



King County

Water and Land Resources Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

King Street Center

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Cedar River Council DRAFT Meeting Notes

**July 27, 2021 – 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm (scheduled)
Meeting/Video Conference Call via Zoom (King County account)**

I) Call to Order / Welcome

Nathan Brown called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II) General CRC Announcements / Information (Open to All)

No announcements were made during this period.

III) Future Topics for CRC Meetings

Nathan Brown asked attendees what topics they would like to see the CRC discuss at future meetings. A firmer agenda on discussion topics will be in place by the October 2021 meeting. All attendees expressed great interest in continuing discussion on sockeye salmon restoration and activity around Lake Washington and the Ballard Locks. Attendees also wanted to discuss further about any future permitting plans near the Cedar River such as the Lakeside Industries asphalt plant and the impacts of climate change on the Cedar River.

Chair Max Prinsen suggested talking to King County Department of Local Services (DLS) regarding any commercial permitting along the Maple Valley Highway and have DLS come to the CRC for input with permitting applications. Although the CRC has only observed activity with the asphalt plant, Chair Prinsen advised that the CRC write a letter to the King County Council (KCC) expressing concern with the potential permit approval on the plant. Karl Guntheroth emphasized the CRC's value in its informative dialogue and requested that citizens be kept informed on the development of recreational use of the river such as bike paths and trails.

Cedar River Councilmember Steve Hiester recommended an update to the King County Comprehensive Plan regarding zoning and land use. Changes to zoning up to this point have been denied. Councilmember Hiester also requested discussing expansion of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill and the cleanup sites along Cedar Grove Road and their impact on the river. Chair Prinsen endorsed these topics to be added for discussion, especially since residents north of the landfill have encountered issues with expansion. Renton City Councilmember Angelina Benedetti also agreed to adding the topics regarding the asphalt plant (as local constituents in the City of Renton have made it a hot topic) and landfill. Councilmember Benedetti advocated bringing more information from the City of Renton regarding the Cedar River Trail and planned to attend more CRC meetings.

Hugh Brown of the Asphalt Neighborhood Group supported the idea of a letter to the KCC and DLS as it is believed the plant would be a total disaster and volunteered to provide information and efforts to the CRC. Chair Prinsen reassured that the CRC wrote to many officials, but the response stated the CRC's questions were varied in different disciplines. The responsible departments for these disciplines were contacted, but an official response is yet to be received as they are still under evaluation. Chair Prinsen asserted that if a letter is not written to the KCC soon, it could be too late; it is best to act quickly but keep the letter relevant to Cedar River health and within CRC guidelines. Nathan Brown and Chair Prinsen suggested drafting a letter on the asphalt plant to circulate through CRC members for consensus by the fall.

IV) CRC Updates (As Needed)

- Lakeside Industries Asphalt Plant**

Chair Prinsen received an email from Cedar River Councilmember Phil Kitzes confirming that nothing had been approved at this time. Permitting is still under review by King County DLS.

- **WRIA (Water Resource Inventory Area) 8**

Cedar River Councilmember Corinne Helmer reported sockeye salmon counts this year are at 32,887, less than the five-year seasonal average of 50,000 salmon. There are still issues with Chinook salmon counts with only 26 counted. The movement of fish has been discussed; so far, there has been no method of transportation to get the fish through the Ballard Locks.

- **Fish Habitat Conservation/Restoration (Sockeye)**

Nathan Brown announced that the Riverbend project will begin its second phase of construction by October 2021. Brown said he plans to bring Jon Hansen (Riverbend Project Manager and Capital Projects Managing Supervisor, King County Water and Land Resources Division) to a future CRC meeting to provide further updates.

- **Cedar River Watershed**

Chair Prinsen confirmed that equipment was ordered, and movement is occurring on gathering sockeye salmon and transporting them from the Ballard Locks to the Landsburg Hatchery. The requests made to Governor Inslee's office are being made a reality. There were issues on ordering the tanks originally, but the experiment is now underway. Chair Prinsen also talked to press interested in the experiment and stressed the importance of keeping this topic in the spotlight, as it affects many cities and entities surrounding Lake Washington, not just King County. The CRC will need to figure out a way to get all entities involved in a proactive manner.

- **King County Flood Hazard Management Plan Update**

Nathan Brown revealed the plan will undergo a major update in 2022. King County Water and Land Resources Division is in the process of hiring a staff member to provide updates. Chair Prinsen mentioned the recent heatwave and high snowmelt that resulted in flooding in the Mount Rainier/White River area. Such events could be very impactful if Pacific Northwest heatwaves continue.

V) Public Comment Period

There was no public comment from attendees during this period. A concerned Cedar River Basin resident contacted Nathan Brown regarding the alarming accumulation of trash near King County restoration project sites along the river. Chair Prinsen inquired on the status of the upcoming trash pickup group effort mentioned at the last meeting. Brown stated there was a group currently coordinating efforts, but not with the CRC.

VI) Closing/Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for the last week of September 2021, potentially for an on-site tour of the Landsburg Hatchery. Once the date is confirmed, the CRC plans to invite members of the King County Council to participate and hopefully be reinvigorated by CRC efforts. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.