

# Cedar River Council

## DRAFT Meeting Notes

April 28, 2020 – 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (scheduled)  
Meeting/Conference Call  
via Zoom (King County account)

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### I) Call to Order/Welcome & Introductions

Chair Max Prinsen called today's meeting to order at 3:05 pm. He said that as the need for virtual meetings continues, adjustments will be made. There will occasionally be speakers, and public comment is always welcome. Nathan Brown added that the CRC still wants to be a forum for the community to share any information and goings-on in the Cedar River basin during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### II) General CRC Announcements & Information

- There was discussion about recent spawning activity in the Cedar. Larry Reymann, basin resident, reported there was a robust run of peamouth chub in the river 2-3 weekends prior, perhaps in the thousands. He observed the run from the Williams Street bridge to the Renton library. He said these fish are not anadromous, and do not compete heavily with salmon; some juvenile salmon even eat their eggs. They are bottom fish, who like to stay in lake algae and spawn in the river. The fish he observed were 10-12 inches in size. He added that many observers had seemed to believe they were salmon.
- Larry Fisher reported that, a couple of months prior, he observed a good run of longmouth suckers in the Cedar. Mr. Fisher said all the increased activity is due to many species being on spawning runs.
- Tom Allyn asked when lamprey spawn. Mr. Fisher said he has not observed them spawning in the river; Mr. Reymann said he has seen them occasionally. Jamie Thompson of Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) said lamprey should be spawning now as well.
- Mr. Allyn asked if the changes to the river channel (including scouring) from this past winter's flooding, which may have resulted in loss of many redds, would create good spawning areas for future fish runs. Mr. Fisher said these type of sites usually are more productive; Mr. Thompson agreed that floods are typically beneficial long-term for the native fish community. Nathan Brown suggested addressing this topic at the CRC's annual inter-agency fish issues meeting, typically scheduled for May.

### III) CRC Updates

- **WRIA 8**
  - Corinne Young said the next WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meeting is scheduled for next month. These are held every other month, and are currently being held online.
- **Fish Habitat Conservation/Restoration (Sockeye):** There were no updates.
- **Cedar River Watershed**
  - Jamie Thompson of SPU reported that snowpack levels are currently at average to good levels. The reservoir levels are at about three feet below maximum elevation for the year; levels may be dropped. This would require some spill over the masonry dam, which can increase flows below Landsburg Dam.
  - Max Prinsen said he heard that snowpack levels are at about 103% of normal, with no concern about water for summertime. He also heard predictions that this summer may be a bit hotter than last year's.
- **CRC Member Updates:** There were no updates.

### IV) Meeting Feedback: Skype vs. Zoom

Nathan Brown asked for feedback on if attendees preferred Zoom or Skype as a virtual meeting venue. The consensus was that either is acceptable. Mr. Brown said unless there was opposition, CRC meetings will continue to be held via Zoom. Respondents to his recent meeting date/time poll largely favored a 3:00 pm time slot for these meetings. No one voiced opposition to this.

### V) May Meeting Agenda Topics

- Nathan Brown asked if next month's CRC meeting should focus, as typically happens annually around May, on fish issue presentations from CRC partner entities. Larry Phillips suggested postponing this focus until June or July, due to many agencies currently being overwhelmed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Max Prinsen agreed, saying that the issues to address at such meetings, which typically feature heavy public dialogue, are still to be determined. One such issue is to follow up with Governor Inslee's office on the

CRC's 2019 letter to them regarding coordination of sockeye recovery efforts. Mr. Phillips said he believed the governor's office was, until the pandemic, aware and ready to engage on the sockeye issue.

- Jay Mirro suggested bringing back Jon Hansen of DNRP to present on and discuss with the CRC the recent blowout of Cavanaugh Pond at the Riverbend project site, a presentation postponed from an earlier CRC meeting. Mr. Brown agreed to arrange for Mr. Hansen to attend May's meeting.
- Mr. Brown said he recently received a phone call voicing concern about crowds accumulating to recreate at public lands along the river (like Cedar Rapids), despite the governor's order to stay at home. The caller suggested posting signage to discourage such activity; Tom Allyn said there is flagging up.
- Max Prinsen and Larry Fisher said Lake Washington will re-open for fishing on May 5, with standard rules in place. Mr. Allyn added that the Cedar typically opens up for fly fishing on May 6.

#### **VI) Wrap-Up/Adjourn**

- Nathan Brown said that May 19 at 3:00 pm is the tentative date and time for next month's meeting, to avoid Memorial Day weekend. The meeting is to feature the postponed Riverbend project presentation from Jon Hansen.
- Today's meeting adjourned early at 3:37 pm.