Keith has this document and will forward it prior to the next planning retreat date.

- Recommendation for action: review the scoring sheet to see if this methodology is appropriate
- Recommendation to WSWC: For discussion – is this approach useful and worthwhile to guide WSWC's decision making in establishing priority projects?

The retreat had originally been scheduled to continue for another day. All participants agreed that it would be more productive to postpone the work until 2010. The time had been well spent and productive. Thank you to Paul Dorn and the Cowling Center for the facility.

- Recommendation to WSWC: plan one-day retreat for late spring to wrap up loose ends