



Technical Advisory Group & Working Group Meeting
 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM | August 2, 2022 | Remote Meeting

Meeting Summary DRAFT v. 8/4/22

Action Item	Responsible Party
WSPER Coordination Team to include a map with the project list for the Executive Committee	WSPER Coordination Team
Sean Goldsmith, Pierce County, to send the WSPER Coordination Team, Renee Johnson, the Pierce County “Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grant” factsheet.	Sean Goldsmith, Pierce County
WSPER Coordination Team to distribute Task 5 subtask survey to WSPER Working Group to identify the top priorities.	WSPER Coordination Team
Working Group to complete the Task 5 subtask survey by end of week (8/5).	WSPER Working Group
Clearly identify a specific request to the Executive Committee at their 8/9 meeting about the BIL Capacity Funding.	Puget Sound Partnership

Decisions
WSPER Working Group moved to approve the Proposed 2022 Ranked Salmon Habitat Project List.
WSPER Working Group supports the Pierce County project list and application to NOAA for “Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grant”.
WSPER Working Group supports the bundle of culvert projects WDFW applying for the to NOAA grant funding.

Welcome & Housekeeping

Renee Johnson, WSPER Coordinator- Kitsap County, gave an overview of the meeting agenda and objectives.

The Working Group approved the June 14 12 TAG/Working Group meeting notes. No were no edits suggested. The meeting notes were approved.

Lead Entity

Salmon Recovery Grant Round

Sarah Heerhartz, Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group, gave an overview of the Proposed 2022 Ranked Salmon Habitat Project List. It was noted the top three projects (Crabapple/Carpenter Creek Estuary Protection, Finn Creek Estuary Restoration Project, and Rose Point Embayment Restoration) will receive most of the requested funding.

Renee Johnson stated all projects are cleared or cleared with conditions accepted by project sponsors. The Working Group's role is to review the Technical Advisory Group's ranked list and ensure it is consistent with WSPER's salmon recovery priorities. Once the Working Group makes their decision, the list will go to the Executive Committee (August 9) for consideration and approval. An approved list will be uploaded to PRISM thereafter.

There was a request to include a map that displays where the project locations are when presenting the project list to the Executive Committee.

The Working Group moved to approve the Proposed 2022 Ranked Salmon Habitat Project List.

Action item: WSPER Coordination Team to include a map with project locations for the Executive Committee.

Decision: WSPER Working Group moved to approve the Proposed 2022 Ranked Salmon Habitat Project List.

Letter of Support Request

Pierce County "Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grant"

Sean Goldsmith, Pierce County, gave an overview of a NOAA funding opportunity for 2022-2025 that Pierce County is pursuing to provide federal financial and technical assistance to fish passage through the removal of dams and other in-stream barriers for native migratory or sea-run fish. Pierce County then requested a letter of support for the application from WSPER.

The WSPER Working Group shared their support for the grant proposal.

Action item: Sean Goldsmith, Pierce County, to send the WSPER Coordination Team the Pierce County "Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grant" factsheet and slides.

Decision: WSPER Working Group supports the Pierce County project list and application to NOAA for "Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grant".

Bundle of culvert projects WDFW is submitting to NOAA

Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech, Kitsap County, shared WDFW is also requesting a letter of support from WSPER for a bundle of culvert projects for the NOAA funding opportunity for 2022-2025. The projects include South Fork Dogfish Creek Culvert Replacement- City of Poulsbo, Harper Estuary Culvert Removal and Bridge- Kitsap County, Cooper Creek Culvert Restoration- City of Bainbridge Island, Ruby Creek Culvert at Sidney Rd. Port Orchard- City of Port Orchard, Forrester Barrer Removal Dickerson Creek- Kitsap Conservation District.

It was noted the cost estimates have increased since the 2020 amounts listed.

There was a brief discussion about how the Fletcher Bay project on Bainbridge Island was not identified in the Lead Entity for this grant round but will be included in the next.

Hearing no objections to supporting the request for a letter of support for the bundle of projects, there was a motion to approve the request.

Action item: WSPER Coordination Team to include a map with the bundle of culvert projects WDFW is submitting to NOAA.

Decision: WSPER Working Group supports the bundle of culvert projects WDFW applying for the NOAA grant funding.

Local Integrating Organization (LIO)

3-Year LIO Capacity Contract

Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech explained as an LIO for the West Central area, WSPER has \$125,000 capacity budget each year to implement five tasks and associated sub-tasks. Four of the tasks are the same across all ten Puget Sound LIOs. For Task 5, each LIO is allowed to select from among seven subtasks based on local priorities. Kirvie provided an overview of the options and noted that WSPER could retain all options or pick their top three priorities and reevaluate if desired in October 2023 to decide which to focus on for the remainder of the contract. The group was polled for their preference.

Laura Rivas, Puget Sound Partnership, emphasized it is up to the LIO how they want to prioritize the sub-tasks and can select all seven with the option to reprioritize again later.

Barbara Ann-Smolko, Pierce County, commented in support of selecting all seven sub-tasks to maintain flexibility in the future and asked if past funding for education opportunities could be moved to existing opportunities in collaboration with current programs like the Clean Water Kitsap group.

It was noted Equity and Environmental Justice should be prioritized and integrated into all sub-tasks.

The group discussed how sub-tasks could be reprioritized in the future if needed.

The Working Group took a poll on the task 5 sub-tasks to get an initial sense of priorities ahead of the Executive Committee meeting next Tuesday August 9 but will have until August 5 to fill out a survey if needing additional time.

Action item: WSPER Coordination Team to [distribute Task 5 subtask survey](#) to WSPER Working Group to identify the top priorities.

Action item: Working Group to complete the [Task 5 subtask survey](#) by end of week (8/5).

BIL Capacity Funding

Laura Rivas, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), gave an overview of a new team of five to six members that PSP is forming to help distribute the BIL Capacity Funding (this is a shift away from distributing the funds directly to the LIOs). The Working Group's input was invited.

Barbara Ann Smolko shared the Executive Committee has been advocating for money to go directly to LIOs for years.

There was a request for the Partnership to clearly identify what they need of the Executive Committee at their August 9 meeting.

Action item: Ask the Partnership to clearly identify what they want from WSPER before the Executive Committee discussion regarding BIL Capacity Funding.

Mitigation Guest Presentations

Hood Canal Mitigation Program (HCCC)

Mike Lisitza, Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC), gave a presentation on how the HCCC was formed and explained HCCC's mission statement, goals, and programs (salmon, water quality, and ILF mitigation program).

Christian Berg, City of Bainbridge, asked about the funding and foundation for HCCC's work, Mike explained the Navy station at Bangor are a large customer that always need mitigation but don't want to be responsible for long-term mitigation obligations. There was a brief discussion around local interest in mitigation banking.

Sarah Wilson, City of Bremerton, asked if the ILF program has been getting used more since NOAA has changed some of their marine practices. Mike explained NOAA has their own calculator different than HCCC's tool that is based on how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permits work. HCCC has been in discussions with NOAA about a program outside the in-lieu fee program that could provide conservation credits in Hood Canal tailored to NOAA's approach.

There was a discussion between Paul Williams and Mike Lisitza about the HCCC calculator, which primarily provides mitigation to U.S. waters regulated by the USACE and federal agencies in freshwater and wetlands, and the NOAA calculator, which acts under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and how each tool related to mitigation in marine environments. More information can be found on the [HCCC website](#).

Erik Steffens, Great Peninsula Conservancy (GPC), shared GPC is in a partnership with the in-lieu fee program, holding some properties in perpetuity. He noted it is a great approach and funding source for high quality salmon habitat. Erik expressed caution with which sites are chosen for mitigation relating to public access.

Waterman Mitigation Partners (WMP)

Waterman Mitigation Partners (WMP) staff gave an overview of mitigation including the history, types, sequence, credit valuation, the 2008 ruling, permittee responsible mitigation vs. bank (hypothetical), and an explanation of a project at a Ross Creek bank site with WSOT to remove old logging structures

and erosion prone areas. The portfolio of bank sites includes 7 creeks, 5 estuaries, and 3 shorelines and WMP are planning to prepare a “Phase 2” batch of sites a few years from now.

Sarah Wilson asked if the planning tool for WMP will be integrated with NOAA’s tool. Lexie Stockholm, WMP, explained they are in the process of coordinating tools but defers to the technical experts at Ecological Land Services (ELS) who are looking into separate buckets for estuarine and freshwater credits to increase the likelihood of approval.

Steve Todd asked about “in kind” vs. “out kind” mitigation. Dustin Haydock, WMP, explained a bank is for everyone and an ILF is for a particular reason. Dustin added WMP is working to add a diverse group of sites to account for specific impacts (e.g., old growth forests, peat bogs), noting it will be up to all involved agencies to accept or deny those applying for a section 404 permit and it does not always go acre of impact to acre of restoration, sometimes it goes 1-2 or 1-10 depending on the impact.

Paul Williams asked how credits are calculated between NOAA/WMP/USACE. It was noted an assessment tool will be decided upon, whether choosing one in use or one that could take years of research and it depends on the pace of the regulatory agencies.

WMP shared they are available for additional questions, site visits, or 1-1 meetings.

Meeting Wrap-Up and Next steps

Renee noted there is a site visit at the Executive Committee meeting next Tuesday August 9.

Attendees (alphabetical by first name)

Adam Brown, WDFW

Alexia Henderson, WDFW

Amy Smalley, WSU Kitsap Extension

Barbara Ann Smolko, Pierce County

Brittany Gordon, Kitsap County

Christian Berg, City of Bainbridge Island

David Tucker, Kitsap County Public Works

Dustin Haydock, Waterman Mitigation Partners

Erik Steffens, Great Peninsula Conservancy

Jamie Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy

Jim Aho, Ilahee Forest Preserve

Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech, Kitsap County

Laura Rivas, Puget Sound Partnership

Lexie Stockholm, Waterman Mitigation Partners

Lisa Reynolds, MSFEG

Mary Krauszer, Pierce Conservation District

Michael Lisitza, Hood Canal Coordinating Committee

Michael Stoican, Waterman Mitigation Partners

Paul Williams, Suquamish Tribe

Rachel Bowen, City of Poulsbo

Renee Johnson, Kitsap County/WSPER Coordinator

Renee Scherdnik, Kitsap County

Sarah Heerhartz, Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

Sarah Wilson, City of Bremerton

Sean Goldsmith, Pierce County

Steve Segoe, Waterman Mitigation Partners

Steve Todd, Suquamish Tribe

Zack Holt, City of Port Orchard and Working Group Chair

Olivia Smith, Triangle Associates

