

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

May 1 to August 31, 2019

Overview and Highlights

Cost-shared services during the second trimester of 2019 focused on:

- Updating 2019 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Creating and sending two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Obtaining approval from the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) of \$1,852,184 in grant funding from the WRIA 8 King County Flood Control District (KCFCD) Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) program, to provide over \$1.4 million to habitat restoration projects, \$300,000 for ongoing monitoring activities, and approximately \$91,000 to outreach and education programs.
- Conducting interviews, hiring, and onboarding new WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator.
- Participating in and leading briefings for Congresswoman Schrier and Congressman Newhouse on WRIA 8 and Puget Sound salmon recovery efforts and priorities.
- Launching the 2019 Salmon SEEson campaign (thirteenth annual) to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation.
- 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) (May 16 and July 18).
 - May meeting focus: Discussion on draft 2020 WRIA 8 budget and work plan; decision on 2019 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant round recommendations; presentation on King County Flood Control District project implementation; and success story on Holder Creek acquisition and restoration.
 - July meeting focus: Decision on 2020 WRIA 8 budget and work plan; review of WRIA 8 2020 legislative priorities; presentation on King County Conservation Futures Tax and Parks Levy grant recommendations; discussion on 2018 Client Service Survey Results; and discussion on success stories and lessons learned.
- Attended one meeting of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) (May 23).
 - May meeting focus: Discussion on Salmon Benefit Index (SBI); presentation on Pacific Salmon Treaty; decision on 2019 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant round allocation formula; and update on Puget Sound Steelhead Recovery Plan.
 - Participated in a WebEx to provide comments on the SBI among salmon-recovery and watershed groups (June 25).
 - Participated on Funding Subcommittee conference calls to develop a recommended funding concept/strategy to support salmon recovery for the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council consideration (May 21 and August 13).
- Participated in three meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (May 9, June 13, and July 18).
 - May meeting focus: Updates; discussion on SRFB survey on large, complex salmon habitat projects; presentation on Vital Signs revision; and presentation on Puget Sound Partnership's Mobilizing Funding initiative.

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- June conference call focus: Updates; discussion on RCO's new 2020 grant round timeline and implications for the PSAR Large Capital RFP; and discussion on the approach for watershed salmon recovery chapter updates.
- July meeting focus: Discussion on regional monitoring needs and smolt traps; discussion on proposed timeline for 2021-2023 PSAR Large Capital grant round; and discussion on development of a new PSAR capacity return funds policy.
- Participated in one meeting of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (May 1).
 - Meeting topics included: Update on Local Integrating Organization (LIO)/EPA engagement; discussion on LIO performance measurement integration and work plan; and deep dive on shoreline armoring.
- Participated in three meetings of the WRIA 8 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee (WREC), i.e., the Ecology-led planning process taking place under the Streamflow Restoration Act (May 28, June 27, and August 22).
- Attended one multi-WRIA WREC Technical Workgroup meeting (May 23) and participated in one WebEx meeting of the Cedar-Sammamish WREC Technical Workgroup (June 10).
- Updated 2019 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Participated in briefing for Congressman Dan Newhouse on Puget Sound salmon recovery challenges and priorities.
- Organized and led a briefing for Congresswoman Kim Schrier on WRIA 8 salmon recovery efforts and priorities, specifically highlighting federal legislative priorities.
- Conducted email correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with SRC members and WRIA 8 partner staff.
- Provided information to all jurisdictions equally.

Plan Implementation

- Scheduled and facilitated two WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (IC) meetings (May 7 and July 9).
 - Meeting topics included: Updates on WRIA 8's engagement on the Cedar-Sammamish Water Resource Enhancement Committee; discussion on service provider survey results; information on King Conservation District rate renewal proposal; update on King County Flood Control District's priority project implementation in WRIA 8; discussion of WRIA 8 2020 draft budget and work plan; discussion of 2020 legislative agenda; updates on Lake Sammamish kokanee recovery and Lake Washington sockeye status; presentation on King County habitat/open space acquisition and restoration strategy; review of communication and outreach strategy; and review of May 16 and July 18 Salmon Recovery Council agendas.
- Obtained approval from the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) of \$1,852,184 in grant funding from the WRIA 8 King County Flood Control District (KCFCD) Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) program, to provide over \$1.4 million to habitat restoration projects, \$300,000 for ongoing monitoring activities, and approximately \$91,000 to outreach and education programs. Delivered the SRC-approved funding recommendations to the KCFCD and received their approval on August 21.
- Coordinated with project sponsors and RCO on the 2019 Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant round. Conducted a site visits and facilitated development of funding recommendations for Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant funding (May 22). Prepared grant recommendations for September delivery to the SRC.
- Participated in one meeting and one conference call of the Cedar River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan Oversight Committee (June 13 and July 30).

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- 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, including bringing projects forward for feedback from the WRIA 8 Technical Committee.
- Attended one WebEx meeting (June 24) of the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) and one in-person meeting (August 13). Topics covered various items of relevance for statewide salmon recovery, including advising on implementation of new RCO policies that carry implications for local grant round evaluations.
- Responded to citizen and agency inquiries on the WRIA 8 process, priorities, and Plan implementation.
- Participated in project planning activities with project sponsors and reviewing project concepts, plans, and visions to ensure future implementation aligns with the WRIA 8 Plan and its priorities. This included visits to select project sites to discuss alignment with WRIA 8 objectives and future funding strategies.

Technical Coordination

- Scheduled and facilitated one WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meeting (August 14).
 - Meeting topics included: Review of Technical Committee purpose, objectives, and work plan; discussion on 2019 stream wood surveys; review of Lake Washington Ship Canal temperature and dissolved oxygen state of knowledge; and presentation on Be'er Sheva Park Shoreline Habitat Project.
- Participated in two meetings of the Cedar sockeye Adaptive Management Work Group (June 19 and August 21).
- Provided regular TC status reports and salmon updates to the SRC.
- Provided technical support to IC through participation in monthly meetings.
- Participated in Cedar River Instream Flow Commission meeting and tour of the Tolt Watershed.
- Attended Cedar River Habitat Conservation Plan Oversight Committee meeting.
- Developed workplan for Lake Washington Ship Canal temperature and dissolved oxygen state of knowledge report.
- Planned survey of wood volume in Issaquah Creek.

Communication

- Launched the 2019 Salmon SEEson campaign (thirteenth annual) to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation.
- Drafted and sent a letter on May 17 to the state Senator and House capital budget leadership, thanking them for their support for salmon recovery priorities, including funding for the Riverbend Floodplain Restoration project as part of the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program.
- Drafted and sent a letter on June 24 to Snohomish County Council requesting they include funding in the County's 2020 budget to restore their cost share to the WRIA 8 ILA.
- Created and sent two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (June and August).
- Provided letters of support for partner projects.
- 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

- Conducted interviews, hired, and onboarded new WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator.

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- Met with Snohomish County Executive to discuss Snohomish County's participation in WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement.
- Submitted a progress report and billing to RCO for the Lead Entity contract covering the period through June 30, 2019.
- Negotiated a scope of work with GSRO and PSP for the Lead Entity contract covering the period September 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021.
- Developed the draft WRIA 8 2019 budget and work plan for Management Committee review and Salmon Recovery Council approval.
- 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.