



## King County

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MEETING NOTES

### CEDAR RIVER COUNCIL

June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Cedar River Watershed Education Center  
19901 Cedar Falls Rd. SE, North Bend, WA 98045

*Meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm.*

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

There were no comments during this period.

#### **Presentation: Climate Change Finding, and Potential Adaptations and Resiliency – Paul Fleming, Manager, Seattle Public Utilities Climate Resiliency Group**

Paul Fleming with SPU gave a presentation overviewing several of their climate change forecast models for the Seattle area and how different scenarios could affect Seattle's future water supply. A multi-year study, Piloting Utility Modeling Applications (PUMA), is being conducted by many major urban utilities nationwide, including SPU, to determine how utilities can use climate data to enhance understanding of future trends.

A broad overview of eight (out of 40 total) selected PUMA scenarios indicates that in the coming decades, regional temperatures will continue to increase, and annual snowpack will continue to decrease; however, any water loss will be significantly worse if no pre-emptive mitigating action is taken. The most drastic model predicts a possible available water yield decrease of 35% by the 2050s, up to 73% by 2099. Mr. Fleming admitted these models do not take potential population growth into account, but countered that such growth is not necessarily directly correlative to total water usage. Seattle's population has doubled in the past 50 years, he said, but still consumes the same amount of water as 50 years ago. He added that SPU's analysis to seek out a potential alternate water supply would be conducted after the remaining 32 PUMA scenarios are evaluated.

Several Council members, while praising SPU's pre-emptive actions thus far on climate change, still stressed a desire for more forecast scenarios that do factor in significant future migration/population increases for the region. Mr. Fleming advised that entities like the CRC pushing SPU for this would be helpful, as currently there is little impetus for SPU to fully evaluate the 40 total existing scenarios. He said SPU's next steps would include evaluating the remaining 32 scenarios, identifying adaptation options, and ongoing engagement with other research and utility communities.

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

- Membership Committee: Nathan Brown reported this committee has filled most seats on the CRC, with 2-3 still vacant. He advised any recommendations should be brought before the full CRC.
- CRC Website: Mr. Brown said the website is up and running at the domain address donated by Tom Allyn, [cedarrivercouncil.org](http://cedarrivercouncil.org). He added that he would begin drafting general business card designs for the CRC, which he will send out to Council members for review at a future date.



## King County

### Other Updates and Announcements

- Adam Cooper, a new CRC member, introduced himself; he fills Jeanne Kohl-Welles' prior CRC slot.
- WRIA 8: Frank Urabeck reported there is still concern about significant salmon predation by walleye, cutthroat trout, bass, and pikeminnow in Lake Washington. He stated the CRC also needs to push the US Corps of Engineers to study the impacts of elevated water temperatures on fish in the ship canal; the Muckleshoot tribe and others are also conducting studies. Mr. Brown confirmed Mr. Urabeck's willingness to officially serve as CRC's designated WRIA 8 representative, then asked for a motion to confirm the appointment. Jeff Neuner made the motion, **Ryan McIrvin (?)** seconded, and all Council members voted in favor.
- Cedar River Logjams: A question was raised about the status of several logjams on the Cedar and any actions being taken to mitigate them. Mr. Neuner and Larry Fisher expressed concern that while local governments have held several meetings on the issue, little action is occurring to remove the jams. Christa Heller stated county biologists are working on a strategy, determining what mitigation risks are appropriate for what costs. Ms. Heller also reported that Kate Akyuz with DNRP has visited several logjam sites with the King County Sheriff's office, and concluded about 4-5 sites are "high risk." Judy Fillips spoke of her conversation with a Sheriff's office representative at the recent Large Wood public meeting, where she learned the marine unit of the Sheriff's office is being dissolved. She expressed unease about this decision and believes CRC should take a stance to reverse it. It was suggested CRC draft a letter to the King County Council; Max Prinsen and Mr. Neuner were delegated to begin the process. Mr. Brown added he would attempt to have representatives from King County and the Sheriff's office present at July's CRC meeting.

### Future Meeting Topics: July - August 2016

- July Meeting: Mr. Brown gave a reminder of the location and time of CRC's next meeting (see below), adding that the agenda will include a project site tour, open house, and hot dog cookout.
- August/September Meetings: Ms. Fillips suggested, instead of an August break for the CRC, there should be an August meeting at the Ballard Locks, and the meeting break should move to September. The Council's general consensus favored this proposal. She also asked about bringing back Scott Pozarycki with the Corps of Engineers, who presented to CRC in May about conditions at the Locks.
- Knotweed: Mr. Brown acknowledged Mr. Allyn still wishes for a presentation on this topic at an upcoming meeting; he will attempt to accommodate the request.

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

Mr. Neuner asked about a good viewing location for the current Cedar River dredging project in Renton. Mr. Urabeck recommended a spot near Renton High School and the Logan Street bridge.

A member of the public, who accompanied Ms. Fillips to tonight's meeting, expressed her own concerns about the dangers on the Cedar. She voiced a desire for more public education outreach, especially to youth, about the risks of floating the river.

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*Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.*

### Next Meeting

- July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Riverbend Mobile Home Park Club House, Renton, WA  
(Open House/Site Tour at 5:00 pm)