

WRIA 14 Lead Entity Committee
Mason County Public Works Public Meeting Room A
3/15/2018

In attendance	
Alicia Olivas, HCCC	Carolyn Maddox, Citizen
Evan Bauder, MCD	Mitch Redfern, MCD
Dan Calvert, PSP	Laurence Reeves, Capitol Land Trust
Kay Caromile, RCO	Gary Schuyten, Citizen
Brian Combs, SPSSEG	Erik Schwartz, MCPW
Jamie Glasgow, WFC	Shelley Spalding, Citizen
Jennifer Holderman, MCD	Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe
Jeanne Kinney, TC	Bill Young, Citizen
Paddy McGuire, Citizen	Sarah Zaniewski, Squaxin Island Tribe
Jenn Symons-D'Annibale, note taker	

Welcome, Introduction and Announcements

Shelley introduced herself and expressed interest in participating in the committee. As a retired USFWS employee, she has professional experience in WRIA 14 but lives in WRIA 22. The group was posed with a question: does her previous professional experience qualify her to participate on the committee? If so committee operating procedures will need to be amended. Committee will revisit the question at the April 2018 meeting.

Bill expressed concern with the start of another grant round without a revised freshwater strategy. Participating in the grant rounds detracts from the committee's ability to fully engage in strategy edits. Jennifer reminded Bill that the committee decided to revisit this topic during the April 2018 meeting.

Jeanne gave an update on the Hunter Point Rd. culvert replacement project; the bridge will be installed during summer 2018.

Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board Update

During the inaugural cycle of the FBRB, WRIA 14 was chosen as one of 10 watersheds across the state to participate in the watershed pathway. This recognition eventually helped pave the pathway for the Deegan Rd culvert replacement project to receive funding in the 2017-2019 Capital Budget. Since the watershed pathway list was compiled, another project, Coffee Creek, was funded through the 2016 SRFB round. Also updates to the WRIA 14 culvert inventory have been completed. Once the inventory has been prioritized and other funding sources accounted for, the watershed pathway list may be reprioritized. The current watershed pathway list will be used to request funding for the next grant cycle. A second approach to receiving funding through this program is the Coordinated Pathway. Under this approach, individual culvert replacement projects in conjunction with other funded projects, may be submitted. Deadline for draft applications are March 29, 2018 at 11:59 pm. Both the watershed and coordinated pathway require lowest barriers in the system to be addressed; project management timing discrepancies can be considered by the Board.

eDNA in WRIA 14 follow-up

During the February 2018 meeting, Jamie provided an overview of water typing and eDNA in WRIA 14. He also solicited recommendations for additional sampling sites for eDNA analysis. During this meeting,

he reminded the group about Wild Fish Conservancy capacity to include sample sites that are a priority for the committee. WFC is currently sampling in Pickering Passage, independent tributaries to Puget Sound. Jamie restated the objective of eDNA analysis, to determine the presence of species of interest over approximately the previous week. WFC currently samples for steelhead and chinook in the basin but other species may be pursued. With significant resources invested in habitat restoration, it's important to understand species use in the watershed.

Committee provided recommendations for additional sample sites. Suggestions included additional steelhead samples in Goldsborough where lake stocking doesn't occur, Coho and steelhead presence in Coffee Creek, additional samples from independent tributaries and Sherwood Creek. Jamie invited additional suggestions via email and will circle back to the group before collecting the final 20 samples.

LOI Discussion

Funding Request	Project	Project Sponsor
\$3,300,000	West Oakland Bay Large Cap	Squaxin Island Tribe
\$909,626	Skookum Valley SRFB	Squaxin Island Tribe
\$3,354,731	Skookum Valley Large Cap	Squaxin Island Tribe
\$150,000	Jones Creek Fish Passage and Riparian	Mason Conservation District
\$110,000	Winter Creek Fish Passage and Riparian	Mason Conservation District
\$74,000	Goldsborough Creek Off-Channel Design	SPSSEG
\$86,000	Twin Rivers	CLT

West Oakland Bay

Squaxin Island Tribe is seeking large capital funding through PSAR to remove 655 creosote pilings and enhance over half of the tidelands associated with this project. Restoration of West Oakland Bay (Shelton Harbor) by the Tribe and partners constitutes 4 phases of which two have been completed (Eagle Point acquisition and engineered log jam construction at the mouth of Goldsborough Creek). This project is included under Phase 2, construction of salt marsh lobes. For this project to qualify for large capital funding, it needs endorsement from the WRIA 14 committee.

Skookum Creek Valley Conservation

Squaxin Island Tribe and the Capitol Land Trust are seeking large capital or SRFB funding for a large acquisition in the Skookum Creek Valley (631 acres), including 287 acres of wetlands and almost five miles of Skookum Creek and its tributaries. 4 individual owners within this project and all are committed to eventual acquisition for conservation purposes. This acquisition represents the remaining developable land in the basin and constitutes a significant priority for the tribe. Due to the various landowners, the potential to phase the project and significant overall cost of the project, this project is being proposed for both Large Cap PSAR and SRFB funding. Feedback from the committee included a clear articulation of acquisition prioritization to help develop phasing. Large Cap applications include Viable Salmon Population (VSP) questions which are very difficult to answer without this research in hand, which WRIA 14 lacks.

Jones Creek Fish Passage and Riparian

This project, if implemented, will result in replacement of two barrier culverts (one total and one partial) with fish friendly culverts allowing access to ~1.15 miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat including two large wetland complexes. This project is located 1200' upstream from mouth of Jones Creek as it flows into Pickering Passage. Preliminary design (30%) complete, landowners are on board

and CREP work will be used as match. Questions/feedback from the committee included whether flow data exists for the system (no) and whether fish are present above partial barrier (no).

Winter Creek Fish Passage and Riparian

This project, if implemented, will result in removal of a total barrier culvert on Winter Creek, a tributary to Gosnell Creek resulting in .75 miles of habitat characterized as “excellent spawning and rearing habitat for chum, Coho, steelhead and coastal cutthroat.” Preliminary design (30%) complete, landowners are on board and CREP work will be used as match. Questions/feedback from the committee included estimate seemed low and would like to see a stream simulation design put forth.

Goldsborough Creek Off-Channel Design

SPSSEG is seeking funding to complete preliminary design for off channel projects adjacent to middle reach of Goldsborough Creek. Previous work completed in this reach includes hydrologic and topographic studies and one design implemented. Since implementation, juvenile Coho have been observed in the restored habitat. Committee discussed potential options for additional design work to be completed in this phase.

Twin Rivers Bridge Removal

CLT is requesting funds to remove remaining infrastructure on at the Twin Rivers Ranch, a 2010 SRFB acquisition. Structures include a bridge across Cranberry Creek that creates a partial barrier during high flows, two septic systems, a mobile home, several outbuildings and other debris. Following removal, 5 acres of native plantings along the shoreline and the riparian area will occur with a focus on the areas distributed by the structure removal. Committee discussed the potential of removing the garage (resides close to creek) and reinforce the barn for secured storage.

Other business

Mitch sought approval for a scope change to 17-1134 WRIA 14 Riparian Restoration. Committee approved. May 10th, 2018 is scheduled for site visits.