



In-Person WSPER Executive Committee (No hybrid option)
9:00 - Noon | Friday, June 23, 2023

Gig Harbor Civic Center, 3510 Grandview Street, Community Meeting Rooms A/B

Meeting Purpose:

- Hear roundtable updates from each jurisdiction
- Approve the 2023 Salmon Habitat Project List
- Hear regional and local updates
- Visit the Donkey Creek Acquisition site, *tx^waalqat Conservation Area*.

Time	Topic	Lead
9:00	Arrival, snacks, socialize <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign a letter to Tom Ostrom recognizing his retirement 	All
9:15	Welcome, Introductions, Housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions and a quick update from each jurisdiction • Establish Quorum • Public comment before decisions • Consent Agenda Items (March meeting summary, June agenda) <i>Decision needed: approve consent agenda</i>	Commissioner Garrido
9:45	Decisions and Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Working Group’s 2023 Salmon Habitat Project List (see memo on pages 6-8 of this packet for more information) <i>Decision needed: Approve 2023 salmon Recovery Grant Round project list.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and consider signing on to (see memo on page 9 of this meeting for more information) JOINT LIO LETTER TO PSP & EPA (link) <i>Decision needed: will WSPER sign onto the letter and are any edits desired?</i>	Zack Holt Renee Johnson
9:55	Regional Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem Coordination Board Meeting Updates 	Commissioner Garrido
10:05	Local Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem Recovery Plan (timeline, progress, team members) • Mobile Marine Pump-Out Pilot Project • Tom Ostrom retirement and letter • Letter to Nisqually regarding Soundview Camp project 	Alex Sweetser Renee Johnson
10:30	Wrap-up, head to Donkey Creek site	Commissioner Garrido
10:45	Project Highlight: Field Trip Donkey Creek <i>tx^waalqat Conservation Area</i>	Councilmember Henderson, city staff
12:00	Adjourn	

Upcoming meetings

- August 24: Bainbridge Island Meeting and Field Trip
- December 7: Approve officers and annual workplan, adopt Ecosystem Recovery Plan, check back on progress/success of projects and initiatives.

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[West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery](#)

Draft 6.16.2023



Executive Committee Web Meeting
 March 28, 2023, | 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
 Meeting Summary DRAFT v3/30/23

Action Item	Responsible Party
Renee Johnson to connect interested Executive Committee members with Jeff Barney for questions about the pump-out pilot program.	Renee Johnson
Contact Don Gourlie, Legislative Policy Director, don.gourlie@psp.wa.gov , 360.688.3253 for more information about legislative updates from the Puget Sound Partnership.	WSPER Coordination Team
Decisions	
Accept December 8, 2022, Meeting Summary.	
The Executive Committee supports the Working Group’s recommendation for pump-out pilot.	

Executive Committee Members in Attendance

- Becky Erickson, City of Poulsbo, Mayor
- Charlotte Garrido, Kitsap County, Commissioner
- Greg Wheeler, City of Bremerton, Mayor
- Roger Henderson, City of Gig Harbor, Councilmember
- Joe Deets, City of Bainbridge Island, Councilmember
- Leonard Forsman, Suquamish Tribe, Chairman

Executive Committee Members Not in Attendance

- Derek Young, Pierce County, Councilmember
- Jeromy Sullivan, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, Chairman
- Mark Dorsey, City of Port Orchard, Public Works Director

Welcome and Introduction

Executive Committee Chair, Chairman Forsman, opened the meeting and led a round of introductions and updates from each of the following jurisdictions:

Kitsap County: Kitsap County announced they recently received National Estuary Program (NEP) funding through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Natural Resources Management Program and are working with the Port Gamble S’Klallam and others to improve stream mapping data. Kitsap County is using other funding received for a derelict vessel program aimed at creating a network across jurisdictions and will begin work in summer 2023.

Pierce County: Pierce County shared they are working on several fish passage projects in Huge, Little Minter, and Purdy Creek.

City of Port Orchard: Port Orchard shared they submitted a joint grant application with the State for a culvert removal and restoration program Johnson Creek and recently completed the Stormwater Action Plan for the first round of the funding cycle, targeting Lower Blackjack Creek.

City of Bremerton: Bremerton is working on removing two dams on Anderson Creek to restore and open access to over two miles of spawning habitat that complement work by WSDOT. Bremerton is also working to treat stormwater on Kitsap Lake that will treat 170 acres over the next five years.

City of Poulsbo: Poulsbo shared they are working on the Johnson Road parkway with three culvert crossings and are reworking stormwater vaults to be used as recreation and stormwater facilities.

City of Bainbridge Island: Bainbridge Island is working to restore Springbrook Creek and are advertising for design consultants. In January 2023, Bainbridge submitted a federal Department of Transportation (DOT) grant for construction with award announcements happening in summer 2023. Bainbridge is continuing to work on a Groundwater Management Plan with consultants and on the Manzanita Watershed Assessment which is moving into the final design phase with anticipated full design fall 2023 2023.

Gig Harbor: Gig Harbor is working on developing their Climate Action Plan with input from residents and are developing their Forestry Plan highlighting the creek north of Donkey Creek Park.

The group welcomed Councilmember Robyn Denson, Pierce County, as the WSPER Executive Committee's newest member.

Renee Johnson, Kitsap County/WSPER Coordinator, reviewed the agenda and meeting purpose.

There were no public comments.

The group established a quorum and approved the December 8, 2022, Executive Committee meeting notes via a motion.

Decision: Accept December 8, 2022, Meeting Summary.

Presentation & Discussion

Mobile Pump-out pilot

Jeff Barney, South Sound Mobile Pump-out Program, gave an overview of the program including areas the program will serve, locations covered in 2021 and 2022, metrics of gallons pumped over 2021 and 2022, feedback received, and partnerships. Learn more by watching the video [\[linked here\]](#).

Chris Hammer, City of Port Orchard, asked how people can access the program. Jeff explained there is clear signage on the boats and an app, website, and flyers (rack cards). UW Sea Grant and Recreational Boaters of Washington help promote the program and coordinate with yacht clubs.

Chris Hammer and Jeff discussed how funding for the program is not designed to address liveaboards. There are pump-out service boats in Gig Harbor and South Puget Sound, with some areas are serviced by a private operator for a fee and other areas serviced without charge to the boater through Clean Vessel Act funding.

Renee reviewed the proposal to use \$10,000 of Local Integrating Organization (LIO) funding to support the proposed pilot mobile pump-out service in West Sound at select locations, routes, and times.

Chris Hammer asked if the operator of the program will only serve Liberty Bay, Eagle Harbor, and Blake Island. Renee responded yes; the pilot would only serve those areas on weekends.

Barbara Ann-Smolko, Pierce County, asked if the Bremerton and Port Orchard areas would be included in the pilot program. Renee responded no.

Councilmember Joe Deets, City of Bainbridge, asked about advertising the program. Renee shared the boat is clearly labeled, people can sign up on a website, and developing outreach materials and connecting at events would be an important part of making the program a success. Councilmember Deets shared Executive Committee members can spread the word if given materials.

Mayor Greg Wheeler, City of Bremerton, and Renee discussed how target areas were selected with knowledge and input from the operator, Paul Wayne. Mayor Wheeler emphasized wanting the program to succeed so it can inform further programming. Chris Hammer added support for the target areas in the pilot program which are busy and high visibility locations.

Action item: Renee Johnson to connect interested Executive Committee members with Jeff Barney for questions about South Sound's pump-out pilot program.

Councilmember Joe Deets moved to support the proposal, and the motion carried.

Decision: The Executive Committee supports the Working Group's recommendation for a pump-out pilot.

Salmon Recovery 101

Eli Asher, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, gave a high-level overview of salmon recovery in Washington State, including historical events that contributed to the state of salmon today, Washington's Salmon Recovery Act and Bottom-Up Approach, statewide recovery plans, and messaging and coordination strategies.

Councilmember Robyn Denson asked if there are any upcoming opportunities in legislature to protect streamside forests. Eli responded he would need to confirm with those in legislation but noted enforcement tends to be uneven across the State and the standard is no-net loss.

Barbara Ann-Smolko asked what would need to happen to increase the \$40M in funding. Eli explained how salmon recovery funding is complicated because it is difficult to parse salmon recovery from other uses. The \$40M is a Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant round number and does not include Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) or Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) mitigation funding. Eli commented he is unsure if the influx of salmon recovery funding seen in 2022 will continue or not.

Mayor Erickson asked about the most important actions to recover salmon. Eli said increasing habitat will allow fish to return to areas they once occupied. Marty Erath, Pierce County, stated that removing fish passage barriers can help increase habitat.

Regional Updates

Legislative Updates

Don Gourlie, Legislative Policy Director for the Puget Sound Partnership, explained the 2023 session basics including long sessions (105 days), the cutoff calendar and 2023 budget process from September to April, utilization of hybrid meetings, budget and revenue forecasts, operating highlights, and

legislative priorities. To learn more join Don Gourlie’s weekly “Legislative Update Conference Call” every Friday, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. From January 6 - April 28, 2023.

Action item: Contact Don Gourlie, Legislative Policy Director, don.gourlie@psp.wa.gov, 360.688.3253 for more information about legislative updates from the Puget Sound Partnership.

Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) Meeting Updates

Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech, Kitsap County, gave an overview of the recent ECB meeting including a request from LIO coordinators for direct funding supported by an explanation on the importance of direct funding.

Chairman Forsman asked if the Puget Sound Partnership had yet created their team to help LIOs access Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding. The team is still under development.

Local Updates

Ecosystem Recovery Plan

Renee Johnson explained the timeline, progress, and team members involved with the development of an updated Ecosystem Recovery Plan (ERP).

Public Comment(s): None

Wrap-Up

Chairman Forsman closed the meeting and thanked meeting participants.

The next Executive Committee meeting is Friday June 23, 2023, in Gig Harbor followed by a field trip. The Thursday August 24 meeting will be held on Bainbridge Island followed by a field trip. The Thursday December 7, 2023, meeting will focus on approving officers and the annual workplan, adopting the ERP, and reviewing the status of projects and initiatives.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Staff and Other Attendees

- Jeff Barney, Pierce County
- Eli Asher, Governor Salmon Recovery Office
- Barbara Ann Smolko, Pierce County
- Chance Berthiaume, City of Bremerton
- Don Gourlie, Puget Sound Partnership
- Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech, Kitsap County
- Renee Johnson, Kitsap County / WSPER Coordinator
- Mary Ereth, Pierce County
- Olivia Smith, Triangle Associates / WSPER Support
- Steve Todd, Suquamish Tribe
- Zack Holt, City of Port Orchard
- Chris Hammer, City of Port Orchard
- Robyn Denson, Pierce County
- Christian Berg, City of Bainbridge Island



Memo for the WSPER Executive Committee

June 23, 2023

Agenda Topic

2023 Draft Salmon Habitat Recovery Project List

WSPER Executive Committee Action Request

- Decision
- None – information and discussion
- None – written briefing only

Decision Needed

The Executive Committee is asked to review and accept the prioritized list of salmon habitat projects (see page 3) recommended by the Working Group with the understanding the projects will be funded in priority order.

Background and Context

One of a Lead Entity's responsibilities is to develop and submit a prioritized list of habitat projects to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) for funding. WSPER is developing the 2023 Salmon Habitat project list eligible for \$340,322 of SRFB funds, which will be available in September 2023.

According to RCW 77.85.050, a committee consisting of representative interests of counties, cities, conservation districts, tribes, environmental groups, business interests, landowners, citizens, volunteer groups, regional fish enhancement groups, and other habitat interests must approve the prioritized salmon habitat project list.

Prioritization Process

The WSPER Technical Advisory Group screens projects for alignment with local strategies and priorities and scores them based on *scope and cost of the project* (10 points), *benefits to fish* (20 points), and *certainty of success* (15 points). Project scores are normalized to help remove scorer bias. The Working Group reviews the list to provide a staff and community-based recommendation to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee approval is the final action of our community/citizen-based process of developing and submitting a list of projects.

Organizations Represented on the Working Group and a subset* on the Salmon Habitat Technical Advisory Group

- City of Bainbridge Island*
- Bainbridge Island Land Trust*
- City of Bremerton*
- City of Gig Harbor*
- Kitsap Conservation District*



- Kitsap County Department of Community Development*
- Kitsap County Public Works*
- Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group*
- Pierce Conservation District*
- Pierce County Public Works*
- City of Port Orchard*
- Squaxin Island Tribe*
- Suquamish Tribe*
- WA Department of Fish and Wildlife*
- Wild Fish Conservancy*
- WSU Extension
- Great Peninsula Conservancy*
- Stillwaters Environmental Learning Center
- Illahee Preserve

Memo Contacts

Renee Johnson, *WSPER Coordinator*, rkjohnso@kitsap.gov

Zack Holt, *WSPER Working Group Chairperson*, zholt@portorchardwa.gov

2023 Salmon Habitat Project List

Project Name	PRISM #	Project Category	Sponsor	Total Project Cost	Sponsor Match	Funding Request	Past awards	Current Proposed Award
Crabapple/Carpenter Creek Estuary Protection	22-1131	Acquisition	GPC	\$1,534,120	\$1,042,200	\$ 491,920	\$491,920 (2022 list)	\$340,322 (Entire SRFB allocation for 2023)
Salmonberry Creek Protection	22-1110	Acquisition	GPC	\$808,100	\$ 320,000	\$ 488,100	\$ 45,367 (2022 list)	0
Barnabee Farms Springbrook Creek Restoration	23-1175	Planning - Design (final)	BILT	\$375,109	\$ 175,109	\$ 200,000	0	0
Washington Conservation Corps Crew for Riparian Restoration	23-1201	Restoration	KCD	\$284,756	\$ 42,756	\$ 242,000	0	0



Memo for Executive Committee

June 23, 2023

Agenda Topic: WSPER Letter to EPA and Puget Sound Partnership [JOINT LIO LETTER TO PSP & EPA \(link\)](#)

Executive Committee Action Request

Decision None – information and discussion None – written briefing only

Background

In 2022, the Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership), with support from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), announced they would retain funds at the Partnership instead of contracting with LIOs individually to fund local priority projects and programs. Since then, there has been growing concern among LIOs across the Puget Sound over the diminished role of local partners in Puget Sound recovery.

The Puget Sound LIO Coordinators are writing a letter to the Partnership and EPA, asking them to create a structure which honors local collaborations and provides a place for local partners to bring ideas forward into regional work, as was originally intended when the Partnership was established in statute.

LIOs make five recommendations to ensure our partners continue to play a meaningful role in Puget Sound recovery:

- 1) Create a more inclusive Management Conference where all LIOs are in statute and have a voting role. Current representation leans toward state agencies instead of implementers.
- 2) Re-envision the Puget Sound Partnership's Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator role by having clearer workplans that enable them to be more efficient and effective in their work with LIOs.
- 3) Significantly increase the LIO's role in directing funding toward projects. Without Near Term Actions, the LIOs have little role in prioritizing projects for funding and sometimes are not aware of who is applying for National Estuary Program funding.
- 4) Have LIOs serve as a Collective Impact Organization where they work with PSP staff to create targets for each LIO which can become focused lines of work across Puget Sound.
- 5) Continue to find and distribute funds to LIOs. Even small amounts of funding can create significant and meaningful impact at the local level.

Question for Consideration

Will WSPER sign on to a letter collectively written by LIOs across the Puget Sound to the EPA and the Partnership?

Memo Contacts

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