



## King County

### Water and Land Resources Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

King Street Center

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TTY Relay: 711

## Cedar River Council DRAFT Meeting Notes

April 23, 2024 – 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm (scheduled)

Renton Community Center - 1715 Maple Valley Hwy, Renton, WA 98057

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### I) Call to Order / Welcome

CRC Coordinator Nathan Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Each attendee introduced themselves and the interests they have bringing forth to the CRC. In attendance was also first-time attendee City of Renton Councilmember Alternate Kim-Khanh Van. Attendees reviewed notes from the previous meeting in February to get reacquainted with discussion topics.

### II) Discussion Questions

Nathan Brown asked attendees to write answers to the following questions to aid in future CRC planning and share their lists with the person sitting next to them, reporting aloud compared answers. The results from the groups were as follows:

- ***“What CRC priority topics need our immediate attention?”***
  1. Water quality below Landsburg Dam after diversion (e.g., chemicals, temperatures, viruses/bacteria, etc.)
  2. Coordination with 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan process to protect watershed
  3. Lakeside Industries asphalt plant (including development stresses, highway uses, stormwater runoff/buffers)
  4. Salmon hatchery restrictions for sockeye salmon and the need for new methods and priorities
  5. Climate change
  6. Declining fish populations
  7. Flood hazard risks to infrastructure and homes

Notable main topics attendees wanted the CRC to address were water quality, the asphalt plant, stormwater runoff, and climate change. Cedar River Councilmember Jeff Neuner recommended a presentation on water quality from a King County representative.

- ***“What are the good things that can be celebrated about the Cedar River right now?”***
  1. Habitat restoration projects like Riverbend and Rainbow Bend
  2. Seattle Public Utilities protecting a large portion of the upper Cedar River Watershed
  3. Project effectiveness
  4. Public recognition of habitat restoration projects
  5. Flood reduction and more residents out of flooding danger
  6. Positive numbers in sockeye salmon population due to management plans
  7. Property acquisitions to prevent development in the flood plain
  8. Frequent collaboration between all-level governmental agencies regarding fish population

### III) Action Plan: New Member Recruitment and Outreach & Engagement

City of Renton Councilmember Alternate Kin-Khanh Van asked attendees the number of active members needed for a stable council and how to retain members. CRC Chair Max Prinsen confirmed roughly 28 members are needed with Nathan Brown adding that members are considered “legacy members” until a member explicitly announces their departure. Currently, the majority of CRC legacy members are aging out and require new member recruitment. Brown requested attendees to once again get into small groups to review the following categories:

- Action Plan Objective
- Goals & Targets
- Timeline to potentially achieve goal
- Risks
- Stakeholders (i.e., those who should be involved)
- Actions for aforementioned goals/targets
- Resource(s)

After much deliberation, the consensus on actions for new member recruitment and outreach resulted as follows:

- Objective: To recruit new members to the Cedar River Council.
- Stakeholders: Tribal entities, 18-26 year-olds, technology industry workers, people in underrepresented communities, recruitment from those who live outside the Cedar River.
- Goals & Targets:
  1. Establish the number of targeted members/overall membership.
    - Action(s):
      - Keep number of CRC representatives at 28
      - Fill in vacancies
      - Revisit the membership roster and evaluate change in roles of jurisdictions
      - Change language on “citizen at large” to “resident at large” on guidelines to be more inclusive
    - Timeline: July 2024 (Recommendations)
    - Resource(s): CR Councilmember Neuner, City of Renton Councilmember Van, and Nathan Brown to ask two others to join, both current CRC members and newcomers. Recommendations to be made by July 2024.
    - Risk(s): None listed
  2. Identify the group(s) we want to add or invite.
    - Action(s):
      - Evaluate current membership
      - List and identify the groups and contact them
    - Timeline: December 2024
    - Resource(s): King County staff (initially) and CRC members are to contact the groups
    - Risk(s): Does not get completed by deadline. To be revisited by September 2024.
  3. Show up to community events.
    - Action(s):
      - Renton Farmer’s Market
      - Renton River Days
      - Maple Valley Days
      - Cedar River Salmon Journey with Seattle Aquarium
      - Inventory of other local events
    - Timeline: May 2024
    - Resource(s): City of Renton Councilmember Van to make a community calendar
    - Risk(s): None listed
  4. Create pop-up ad on CRC website.
    - Action(s):
      - Pop-up advertisement on website to draw site visitors in for recruitment
    - Timeline: Not listed
    - Resource(s): Nathan Brown to talk to CR Councilmember Tom Allyn
    - Risk(s): None listed
  5. Review models of other successful organizations and learn from them.
    - Action(s):
      - Meet and identify those successful groups and follow those models
      - Build connecting stories (e.g. King County’s ‘Clean Water, Healthy Habitat’ Initiative)
    - Timeline: July 2024
    - Resource(s): CR Councilmember Larry Phillips and CRC Chair Max Prinsen
    - Risk(s): None listed
  6. Identify reduction of members.
    - Action(s):
      - As above, as well as identify those who are close to being done with membership
    - Timeline: July 2024
    - Resource(s): King County staff
    - Risk(s): Loss of members and King County staff
  7. Outreach and Engagement: Project signage for promotion
    - Action(s):
      - As above. Add CRC as a stakeholder on projects for organization promotion.

- Timeline: Not listed
- Resource(s): CRC, King County Parks, King County Water and Land Resources Division, City of Renton
- Risk(s): None listed

#### **IV) Action Plan: In-Person Meetings**

Nathan Brown announced a proposal to a reduction in CRC meeting frequency as there has been a structural reorganization with King County's Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) affecting staff job duties. As a result of the reorganization, WLRD Administrative Specialist Lauren Triplett will also soon be transitioning out of supporting the CRC and no new Administrative Specialist will be providing CRC support for the foreseeable future. Brown outlined the success and effectiveness of quarterly meetings in organizations such as WRIA 8 and cost-effective virtual meetings from King County. Any remaining CRC budget for the year from King County could be saved for larger field events or additional materials. Chair Prinsen suggested applying for various grants such as the Alan Painter Grant with Brown adding the suggestion of contacting WRIA 8 for additional resources and funding, to which Chair Prinsen agreed.

After careful consideration, attendees accepted King County staff's tentative annual recommendation of quarterly in-person or hybrid meetings, one large community event such as "I ♥ the Cedar River," and two field events. Time in between meetings/events could be used as opportunities for members to perform outreach and engagement. Cedar River Councilmember Dr. Hugh Brown advocated for non-field meetings to be in a hybrid format to achieve a larger audience, with one meeting being a longer meeting for any additional brainstorming or discussion. Nathan Brown reminded attendees to be mindful on the cost of meeting venues.

#### **V) Closing/Adjourn**

The next meeting is proposed for a future date in late June, likely at Cedar River Councilmember Jay Mirro's farm. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.