

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

January 1 to April 30, 2022

Overview and Highlights

Cost-shared services during the first trimester of 2022 focused on:

- Ratified Addendum to add City of Everett to WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement.
- Finalized 2022 state and federal [WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities](#) and distribution of [letter to state legislators](#) sharing WRIA 8 legislative priorities.
- Coordinated and facilitated meetings with state Representative Bill Ramos and interested entities to discuss and develop scope a budget proviso request to address impacts on salmon survival from artificial lighting.
- Drafted and distributed [February](#) and [April](#) WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Updated [WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan](#).
- Facilitated development of and presented Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee's DEI Strategic Plan at the Puget Sound Watershed Leads meeting.
- Presented [annual update to the Salmon Recovery Council](#) on the objectives and activities of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee.
- Worked with project sponsors to develop 39 grant applications for Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding and four proposals for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)/ Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding.
- Conducted Project Subcommittee (PSC) site review meetings and facilitating the PSC's development of funding recommendations for approximately \$5.7 million to 24 CWM and 2 SRFB/PSAR grant proposals.
- 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 such as: North Creek fish barrier correction project, North Creek Streamkeepers project, Seidel Creek design and permitting project, Issaquah Creek In-Stream Restoration at Lake Sammamish State Park project, Royal Arch Reach floodplain reconnection project, fish passage removal projects on George Davis Creek, Taylor Creek and Laughing Jacobs Creek. Provided ongoing support to projects funded by WRIA 8 in past years.
- Met 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.
- Represented WRIA 8's interests in Puget Sound Watershed Leads group, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, South Central Caucus Group (Local Integrating Organization), 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 20 and March 17).
 - [January](#) meeting focus: Selection of Salmon Recovery Council Vice Chair position; update on Interlocal Agreement (ILA) addendum to add City of Everett; review of priority legislation, consider approval of draft letter to state legislators, a presentation on Mountain to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Management Plan, and a progress update on kokanee recovery efforts.

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- [March](#) meeting focus: Review of Salmon Recovery Council governance and 2022 meeting themes and priorities; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee presentation, and progress update on the Meadowdale Beach and Estuary restoration project.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) on January 27 and March 24.
 - January meeting focus: Draft 2022-2026 Action Agenda; legislative update, review Chinook bold actions, a presentation on DNR Watershed Resilient Action Plan, discussion on salmon target setting, review 2022 work plan.
 - March meeting focus: Funding subcommittee update, PSAR cost increase update, 2021 State of the Sound presentation, Chinook vital sign target presentation, habitat restoration – spatial distribution analysis presentation, review Regional Monitoring Framework, legislative update.
- Participated in virtual meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (January 13, February 10, March 10).
 - January meeting topics: Local Integrating Organization (LIO) Collective Project Pilot, PSP salmon decision package, and Puget Sound juvenile Chinook synthesis report and monitoring funding.
 - February meeting topics: WRIA 8 Presentation on DEI work
 - March meeting topics: DEI follow up discussion, grant round check in
- Participated in one meeting of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (Local Integrating Organization) on March 3.
 - Meeting focus: State legislative session updates and discussion of priority topics for the LIO work plan and funding opportunities.
- Updated 2022 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Conducted new elected member orientations, email correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with SRC members and WRIA 8 partner staff.
- Provided information to all jurisdictions equally.

Plan Implementation

- Worked with project sponsors to develop 39 grant applications for Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding and four proposals for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) funding.
- Coordinated and led virtual site visits of the SRFB proposals with the Project Subcommittee (PSC), Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), and Puget Sound Partnership (PSP).
- Facilitated the PSC's initial screening of SRFB grant proposals and developed draft funding recommendations. Worked with RCO to provide feedback to applicants about ways to strengthen their proposals to align with local and regional salmon recovery goals.
- Coordinated and facilitated in-person site visits for five proposals and virtual site visits/presentations for 34 CWM grant proposals and initiated the PSC's evaluation of CWM grant proposals and development of funding recommendations for the CWM grant program (this work concluded in the next trimester).
- 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.
- Scheduled and facilitated two WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (IC) meetings (January 11, March 1).
 - January: WRIA 8 updates on Lake Washington Ship Canal roundtable; status of City of Everett's addendum; 2022 grant round and other funding opportunities; legislative priorities

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update and review letter to congressional delegates; Lake Sammamish kokanee recovery update.

- March: 2022 WRIA 8 grant round status, legislative priorities, Lake Washington Ship Canal Roundtable process, presentation from King County and NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service on a collaborative restoration and permitting program for Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish, and review and discuss 2022 themes and topics.

Technical Coordination

Scheduled and facilitated four WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meetings (January 12, February 9, March 9, and April 13).

- January: Discuss 2021 spawning ground escapement estimates; salmon legislative update; discuss 2022 meeting topics.
- February: Discuss WRIA 8 predation studies update; juvenile outmigrant studies update.
- March: Update on WRIA 8 CWM monitoring and assessment grant round; Lake Sammamish & kokanee science spotlight.
- April: Review and discuss seven monitoring and assessment projects.
- Coordinated Lake Washington Ship Canal RoundTable in partnership with Long Live the Kings. Roundtable Goal: Act urgently to improve juvenile and adult salmon health and survival in the Lake Washington Ship Canal by lowering water temperatures, increasing dissolved oxygen, and reducing abrupt transitions in those conditions.
- Initiated synthesis of predation impacts on juvenile Chinook survivorship in WRIA 8 in partnership with US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and King County.
- Produced 2022 Cooperative Watershed Management monitoring and assessment RFP with the WRIA 8 Technical Committee.
- Co-authored the Cedar River Habitat Conservation Plan 20-year review letter.
- Attended monthly Cedar River Instream Flow Commission meetings.

Communication

- Completed 2021 Client Satisfaction Survey.
- Drafted Congressional and state legislative priorities letter, sponsor letters of support, Salmon Recovery Funding Board comment letter, letter of support for Governor's salmon recovery funding package.
- Created and sent two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (February and April).
- 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.
- Drafted WRIA 8 2023 budget and work plan for SRC discussion.
- Conducted the 2021 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.

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.