

**Cedar River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan
Oversight Committee
Semi-Annual Meeting**

DRAFT Summary Meeting Minutes

**Monday, June 10 2013
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Conference Room
Cedar River Sockeye Hatchery, Landsburg
28700 SE 252nd Pl, Ravensdale, WA 98051

Members in attendance:

Richard Bigley
Aaron Bosworth (for Bob Everitt)
Jim Erckmann
Don Fiene (for Keri Pravitz)
Cyndy Holtz
Matt Longenbaugh
Tim Romanski
Buck Smith
Jean White
Frank Urabeck

Staff in attendance:

Liz Ablow
Dave Beedle
Paul Faulds
Suzy Flagor
Rolf Gersonde
Amy LaBarge
Brent Lackey
Rand Little
Dwayne Paige

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Approval of minutes

The meeting minutes of December 12, 2012 were approved unanimously, with the meeting date corrected from December 13 to December 12.

Report from Climate Subcommittee

Jim Erckmann provided an overview of the subcommittee's progress to-date.

He explained that the committee has been brainstorming the changes expected over time, and the consequences. The committee is developing a Climate Change Risk Management matrix that attempts to catalog the risks by impact, vulnerability, etc. The committee is challenged to keep the effort fairly high level and focus on those risks that are of greatest concern.

The Subcommittee hopes to have a clearly developed presentation and proposal for the Oversight Committee's consideration at its December 2013 meeting.

Discussion topics:

- What might be resulting actions of the subcommittee findings; future actions might include monitoring
- Subcommittee's effort could be a catalyst for other efforts to understand effects of climate on west-side forests and opportunities for exchange of information with other organizations (e.g., vulnerability analyses by Jessica Halofsky)

- Integration with other climate-related efforts and collaborations by the City of Seattle
- Recruiting new Seattle City Light employee Crystal Raymond who researches effects of climate on forest vegetation

Flow update

Rand Little briefed the Committee on current Cedar River instream flows. There were questions about protection of the five steelhead trout redds that have been identified in the lower Cedar River. The Instream Flow Commission is considering three flow options for protecting the redds (no protection, partial protection, and full protection) and will be voting on the options today.

Walsh Creek Confluence Restoration Project

The Committee toured the Walsh Creek Confluence Restoration Project. Dave Beedle and Brent Lackey explained the project background, construction process, and ecological benefits.

Armillaria Site

The Committee stopped at a forest stand along the 10 Road infected with *Armillaria* root disease. Amy LaBarge explained the convergence of factors (i.e., tree species composition, forest age, wind events, Douglas-fir beetles and common presence of *Armillaria* fungi) that may be causing substantial mortality in overstory Douglas-fir and potential implications of *Armillaria* for watershed forest health. Current efforts include collaborating with WA DNR forest pathologists to identify *Armillaria* species and strains.

55 Road Ecological Thinning site

The Committee visited a forest stand on the 55 Road that was recently thinned under the HCP Ecological Thinning Program. Amy LaBarge and Rolf Gersonde described the project, its goals, and expected ecological benefits. Project objectives include habitat development and resilience. Prescriptions include thinning from below (i.e., cutting small Douglas-fir trees up to 18" diameter), gap creation, untreated areas (skips), and planting in gaps and thinning areas. Within a 200+ acre area, approximately 135 areas will be thinned using ground-based logging systems. Timber revenues exceed project planning and implementation costs.

Adjournment

The Committee returned to Landsburg at 2:30 and the meet was adjourned.