

Summary Notes

**WRIA 13 Salmon Habitat Workgroup
January 24, 2018
Thurston Conservation District Office
1:30 – 3:30**

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Review & Approve 2018-2022 4-Year-Work Plan

- Local Recovery Plan Chapter written in 2005 and continue to update via the 4-Year-Work Plan to achieve goals set forth in chapter; Group to review and approve current iteration of Work Plan
- Process: Technical Review Committee reviews/drafts work plan; WRIA 13 Lead Entity (LE) conducts final review; Submitted to PSP every two years for formal review and approval
- Approx. 40 projects on list, with range of restoration/acquisition goals

Comments/Questions:

- Jerilyn: Project #40: Knotweed assessment completed; Update to say implementation/response based on assessment
- Martin: Request to define perched culvert?; Perched culvert is up and out of water; Serves as a fish passage barrier
- Group decision to finalize and submit 4-year-work-plan to PSP

III. Capital Budget and Salmon/Orca Recovery Legislative Updates

- Capital Budget approved last week; Amy noted SRFB & PSAR are projects this group reviews and ranks annually; These funds allocated by the LE can go into contract now
- Butler Cove & Spurgeon Creek designs and implementation dollars were approved in both 2016 and 2017, creating duplicative funding for some aspects of the projects; RCO, SPSSEG, CLT, & Amy will meet, determine options, and bring back to HWG in February; Will determine what capacity and dollars are actually needed for project design/implementation; Duplicative funding (PSAR) will be available to allocate this year
- Hirst Decision Update: Legislation passed a bill to address Hirst Decision, along with Capital Budget; Includes \$300 million for restoration projects in the 15 watersheds identified
- Allison: Still evaluating effect on Thurston County (TC); All five watersheds in Thurston County are included in the bill (2SSB 6091); Any Permit-Exempt wells approved before January 19th will move forward as is; Any approved after that

date will undergo new process, with a \$500 permitting fee, to be split between restoration and administrative costs; Historically, in all the watersheds, permit exempt wells were domestic use less than 5,000 gallons per day; Changed future usage thresholds will be determined in individual watersheds; Metering is not required; Usage will have to be recorded as part of building permit process; Will need to update this permitting process; Bill also dictates developing watershed groups to conduct watershed planning; For WRIA 13 and 14, using WRIA boundaries and Ecology will have to set up a Watershed Planning process; Must produce a plan, monitoring data, determine water availability in the watershed, can propose changes to building code and permitting process, and propose restoration and enhancement mitigation projects; Plan has to be approved by Ecology; If group does not reach consensus, goes to SRGB for their review, and Ecology makes final decision

- Kat: RCO will hire a technical review panel if involved
- Allison: Not sure if \$300 million for restoration or watershed planning; Unknown how money will be parsed out yet
- Amy HW: Dollars that support LE administrative capacity no longer federally funded through PCSRF; Request heavy on humans vs. implementation, so RCO requested and received LE capacity funding in Capital Budget; Bill coming out in this session (SB 6123) that would restrict utilization of bond dollars from salaries; Kat: RCO has made fiscal comments/impacts on that bill; Specifically restricts state agency salary dollars; State Need to find out how it would impact Amy/TCD/WRIA 13 LE admin funding
- Creation of the Orca Task Force by the Governor has been pushed to February; The composition of the task force is vast and not yet finalized; Will look at variety of issues; Want to push immediate action; Salmon recovery integrally connected to Orcas, and Amy will be working hard to fold in the LE work done to identify projects and actions and hopefully fund some of them
- Below is a table developed by Wendy Brown, RCO’s Policy Director and Legislative Liaison:

Bill	Title	Hearing Date	Passed Chamber	Hearing Date Opposite Chamber	Passed Opposite Chamber	Passed Legislature	Governor Acted
HB 1075	Capital budget, 2017-2019	Jan 9th					
2SHB 1080	State general obligation bonds	Jan 9th					
HB 1434	Adding use of shared leave for purposes of pregnancy disability and parental leave						

HB 2260	Atlantic salmon (prohibiting cultivation of Atlantic salmon)	Jan 18th					
HB 2417	Southern resident orca recovery	Jan 16th					
HB 2418	Nonnative fish aquaculture	Jan 18th					
HB 2505	Increased participation in recreation fishing and hunting						
HB 2649	Recreational opportunities for persons with a disability						
HB 2723	Modifying the types of off-road vehicles subject to local government regulation						
SB 5295	Adding use of shared leave for purposes of pregnancy disability and parental leave						
SB 5981	Capital budget 2017-2019						
SB 6086	Nonnative finfish release	Jan 11th					
SB 6089	State general obligation bonds	Jan 11th					
SB 6090	Capital budget 2017-2019	Jan 11th					
SB 6091	Water availability (Hirst)	Jan 11th					
SB 6094	State general obligation bonds (Governor's proposal)	Jan 11th					
SB 6095	Capital budget 2017-2019 (Governor's proposed suppl.)	Jan 11th					
SB 6097	Outdoor recreation task force – industry jobs and education	Jan 16th					
SB	Orca captivity	Jan 16th					

6099							
SB 6103	Federal land conveyances	Jan 16th					
SB 6123	Prohibiting the use of bonds for state employee compensation						
SB 6128	Recreational access fees – Rucklehaus study						
SB 6140	State land management – DNR request about aquatic lands	Jan 15th					
SB 6151	State parks license plate						
SB 6198	Increased participation in recreation fishing and hunting						
SB 6203	Carbon pollution – this is the Governor's carbon tax bill	Jan 16th					
SB 6229	Bargaining representatives access						
SB 6268	Creating the orca protection act						
SB 6328	Defining best available science for the purpose of designating fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas						

IV. Review 2018 Near Term Actions (NTA) for PSP Action Agenda WRIA 13 Fiscal Agent Status and Update

- Provided subset of what's being proposed for Salmon Recovery in South Sound for group reference; Between now and March, groups meeting and refining their NTA applications; Funding comes from EPA through NEP grant b/c Puget Sound designated as a National Estuary of Significance
- LE needs to develop protocol to review and endorse projects being put forth for inclusion in the PSP Action Agenda; PSP wants to ensure local workgroups vets for pertinent and impactful projects

- Amy: Needs LE direction on local review process; Options: Technical Review committee can review the projects to see if they approve of objectives and pass forward to whole LE for approval; Concerned about time commitment for voluntary technical review of all applications; Amy could conduct initial review and tag projects of concern (don't align with strategy, work plan, etc.), Tech review those project, and group does final review and approval
- Allison: Only need to review projects NOT on 4ywp; Lawrence agrees
- Jerilyn: Could develop a subcommittee to review applications
- Dan: Recommends applicants refine request to one priority for stronger proposal; Align language and narrative to that; \$11-12 million allocated over four years estimate; 804 applications submitted throughout Puget Sound
- Amy can organize projects, provide notes on timeline, indicate work plan inclusion – and send out to whole group for review
- Lawrence: If not on workplan, could be sent out to whole group for comment
- Amy: She can organize projects, provide notes on timeline, and indicate inclusion in work plan, and send out for comments from whole group; If she does not receive comment, can assemble sub-committee?
- Lawrence: Could review as whole group in a monthly LE meeting
- Allison: Do we need to prioritize the projects? Amy HW: Will have look into that; Would have to develop criteria

V. Fiscal Agent Status and Update

- Over past couple of months, AHW has been in communication with RCO and PSP re: TCD Board making policy changes in conflict with RCW 77.85, RCO & Salmon Recovery process
- Specifically, concern re: changes to TCD Policies & Procedures that give final decision on approving/not approving LE vetted funds to the TCD Board of Supervisors
- Line 81: Acting Executive Director Delegation of Authority: Puts TCD Board in final decision over funding LE vetted projects; Amy communicating with RCO, the Puget Sound Partnership, Squaxin Island Tribe and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office on what to do re: the conflict this creates with authorizing legislation
- Updated policy has been adopted by the TCD Board
- Jerilyn: Policy for Acting ED - Will this change when Executive Director position filled; Amy HW: Does not know if it will change
- Amy HW invited further questions to be directed to Sarah Moorehead, Acting Executive Director

VI. Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan (Mike Burnham, TRPC)

- Amy invited to provide update for incorporation of climate change impacts when updating local strategy

VII. Public Comment

VIII. Adjourn

Next Meeting: February 14, 2018