

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

January 1 to April 30, 2020

Overview and Highlights

Cost-shared services during the first trimester of 2020 focused on:

- Updating 2020 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Creating and sending two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Working with project sponsors to develop twenty-three grant applications for Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding and six proposals for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding.
- Conducting Project Subcommittee (PSC) site visits and facilitating the PSC's development of funding recommendations for the twenty-three CWM grant proposals.
- Worked with project sponsors to develop grant applications for SRFB funding.
- Advised project sponsors on how to develop projects in alignment with WRIA 8's recovery strategies. Supported sponsors applying for various funding sources, including those not directed by WRIA 8. Provided ongoing support to projects funded by WRIA 8 in past years.
- Meeting with partners and stakeholders to advocate for funding programs critical to WRIA 8, such as the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR), Estuary and Salmon Restoration (ESRP), Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), Floodplains by Design, and Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) programs via the King County Flood Control District initiative authored by Chair Dave Upthegrove. This initiative unanimously passed on March 10th.
- Representing WRIA 8's interests in Puget Sound Watershed Leads group, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC), South Central Caucus Group, and Washington Salmon Coalition, including participating on subcommittees and work groups to advance recovery efforts.

The following summary of services is organized according to work items outlined in the approved WRIA 8 Memorandum of Understanding.

Salmon Recovery Council Coordination/Puget Sound Partnership

- Scheduled and staffed two meetings of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) (January 16 and March 19).
 - January meeting focus: 2020 Salmon Recovery Council meeting topic themes and priorities; update on WRIA 8's 2020 state and federal legislative priorities and approve letter to legislators; a presentation from Lauren Urgenson, WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator: Lake Washington ship canal predation research findings, partner coordination efforts, and draft funding request.
 - March meeting focus: Information on the 2019 King County Client Satisfaction Survey; artificial lighting impacts on salmon and interim guidance; update on the status of the Riverbend Floodplain Restoration project on the Cedar River; and, briefing on SRC Operating Guidelines for new SRC members.
- Attended **January 23** meeting of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) (the March PS SRC was virtually held on **March 26** due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic).
 - January meeting focus: Electing chair and vice chair positions and approving addition of a Puget Sound Conservation Districts seat on the PS SRC, a presentation and discussion of a request for PS SRC support for addressing fish passage at the Electron Dam on the Puyallup River, an update on the state Salmon Recovery Funding Board discussion of capacity funding for salmon recovery, discussion of 2020 Puget Sound legislative priorities, presentation on the framework for the regional Chinook salmon progress report and ideas on how the PS SRC can use the content.

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- March meeting focus: Discussing the PS SRC's 2020 work plan priorities, next steps in the process to revisit regional Chinook salmon recovery priorities, an update on the 2020 legislative session, the status of an update to the Statewide Strategy to Recover Salmon, and hearing a presentation on Electron Dam operations and the PS SRC's draft letter supporting removal of the Dam.
- Participated in three conference call/ virtual meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (**January 9, February 13 and March 12**).
 - January meeting topics: Update on PSAR; December 2019 SRFB meeting update; Governor's budget request; Puget Sound Day on the Hill/Salmon Days 2020; a presentation on the Marine PSEMP birds work group; January 23 PS SRC meeting; 2020 Grant Round.
 - February meeting topics: Vital signs revision project update; Lead Entity Puget Sound Info pages; PSAR; 2020 SRFB monitoring projects; Puget Sound Partners and Lead Entity data collaboration discussion; chinook progress report.
 - March meeting topics: Discuss a draft Projects of Concern policy for the Salmon Recovery Council; the upcoming Salmon Recovery Council meeting; hear an update on the Puget Sound ESU table for the State of Salmon report; H-integration in the watersheds and how those efforts can be reflected in the salmon recovery regional chapter update; hear updates from the Partnership and around the Sound.
- Participated in one meeting of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (April 1) (did not attend February 19 meeting).
 - Meeting topics included: discussing and determining a process for selecting a near-term action (NTA) to recommend for funding through LIO-directed funding under the National Estuary Program for Puget Sound restoration. A survey of the top three priority projects resulted in selection of the "Shore Friendly King County Program", a collaborative effort between Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group, King Conservation District, King County, WRIA 9, and WRIA 8 to provide outreach and technical assistance to private marine shoreline landowners.
- Participated in three meetings of the WRIA 8 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee (i.e., the Ecology-led planning process taking place under the Streamflow Restoration Act) (**January 28, February 27, and March 26**).
 - January meeting topics: Consumptive use update; discuss regulations surrounding water use and rural residential development; policy and regulatory idea brainstorm session; estimating water offset from habitat projects.
 - February meeting topics: Identifying potential projects; policy and regulatory recommendations for inclusion in the WRE Plan.
 - March meeting topics: Review and discuss WDFW project tracking proposal; share and discuss adaptive management ideas and determine next steps; policy recommendations; water offset project development.
- Updated 2020 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Conducted new elected member orientation, email correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with SRC members and WRIA 8 partner staff.
- Provided information to all jurisdictions equally.

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Plan Implementation

- Worked with project sponsors to develop **twenty-three** grant applications for Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding and **six** proposals for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding.
- Coordinated and led site visits of the SRFB/PSAR proposals with the Project Subcommittee (PSC), Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), and Puget Sound Partnership (PSP). Facilitated the PSC's initial screening of SRFB/PSAR grant proposals.
- Conducted PSC virtual site visits and facilitated the PSC's evaluation of CWM grant proposals and development of funding recommendations for the CWM grant program.
- Worked with project sponsors to refine and revise their SRFB/PSAR grant applications in response to feedback from the state Technical Review Panel.
- Advised project sponsors on how to develop projects in alignment with WRIA 8's recovery strategies. Supported sponsors applying for various funding sources, including those not directed by WRIA 8. Provided ongoing support to projects funded by WRIA 8 in past years.
- Developed a project implementation reporting framework, vetted this framework through WRIA 8 committees, and distributed an implementation reporting survey to sponsors as a way to obtain data on priority implementation indicators.
- Scheduled and facilitated three WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (IC) meetings (January 7, March 3 and April 7).
 - January 7: Discuss additions to state legislative priorities and draft letter to state legislators; Lake Washington Ship Canal predation research findings and draft funding request; communications and outreach strategy framework; review Salmon Recovery Council agenda topics.
 - March 3: Cedar River flooding and Riverbend Floodplain Restoration project update; artificial lighting impacts on salmon; progress report schedule and monitoring implementation indicators; communications and outreach strategy framework; review Salmon Recovery Council agenda topics.
 - April 7: Identifying and sharing salmon recovery best management practices and best available science; client services survey results for 2019.

Technical Coordination

- Scheduled and facilitated two WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meetings (February 12, and April 8).
 - February 12: Monitoring recovery actions in WRIA 8; ship canal draft figures; ship canal report structure and next steps; update on predation work.
 - April 8: A presentation on Cedar River juvenile monitoring and Cedar River PIT tagging; managing predation of juvenile chinook by nonnative fishes in WRIA 8; adult chinook fish-in monitoring; discussed Technical Committee proposals.
- Organized and facilitated Predation Steering Committee to inform and coordinate predation assessment and management in WRIA 8.
- Managed project team to conduct scope of work focused on temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions in the Lake Washington Ship Canal.
- Produced technical memo on artificial lighting impacts to salmon in WRIA 8 and initiated a scope of work to develop common-sense lighting recommendations to support salmon recovery.

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Communication

- Completed 2019 Client Satisfaction Survey
- Created and sent two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (February and April).
- Solicited input from the Seattle Aquarium for literature or data on the impact of artificial light on salmon
- Distributed email updates and announcements to WRIA 8 partners and interested parties, including funding opportunities, event notices, and information of interest.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 8 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/.

Program Management and Administration

- Provided a progress report and billings to RCO for the Lead Entity contract.
- Create the draft WRIA 8 2021 budget and work plan for SRC discussion.
- Conducted the 2019 WRIA 8 Client Satisfaction Survey.
- Conducted general administrative work supporting implementation of the ILA, including work program development and monitoring, budget development and tracking, regular reporting, billing, personnel, and supervision.
- Held verbal and email progress discussions at and between WRIA 8 SRC meetings.
- Coordinated with the SRC on several issues, including regional Puget Sound salmon recovery and habitat restoration.

For additional information on any item in this report, please contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, at jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov or 206-477-4780.