



**Technical Advisory Group
DRAFT Meeting Summary**
March 21, 2023, | 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Zoom Meeting

Meeting Objectives:

Discuss salmon recovery priorities and standing and emerging topics.

Learn from and interact with invited guest speakers: Dr. Ian Miller of Washington Sea Grant on Sea Level Rise/Coastal flooding and April Gassman with Puget Sound Partnership's MART team.

Decisions by TAG

- *Approved consent agenda: Jan 17 meeting summary and March 21 agenda.*
- *Lead Entity approved transfer of primary sponsorship from Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group to City of Bainbridge Island for Fletcher Bay Road Culvert Removal Design (21-1058).*

Action Items

- Project sponsors with cleared projects from the 2022 Salmon Habitat Project List must update applications in PRISM by May 1 for SRFB review. Include scope and budget changes, if applicable.
- The TAG is set to approve WSPER's 2023 Salmon Habitat Project List at the May 16 meeting. The list will move to the Working Group and Executive Committee for their consideration and approval June 13 and June 23, respectively.
- Subcommittee work discussion and 4-year workplan overview will be moved to May 16 meeting.
- The WSPER coordination team will continue to send grant opportunities via email.

Welcome and Announcements

Sarah Hearhartz, TAG Co-Chair, welcomed the group, invited introductions, reviewed agenda and meeting purpose, and gave opportunity for public comment. (No public comment received).

Introductions/Roundtable:

- Sara Heerhartz, Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
- Renee Johnson, WSPER Coordinator – WSPER will have an Earth Day editorial in Sound Publishing's local paper and the online Earth Day edition.
- Ian Miller, WA Sea Grant Coastal Hazards Specialist
- Alexia Henderson, WDFW
- April Gassman, Puget Sound Partnership
- Brenda Padgham, BILT – Hosting a beaver workshop on September 17 at Islandwood. Springbrook Creek culvert removal project permitting underway.
- Brittany Gordon, WSPER team/ Kitsap County – Excited to be updating plans, surveys, and permits for Harper Estuary project.



- Carin Anderson, Kitsap Conservation District – Thousands of plants sold through KCD tree sale.
- Christian Berg, City of Bainbridge Island – Upcoming environmental conference on Saturday focused on Bainbridge issues related to climate change; Christian and Deb leading a breakout session on water resources under climate change scenarios.
- Christina Kereki, Kitsap County – Excited to host first in person Shore Friendly workshop this Saturday: Planning for Change, Sea Level Rise and Adaptations for Shoreline Living.
- David Tucker, Kitsap County Public Works
- Erik Steffens, Great Peninsula Conservancy—GPC opened a 200-acre community forest on Newberry Hill with 1.5 miles of Little Anderson Creek and tributaries plus 100 acres on a plateau that will be sustainably logged. Working on a 500-acre community forest in Grovers and Port Gamble Creek watersheds.
- Julie Steigerwaldt, GPC – Excited about Grovers Creek preserve expansion where they are acquiring 40 acres through fundraising.
- Mary Krauszer, Pierce Conservation District—Excited for upcoming field work on Henderson Bay armor removal project.
- Marty Ereth, Pierce County – Excited about Puyallup River pit tagging juvenile salmon at a restoration project on Pierce Creek (Puyallup).
- Sarah Wilson, City of Bremerton – Stormwater Management Action Plan is nearly complete.

Decision: Reviewed and approved consent agenda: Jan 17 meeting summary & March 21 agenda.

Presentation from Invited Guest Ian Miller, Coastal Hazards Specialist with UW Sea Grant

Miller's presentation focused on the December 27th extreme coastal flooding event where tides were predicted to be below minor flood elevation, but rain, waves, and pressure (storm surge) worsened floods. Miller said Sea level rise increases likelihood of events like this in the future. Sea Grant has a new coastal resilience team; they have hired Sydney Fishman who was previously at Department of Ecology. They seek to understand how much restoration practitioners are thinking about sea level rise.

Other comments: Ports are considering adding in sea level rise to investments for capital investments. Christian Berg mentioned habitat benches designed into projects and how to tie vegetation to specific elevations.

Miller introduced some tools and resources:

- [MyCoast: Washington - MyCoast](#) see and upload photos of King Tides and flooding.
- [King Tides Calendar – Washington Sea Grant](#)
- [Washington Coastal Hazards Risk Reduction Project Mapper \(arcgis.com\)](#) is a web-based tool with coastal hazard resilience project case studies. *It is designed to assist individuals, communities, and local governments as they identify practical approaches to coastal hazards and learn from others facing similar issues in Washington. The goal is to build a network of people supporting resilient coastal communities and ecosystems.* This prompted a discussion on best practices.



- [PS-CoSMoS: Puget Sound Coastal Storm Modeling System | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](#) *The Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) is a dynamic modeling approach that has been developed by the USGS in order to allow more detailed predictions of coastal flooding due to both future sea level rise and storms.*
- NOAA has a Sea Level Rise Portal and released a set of sea level rise predictions in January 2023 [Explore: Sea Level Rise \(noaa.gov\)](#) *Science-based tools allow people to make informed decisions given the sea level changes we are seeing now and predict in the future. Explore tools, services, and educational material available from NOAA and other federal agencies.*
- [Department of Defense Regional Sea Level \(DRSL\) Database | U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#)

Project Update/ Highlight: April Gassman, PSP, Multi-Agency Review Team (MART)

MART brings together key agencies (state and federal) for facilitated, coordinated navigation throughout permit process. Gassman gave an overview of the new program and an example of the Snow Creek floodplain reconnection where MART aided with cultural resources. This program helps only with restoration projects. Anyone can reach out to them for help.

- Coordinates with Habitat Recovery Pilot Program (HRPP). If you qualify for HRPP you qualify for the MART.
- Must complete cultural resources and initiate floodplain review with local government.
- MART does not require projects be reviewed by a salmon recovery/grant agency (HRPP does).

Salmon Recovery Priorities- 2022-2023 Grant Round

- WSPER's 2023 expected allocation is \$295,932.
- WSPER received \$56,798.16 in PSAR return funds which are good through June 30, 2025. WSPER can choose to distribute this funding for cost increases on existing PSAR and SRFB funded projects or put it toward cleared projects from WSPER's Salmon Habitat List(s).
- Project sponsors with cleared projects from the 2022 Salmon Habitat Project List must update applications in PRISM by May 1 for SRFB review. Include scope and budget changes, if applicable.
- The TAG is set to approve WSPER's 2023 Salmon Habitat Project List at the May 16 meeting. The list will move to the Working Group and Executive Committee for their consideration and approval June 13 and June 23, respectively.

The TAG discussed funding status of projects from the 2022 ranked Salmon Habitat List.

- Salmonberry Creek Protection still needs \$488,100.
- Skunk Bay Armor Removal needs match. MSFEG is working with property owners and neighbors to address concerns.
- Barnabee project still needs funding. BILT is planning to resubmit their application by May 1 deadline. The project is located between the Fletcher Bay and Rekow culvert removal projects.



- Little Manzanita’s 2018 funds of \$382,240 are expiring in June. Bainbridge Island Land Trust is unsure whether funds will be spent by then or whether funds will return to the WSPER Lead Entity.
- Kitsap Nearshore Armor Removal Design & Readiness will seek a cost increase and time extension.
- Cramer McCracken Acquisition (Key Peninsula Parks) recently got a time extension until the end of June 2023. This project was funded through Waiver of Retroactivity. The transaction is complete, but reimbursement has not yet occurred. A cost increase may be needed.

Standing and Emerging Topics

Letters of Support- none requested. Requests may be made at WSPER’s TAG, WG, and EC meetings.

Funding Opportunities- will be sent via email.

Project Changes Requiring Lead Entity Approval

Fletcher Bay Road Culvert Removal Design (21-1058): the primary sponsor is Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group and secondary sponsor is the City of Bainbridge Island. The sponsors wish to switch primary sponsorship to City of BI. Sponsors will engage community to ensure support.

WSPER Lead Entity approved the change with or without Mid-Sound FEG as a secondary sponsor.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Sarah Heerhartz thanked everyone for participating and adjourned the meeting.

Attendees:

Alexia Henderson, WDFW Area Habitat Biologist
April Gassman, Puget Sound Partnership
Brenda Padgham, Bainbridge Island Land Trust
Brittany Gordon, Kitsap County / WSPER team
Carin Anderson, Kitsap Conservation District
Christian Berg, City of Bainbridge Island
Christina Kereki, Kitsap County Natural Resources Planner
David Tucker, Kitsap County Public Works
Erik Steffens, Great Peninsula Conservancy
Ian Miller, WA Sea Grant Coastal Hazards Specialist
Jamie Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy
Julie Steigerwaldt, Great Peninsula Conservancy
Marty Ereth, Pierce County
Mary Krauszer, Pierce Conservation District
Renee Johnson, Kitsap County / WSPER Coordinator
Sarah Heerhartz, Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
Sarah Wilson, City of Bremerton