



## King County

Water & Land Resources Division  
Department of Natural Resources & Parks  
King Street Center  
201 S. Jackson St., Ste. 600  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855  
(206) 477-4654 Office | (206) 296-0192 Fax

MEETING NOTES

### **CEDAR RIVER COUNCIL**

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Maplewood Greens Golf Course  
4050 Maple Valley Hwy., Renton, WA 98058

*Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.*

---

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

Larry Reymann, President of the Environmental Science Center in Burien, spoke of the ongoing work at the Center. This includes outreach to local youth via projects such as cabin renovations, restoring Puget Sound shoreline, and beach walks. ESC has also conducted field trips with several schools in WRIA 8 with a goal of introducing youth to the environment. He expressed hope to be further involved with education in WRIA 8 and along the Cedar, and promised to distribute business cards and website info for the Center to CRC.

Max Prinsen took a moment to formally recognize Dave Beadle, who now serves as CRC representative for Seattle Public Utilities in place of Suzanne Flagor.

#### **Presentation: Cedar River Spawning & Escapement – Aaron Bosworth, District Biologist, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife**

Aaron Bosworth of WDFW gave a presentation about trends of salmon spawning/escapement in the Cedar River watershed; much of this data is also available on WDFW's website. WDFW monitoring of the Cedar currently indicates low/declining escapement for steelhead, Coho, and sockeye, with only Chinook showing good/increasing numbers for 2014-2015. The cause of the particularly low steelhead count is not currently known, Frank Urabeck said, but federal government is working on a steelhead recovery plan for 2018. Mr. Urabeck suggested bringing Elizabeth Babcock of NOAA to speak to CRC on that issue. Mr. Bosworth theorized that higher temperatures the past two summers are contributing to a higher mortality rate, as well as fish possibly picking up pathogens in shallower waters such as the ship canal. He also suggested that spawning in side channels may be contributing to the higher number of Chinook.

#### **Presentation: Cedar River Predation Study 2006 to 2010 – Roger Tabor, US Fish & Wildlife Service**

Roger Tabor of USFWS presented on a recent study by USFWS in collaboration with King County and WDFW, also available online. The study was primarily to estimate abundance, size, and feeding habits of Cedar River resident trout, which may be contributing to a decline in salmon populations. The study indicated rainbow and cutthroat trout fed largely on invertebrates in summer, with higher predation on salmon in winter/spring (large rainbow on sockeye and cutthroat on Chinook). Higher predation levels were noted in the lower/extreme lower strata of the river. Significant jumps in overall salmon consumption, chiefly Chinook, were noted between 2008 and 2010, concurrent with a significant decrease in salmon migrating from the Cedar into Lake Washington. This trend may also be related to lower discharge levels measured in the river in 2010 compared to 2008.

Mr. Tabor went on to detail early results of a similar study now underway in Lake Washington. Northern



## King County

pikeminnow and cutthroat trout, as well as a rapid increase in non-native walleye and smallmouth bass, are listed as significant juvenile salmon threats. He said these predator species are very difficult to control in terms of population. Frank Urabeck noted that over 98% of sockeye fry entering the lake do not return, and if significant data can be gathered, a management solution to this might be determined. Mr. Tabor also stated the higher water temperatures in areas such as the ship canal are very significant, as warmer waters are where predators, particularly smallmouth bass, prefer to feed.

### Sub-Committee Updates

- New Member Recruitment Committee: Jeff Neuner introduced Charles Ruthford, a potential CRC member, stating that the subcommittee is unanimous in his recommendation. Mr. Neuner made a motion to accept Mr. Ruthford's membership; Tom Allyn seconded; all members voted in approval.
- CRC Website: Nathan Brown reported the site would be live next Friday, and that he would email the text content of the site to CRC members beforehand. He asked members to forward to him feedback on the content by Wednesday so it could be incorporated into the site. Jay Mirro asked about CRC business cards; Mr. Brown answered he would look into the possibility once the website was live.

### Other Updates and Announcements

- WRIA 8: Frank Urabeck reported there was no WRIA 8 meeting this month, but one would occur next month. Nathan Brown added that the current designated WRIA 8 representative for the CRC may no longer be able to serve. Mr. Urabeck asked if he should now serve in that capacity; Mr. Brown agreed.
- Cedar River Corridor Advisory Board: Mr. Brown said this group has not convened. He added that their agenda would be to prioritize a new suite of projects and recommendations for the river.

### Future Meeting Topics: May 2016

- Ballard Locks Fish Mortality Study
- Ron Straka Presentation on Renton Area
- Knotweed Concerns (suggested for June meeting): Suggested by Tom Allyn. Mr. Allyn will formulate more questions for King County WLRD about recommended improvements on this issue. He will draft a letter for review/input from the CRC before sending on to WLRD.
- New Topic Suggestions:
  - Site Visit / Community Outreach
  - Visit Elliott Bridge, River Bend sites (suggested by Tom Allyn)
  - Visit Ballard Locks (suggested for July)
  - Cedar River Salmon Journey – October weekend visit to interpretation site (suggested by Charles Ruthford)
  - Alternative Meeting Sites

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

There was no public comment during this period.

---

*Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.*

### Next Meeting

May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Maplewood Greens Golf Course, Renton