 **Working Group Meeting**9:30 AM – 12:00 PM | June 13, 2023 | Hybrid Meeting

Meeting Summary Final

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| **Action Item** | **Responsible Party** |
| Working Group members to contact Renee Johnson if interested in participating in reviewing maps for the Ecosystem Recovery Plan update.  | WSPER Working Group |
| Working Group members to review WSPER’s letter to PSP and let Renee know if they have any feedback.  | ON HOLD |
| Working Group members to sign a waiver to participate in the August 8th Working Group field trip to Anderson Creek dam removal site in Bremerton and return the waiver to Renee Johnson (Renee will distribute the waiver via email. | Renee Johnson/WSPER Working Group |
| Working Group members to contact Ian Miller (immiller@uw.edu or 360-417-6460) with questions about Washington Sea Grant’s sea level rise research and coastal planning resources. | WSPER Working Group |
| Working Group members to contact Kelly McCaffrey (Kelly.Mccaffrey@dfw.wa.gov or 360-628-2127) with questions or feedback about WDFW’s ShoreLoans program in development. | WSPER Working Group |

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| **Decisions** |
| The WSPER Working Group approved the April 11, 2023, meeting summary with a minor spelling correction. |
| WSPER Working Group approved the TAG’s recommendation to use the full Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) allocation toward funding the Crabapple/Carpenter Creek Estuary Protection project. |
| WSPER Working Group approved the nomination of Brittany Gordon to serve as WSPER’s representative to the Salmon Recovery Council with Renee Johnson as the alternate.  |

**Welcome & Housekeeping**

Sarah Wilson, Working Group Chair – City of Bremerton, opened the meeting by leading introductions and updates from WSPER Working Group members. Sarah also reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives.

There were no public comments.

Steve Todd requested a small spelling correction in the April 11, 2023, Working Group summary. The Working Group approved the April 11 Working Group meeting summary and the June 13, 2023, meeting agenda. Barbara Ann Smolko, Pierce County, motioned and Marty Ereth, Pierce County, seconded.

***Decision:*** The WSPER Working Group approved the April 11, 2023, meeting summary and June 13, 2023, meeting agenda.

**WSPER Business**

**2023 Salmon Recovery Habitat List**

Renee Johnson shared the current outlook of the Salmon Recovery Habitat list, noting that WSPER received some returned Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds. The WSPER TAG met on the morning of June 13, 2023, to discuss possible approaches to using the SRFB funding. The TAG recommended that the entire SRFB allocation fund the Crabapple Carpenter Creek project and any money that is not used by Crabapple Carpenter Creek to flow down the list. Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech, Kitsap County, clarified that WSPER usually uses PSAR money to support acquisition projects because they are more expensive than other types of projects.

Steve Todd, Suquamish Tribe, moved to approve the TAG’s recommended funding approach for allocation of PSAR funds. Barbara Ann Smolko, Pierce County, seconded. Sarah Wilson called for a vote. About 6 WSPER members voted in favor; there were no objections and two abstentions. The motion passed.

***Decision:*** WSPER Working Group approved the TAG’s recommendation to use the full SRFB allocation toward funding the Crabapple/Carpenter Creek Estuary Protection project.

**Salmon Recovery Council Representative**

Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech, Kitsap County, led a discussion on who would represent WSPER at the Salmon Recovery Council. She noted that Tom Ostrom, Suquamish Tribe, who had previously represented WSPER, has retired and WPSER is looking for nominations or volunteers for a new representative. Steve Todd nominated Brittany Gordon of Kitsap County (who was not present at the meeting); Marty Ereth, Pierce County, seconded the nomination. Kirvie noted that Brittany is currently the alternate, and if she moves into the main representative role, she will need an alternate. The Working Group nominated Renee Johnson, WSPER Coordinator-Kitsap County, as the alternate, and Renee accepted.

Barbara Ann Smolko moved to approve Brittany Gordon as the main WSPER representative to the Salmon Recovery Council with Renee Johnson as the alternate. Marty Ereth seconded the motion. Sarah Wilson called for a vote of the Working Group. There were about 6 yes votes, no objections, and no abstentions. The motion passed.

**Decision:** The Working Group approved the nomination of Brittany Gordon to serve as WSPER’s representative to the Salmon Recovery Council with Renee Johnson as the alternate.

**Guest Presentation: Sea Level Rise**

Ian Miller, Washington Sea Grant, presented on the cause and research of sea level rise in Washington State. A recording of the presentation can be viewed online [here](https://youtu.be/0r9vutVEEg0).

Topics covered include:

* General information about the Washington Sea Grant, a program that funds marine research and provides science-based information and expertise to communities to strengthen understanding of the marine and coastal environment.
* History of sea level rise monitoring in Washington state via tide gauges and argo floats, which measure sea level and thermal expansion respectively.
* Analysis of sea level rise in Washington state, subtracting vertical land movement caused by tectonic shifts.
* Projected scenarios for future sea level rise and the likelihood of each, which can be used as a planning tool for decision makers and recovery practitioners. Localized projections can be viewed at this link: <https://wacoastalnetwork.com/research-and-tools/slr-visualization/>
* Strategies for dealing with sea level rise, including retreat, accommodate, protect, and avoid future vulnerabilities. A map of seal level rise solutions around Washington state is available here: <https://waecy.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=cb81314d6fb44e0187e7980a1f0cd32b>
* Additional resources:
	+ Washington Coastal Hazards Resilience Network: <https://wacoastalnetwork.com>
	+ Washington Coastal Resilience Project: <https://cig.uw.edu/projects/washington-coastal-resilience-project/>
	+ Washington Sea Grant: <http://wsg.washington.edu/our-northwest/coastal-hazards/>

Questions and Answers:

* Is there an analysis of how infrastructure responds to flooding? What kinds of infrastructure needs to be moved?
	+ A vulnerability assessment should include a sensitivity analysis with input from the people who know those assets best. Decision makers also look at how valuable it is to have infrastructure close to the water (waterfront parks, for example). There is some ongoing research regarding vulnerability assessments of infrastructure and roads. Regarding private land/infrastructure, decisions may revolve around the level of anxiety of the landowner. Washington Sea Grant’s report on coastal management options cites other relevant documents and resources.
* Has this sea level rise data been incorporated into coastal habitat migration predictions?
	+ The concept of coastal squeeze is the idea that one of the mechanisms by which habitat can be lost is when it is prevented from migrating upland by a natural or manmade barrier. The Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center is conducting an assessment on coastal squeeze which should be published in the coming months. NOAA hosts a visualization tool that includes marshland migration.
* How are insurance companies and banks that hold mortgages approaching the risks of sea level rise?
	+ Ian mentioned he has heard a few presentations from companies or banks that say they are taking sea level rise into account, but little specifics. Some other risk evaluation tools exist but did not result in much change in the amount of insurance Washington residents pay.

**Program Highlight: Shoreline Revolving Loan Program**

Kelley McCaffrey, WDFW, spoke to WSPER about the Shoreline Revolving Loan Program, or “Shore Loans.” This program is a recommendation to fulfill the Puget Sound Action Agenda’s implementation strategy focused on armor removal and avoidance. This program would capture private landowners’ incentive to protect the shorelines in their property.

A recording of the presentation can be viewed [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0r9vutVEEg0), beginning at 53:25.

Topics covered include:

* Policy progression and analysis leading to the development of this revolving loan program, working towards the goal of shoreline improvements through landowner behavior change.
* Benefits of removing and avoiding armor, including impediment to ecological processes, effect on neighboring beaches, and degradation of wildlife habitat.
* Benefit of loan program in the current moment to address current funding challenges and the risk of sea level rise.
* How this one-time capital investment that creates future leverage, stretches public funding with private buy-in and repays toward subsequent projects.
* Current project eligibility categories: elevating structures, addressing failing armor and/or stabilizing erosion with nature-based solutions, and relocating structures.
* How the loan program works to reduce financial barriers.
* Challenges being explored by WDFW and partner agencies.

Questions, Answers and Comments:

* Are these funds available to fund septic relocation if the house is not also relocated?
	+ Kelly stated her understanding of three eligibility requirements for the septic program: the system is over 25 years old, the system is failing, or the Department of Health has visited the site and cited the system as out of compliance.
* How are you defining "Economic Hardship"?
	+ WDFW does not have a definition of economic hardship. Kelly said she would need to check with Department of Ecology or another agency that sets this. In WDFW’s social marketing analysis, the proportion of shoreline property owners experiencing economic hardship was unclear.
* Is there a condition to the loan assistance if the landowner is considering rebuilding an existing sea wall or bulkhead in addition to moving a structure?
	+ Kelly responded that WDFW is working to figure this out.
* It would be good to have below-market access to loans for acquisition. How would this tie in?
	+ WDFW had proposed some draft legislation but postponed the effort. However, Kelly included language in the legislation about acquisition. Kelley offered to connect with Erik after the Working Group meeting.

Comments:

* Insurance companies and the National Flood Insurance Program should partner in all coastal communities.

**Ongoing Work & WSPER Standing Items**

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

Renee noted that there is a government-to-government training scheduled for Friday, June 23rd. Six WSPER members plan to attend the training.

**Ecosystem Recovery Plan**

Renee shared that the WSPER Coordination Team and GIS analyst are starting to review maps of indicator results with Technical Advisory subgroup.

***Action Item:*** Working Group members to reach out to Renee Johnson if they are interested in helping to review the draft maps.

**Letters of Support**

Renee shared that WSPER is participating in a shared letter request to the Puget Sound Partnership to create more meaningful engagement opportunities for LIOs.

***Action item:*** WSPER Working Group members to review the [joint LIO requests letter to PSP](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fhcccwagov.box.com%2fs%2fksxqb8lostllbg5kel6jy0y9zf9rsjc0&c=E,1,4uwIonTw7p2g9xRY2-NebSjlgFkSmS9QD9l6NBT1lyxZv_DnUC5FYav6asS4Jogq7jhWazapQFczvaMVtFB_QF3j1DzAJH5XM5oMrWkPUeqCMm7LvJ9Z-YugYeXM&typo=1) and let Renee know if they have any feedback.

**Presentation Topics & Field Trips**

The August 8th Working Group meeting will include a field trip to Anderson Creek Dam Removal in City of Bremerton.

The WSPER Executive Committee meeting on June 23rd will include a field trip to Gig Harbor. Working Group members are welcome to attend.

***Action Item:*** Working Group members to sign a waiver if they would like to attend the field trip on August 8th. (Renee will distribute the waiver via email.)

**Strategic Initiative Lead (SIL) Update:**

The Habitat SIL and Stormwater SIL are collaborating on a tool called the Sound Choices Checklist. This tool will bridge the gap between implementation strategies and the Action Agenda and allow comprehensive planners to ensure their plans make those connections. The SILs are preparing to distribute this by the end of the month.

**Wrap-up and Adjourn**

Sarah thanked the WSPER Working Group for their discussion and noted that the next meeting will be August 8th, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

**Attendees** (alphabetical by first name)

Alexia Henderson, WDFW

Barbara Ann Smolko, Pierce County

Brenda Padgham, Bainbridge Island

Christian Berg, City of Bainbridge Island

Christina Kereki, Kitsap County

Dustin Haydock, Waterman Mitigation Partners

Erik Steffens, Great Peninsula Conservancy

Ian Miller, Washington Sea Grant

Jamie Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy

Jim Aho, Illahee Forest Preserve

Julie Steigerwaldt, Great Peninsula Partnership

Kelley McCaffrey, WDFW

Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech, Kitsap County

Lisa Reynolds, Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

Marty Ereth, Pierce County

Mary Krauzer, Pierce Conservation District

Michael Abboud, City of Gig Harbor

Michelle Quast, Department of Ecology

Rebecca Brown, DNR

Renee Johnson, Kitsap County/WSPER Coordinator

Renee Scherdnik, Kitsap County

Sarah Wilson, City of Bremerton

Steve Todd, Suquamish Tribe

Tracy Banaszynski, Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

Annalise Ritter, Triangle Associates (Notetaker)