



King County

Water and Land Resources Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

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Cedar River Council DRAFT Meeting Notes

January 24, 2023 – 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm (scheduled)
Meeting/Video Conference Call via Zoom (King County account)

I) Call to Order / Welcome

CRC Chair Max Prinsen called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

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

CRC Coordinator Nathan Brown announced plans for a new direction for the CRC such as introducing online tools like the Miro online whiteboard app to make virtual meetings more interactive. Cedar River Councilmember Jay Mirro stated the King Conservation District (KCD) is currently voting for their Board of Supervisors. Voting is open to King County residents only and can be done online.

III) Topic Discussion – CRC 2023 Administrative Work (CRC Members)

Nathan Brown performed live edits to the following topics outlined in the Microsoft Word versions of both the ‘CRC Mission Statement and Guidelines’ and the ‘CRC Membership Roster.’ All tracked changes marked in these documents will be reviewed and approved for finalization by CRC members in the February 2023 meeting.

A) CRC Procedures and Process

- Mission Statement – Nathan Brown read the CRC mission statement aloud for CRC member review. All members agreed the current mission is still applicable to CRC goals and priorities. Ron Straka of the City of Renton proposed the King County Flood Control District (FCD) be added as an organization within the first bullet point (“*Monitor and support the implementation...*”). Straka indicated that FCD projects may be different than what is currently in the 2006 King County Flood Management Plan and may change when the flood plan updates. Chair Prinsen inquired about a CRC representative attending FCD meetings, which Straka volunteered to do so as Straka already attends on behalf of Renton. Brown and Cedar River Councilmembers Jay Mirro and Tom Allyn suggested FCD be added to the third bullet instead (“*Advocate Cedar River issues...*”) as the first bullet is dedicated to regional plans. All members agreed to this change.

Straka called for clarification on the fourth bullet (“*Seek to engage...*”) regarding the words “engage” and “affect,” especially since the types of engagement were unclear. Chair Prinsen explained that “affect” can refer to those who are involved in use of and projects in the Cedar River Basin. As far as engagement, the CRC provides input and makes recommendations through various mediums such as letters. Brown offered the addition of “*by advocacy, partner with, promote sharing of information and dialog*” to the end of the fourth bullet. However, all members acknowledged the phrase’s redundancy with the mission’s second paragraph and advocated to keep the original wording of the fourth bullet.

- Meeting Guidelines – No changes were made to this section.
- Decision Making Principles – Brown reiterated that all decisions made by the CRC are by consensus via the first bullet point (“Consensus”). Regarding Section 2 of the second bullet point (“Correspondence/Product Development”), Brown indicated the need for inclusion of specific turnaround time in order to prevent or address issues, preferably a minimum of two weeks. Cedar River Councilmember Frank Urabeck and Chair Prinsen recalled letters are sometimes sent due to urgency. However, common protocol would be to discuss the purpose and general message of the letter in a meeting with members, receiving member feedback prior to being finalized and sent. Councilmember Urabeck also called for clarity between voting and non-voting members. After much

discussion, the phrase “(See the CRC membership roster for voting and non-voting members)” was added to the end of the “Consensus” bullet point. No other changes were made to any remaining bullet points or sections.

B) CRC 2023 Meeting Schedule

Upon discussion, the tentative meeting schedule and presentations/topics for 2023 are as follows. All meeting information is subject to change.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
January 24	CRC Administrative Work
February 28	Riverbend Project Update
March 28	Green River Fish Study
April 25	Cedar River Climate Change Symposium with SPU, KC, UW
May 23	CRC Sockeye Symposium with WDFW, SPU, Muckleshoot Tribe
June 27	Field Meeting
July 25	Field Meeting
August	No Meeting - Vacation
September 26	Field Meeting
October 24	‘I Heart Cedar River’ Meeting (feasibility TBD)
November 28	(Open agenda at this time)
December	No Meeting - Vacation

C) CRC Agenda Topic Discovery and Selection

Nathan Brown and Chair Prinsen reviewed all presentation topics and future topics mentioned in 2022 for viability in upcoming 2023 meetings. Land acquisition will continue to be discussed on a routine basis. Any culvert work will go through the King County Fish Passage Restoration Program. Gas pipeline activity along the river will remain a tentative topic for discussion, should it occur. Nathan Brown will confirm with Cedar River Councilmember Dr. Hugh Brown on any industrial zoning information.

Cedar River Councilmember Larry Phillips suggested a future discussion topic of addressing climate change and how it may threaten both the Cedar River Watershed and the Cedar River itself. On a similar topic, Councilmember Tom Allyn requested review of Seattle Public Utilities’ (SPU) Water System Plan and what goes into their forecasting. Ron Straka of the City of Renton recommended a detailed update on the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan for a fall meeting. Finally, Cedar River Councilmember Corinne Helmer asked if an “I Heart Cedar River” event was going to occur towards the end of the year, possibly at the Renton Community Center. Nathan Brown informed Helmer that King County would want the CRC to be the sole funding sponsor for said event and, as a result, it could be difficult to coordinate. Brown will discuss further with Chair Prinsen.

D) CRC Membership Review

Multiple changes were made to the CRC Membership Roster. King County Councilmember (KCC) Jeanne Kohl-Welles and former City of Renton Councilmember Angelina Benedetti were removed as government representatives. KCC member Reagan Dunn will remain as an honorary representative with Jay Mirro and Ron Straka remaining as representatives for KCD and City of Renton, respectively. Straka will verify the newly elected City of Renton councilmember. Jim Schloemer was introduced as the new representative for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Nathan Brown will confirm Renton Lions Club’s future participation. All subsequently listed representatives are the same, with Mike Burger now representing as liaison for the Muckleshoot Tribe.

IV) CRC Updates (As Needed)

- **Lakeside Industries Asphalt Plant**

Cedar River Councilmember Dr. Hugh Brown referenced the 10-day Shoreline Hearings Board inquiry that occurred between November 28 and December 9, 2022. The board has 180 days to decide, but a decision has not yet been reached. The King County Superior Court hearing will occur on February 6 and 7, 2023, only reviewing written submission of materials. Dr. Brown provided a link in the Zoom chat for those interested in donating to cover legal fees. A dinner fundraiser for citizens will take place on January 28, 2023, at the VFW Hall in Renton.

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

Councilmember Helmer was unable to attend the latest WRIA 8 meeting and requested a backup attendee in case of future conflicts. Ron Straka of the City of Renton read the meeting agenda. Per the agenda, the meeting covered topics such as requesting projects for grant funding, legislative priorities, and the impact of climate change on the watershed and salmon. A presentation from Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group on the success of community action training schools was also included.

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

Councilmember Urabeck reported the pre-season forecast for the salmon return in the Lake Washington Ship Canal (LWSC) is underway. The 2022 pre-season forecast of 10,000 fish through the Ballard Locks resulted in 43,000 counted fish. This year, however, only roughly between 8,000 to 10,000 are expected in the run. The CRC subcommittee of Chair Prinsen, Councilmember Urabeck, and Councilmember Phillips have advocated various experiments in the lake, most notably the direct transfer of fish via truck, reducing pre-spawn mortality (PSM) down to 1%. With such success, the CRC subcommittee is also researching with WDFW methods to increase the survival rate of salmon fry (babies) to smolt such as reducing the predator population in the LWSC. This method could improve the survival rate from 3% up to between 30-50%.

WDFW plans to propose to the Washington State Legislature a \$1.4 million proviso earmarking a certain amount of funding with specific spending instructions in order to continue and expand last year's predation reduction program. This funding would occur for the next biennium. Councilmembers Urabeck and Phillips spoke with Jennifer Smolen, Executive Legislative Assistant to Washington State Senator Christine Rolfes, regarding this proviso. Smolen showed much interest. The fish co-managers consisting of the Muckleshoot Tribe, WDFW, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and the City of Seattle all agree on the proviso as well.

- **Sockeye Emergency Operation Observation**

Councilmember Phillips reflected on the efforts of the CRC working to make sure key governmental organizations (e.g., City of Seattle, WDFW, SPU, Muckleshoot Tribe) agreed to begin sockeye recovery and how said efforts are paying off. There is a critical "just in time" moment, and the invitation of media outlets to the May 2023 meeting showcasing these efforts and priorities for the future could be a vital catalyst. Councilmember Urabeck confirmed the next step is to monitor the proviso's movement for support in order to get it into the Washington State Senate. Proviso support was given earlier today from the Muckleshoot Tribe.

WDFW has asked the CRC to submit a letter in support of the proviso. King County has also shown interest in supporting it and had previously provided funding for predation reduction last year. Councilmember Urabeck asked if a letter could be obtained from the KCC and King County Executive Dow Constantine, as having multiple letters from organizations could create a significant impact. Councilmember Phillips suggested King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn as a contact. Chair Prinsen granted drafting of the support letter and its distribution for CRC member feedback by the end of this week.

Councilmember Allyn commented that money being spent on saving sockeye should focus on smolt and adult survival prior to addressing predation, unless there are alternatives that do not involve killing native predator fish. Councilmember Urabeck reassured the proviso's current focus is on the reduction of Northern pikeminnow (NPM). WDFW is currently putting transmitters on them to track movement and spawning areas. Another idea that was discussed was to do a similar direct transfer from the Ballard Locks to the Landsburg Hatchery for juvenile sockeye like the adults. Fry would be raised until smolt stage and then taken back to the locks for release.

- **Cedar River Watershed**

No updates were provided during this topic.

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

No updates were provided during this topic.

- **Membership Updates**

This topic was addressed in the earlier topic discussion.

- **Maple Valley Area Council**

No updates were provided during this topic.

- **Riverbend Restoration Project**

The Riverbend project has completed and crews are now planting various native plants in the area. The February CRC meeting will focus on the post-construction report. The project team is aware of the outstanding noise issue and has been working to address it. These solutions will also be presented at the February meeting.

V) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments made during this topic.

VI) Closing/Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting is on February 28, 2023, via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.