

Salmon Recovery Network Facilitation

MEETING 2 | FEBRUARY 23, 2022

WELCOME, REVIEWING SRNET PURPOSE, AND SHARING OUR CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Elizabeth McManus (facilitator from Ross Strategic), Erik Neatherlin (GSRO), Jeannie Abbott (GSRO), Mara Zimmerman (SRNet co-chair), Jeff Breckel (SRNet co-chair), and Tori Bahe (co-facilitator from Ross Strategic) introduced themselves and welcomed the group.
- Members were separated into breakout rooms for several minutes to get to know each other better and discuss recent work.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- Erik Neatherlin gave an update on the budget and noted that the Governor's operating budget proposal was released in December 2021 and the House and Senate operating budgets were released earlier this week. Since the House and Senate operating budgets were newly released, Erik noted that GSRO needs additional time to crosswalk the two budgets. However, Erik observed that majority of the elements noted in the Governor's budget have moved forward into the House and Senate operating budgets.
- Members brought up the following topics for discussion:
 - The absence of funding for riparian habitat protection and restoration in the Senate budget; and
 - Details on the process for how projects will be chosen to receive money.
- The Senate budget allocates money for salmon recovery project but does not specifically call out riparian restoration projects. Whereas in the House budget, it allocates funds and specifically prioritizes riparian restoration projects. It was noted that both of the budgets have resources going towards the Conservation Commission for incentive programs that support riparian work.
- The House budget identifies a process where projects will undergo a screening with a list of suggested criteria. In the Senate budget, the process is not described in as much detail. Erik noted that, for implementation, RCO likely would work towards creating a technical work group to screen projects. Erik assured SRNet members that once a clear path forward is created, GSRO will share with the group.
- One member noted that the development of the budget request resulted from conversations between the Tribes and the Governor's Office. The member noted that the Tribes emphasized the need to prioritize areas that have temperatures exceeding the threshold for salmon.

SRNET & GOVERNOR'S STRATEGY

- Erik provided a high-level review of the [Statewide Salmon Strategy](#) and its eight priorities to tee up the next discussion on SRNet and collaboration on these issues. Erik also described that GSRO is tasked with

working with the Natural Resources subcabinet to evaluate the salmon priorities and provide recommendations for priorities to the Governor's Office by the end of October.

STRATEGIC BRAINSTORM FOR SRNET AND DISCUSSION ON COLLABORATION

- Before the group engaged in a breakout room exercise, David Troutt, the Natural Resources Director for the Nisqually Tribe, spoke about the need for SRNet. He asked the group to consider how they would define success for SRNet one year from now. He noted that there is a misunderstanding amongst the public and elected officials that salmon are doing fine. David urged the group to think about developing a strategy to engage community members and help them understand the magnitude of the salmon problem and what is at stake.
- SRNet members were then placed into breakout rooms and asked to answer three questions. Members were asked to write down their thoughts in a Google Slides presentation. SRNet members identified the following themes.
 - How would you describe success for SRNet?
 - SRNet streamlines federal permitting process with key agencies (e.g., Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA, USFWS, etc.).
 - SRNet is a beacon of collaboration that highlights successes from its members.
 - SRNet effectively communicates the importance of its role and the importance of the Washington salmon recovery community.
 - SRNet and its members are needed to implement the Governor's Strategy.
 - SRNet becomes the proving ground for policy issues prior to budget proposals.
 - SRNet has raised public awareness of the salmon crisis and increased public understanding of and support for statewide and watershed-scale salmon recovery work, including local habitat and water quality protection and restoration.
 - In looking ahead, what is the role of SRNet? What are the 2-3 messages that we want SRNet to amplify?
 - SRNet is a forum that identifies and resolves salmon recovery implementation bottlenecks and increases efficiency.
 - SRNet creates a space for all members to have a shared understanding of salmon recovery needs and policies.
 - SRNet communicates with the broader public and amplifies success stories and challenges.
 - SRNet members advocate for one another's priorities and collaborate with one another.
 - How do we communicate and amplify these messages to the general audience and officials?
 - Brainstorm and consider why people are not engaging with salmon recovery
 - Build better and broader awareness on the status of salmon
 - Make salmon recovery an emotionally and politically charged topic to get the public involved
- After the report out, one SRNet member observed that many of the themes described were items that SRNet wants to get done but there was less discussion on the broader or overall role of SRNet or its specific contribution to accomplishing these things. They noted that in order for the group to be effective there needs to be agreement on these important questions.

ACTION ITEMS

- GSRO, SRNet co-chairs, and facilitators (Planning Team) to review notes from each breakout room and develop potential topics for future meetings.
- Facilitators to send calendar invite and agenda to SRNet for the April 15th meeting.
- GSRO to provide updates when available regarding the process for identifying projects that will receive funding.