

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

May 1 to August 31, 2021

Overview and Highlights of cost-shared services during the second trimester of 2021 focused on:

- Facilitated [May](#) and [July](#) Salmon Recovery Council meetings.
- Drafted and adopted 2022 state and federal WRIA 8 [salmon recovery legislative priorities](#) and associated communication materials.
- Draft and distribute [June](#) and [August](#) WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Produced the synthesis report: [Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen Conditions in the Lake Washington Ship Canal](#).
- Submitted Letter to Governor Jay Inslee sharing WRIA 8's state legislative priorities, including support for developing a salmon recovery package.
- Adopted WRIA 8 2022 [budget](#), [work plan](#) and [cost share](#).
- Scheduled and facilitated three Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee meetings.
- Obtained Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) approval of \$3,686,543 in [WRIA 8 Cooperative Watershed Management](#) (CWM) grant program funding recommendations, providing over \$2.4 million to habitat restoration projects, \$724,330 for monitoring and assessment activities, and \$172,350 to outreach and education programs.
- Obtained SRC approval of \$435,235 in state [Salmon Recovery Funding Board](#) grant funding to a priority WRIA 8 habitat restoration project.
- Coordinated and planned for the 2021 [Salmon SEEs](#) campaign (fifteenth annual) to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation.
- 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.
- 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.

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 21 & July 16).
 - May meeting focus: discussion on draft 2022 WRIA 8 budget and work plan; decision on 2021 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant round recommendations; discuss the letter on a proposed asphalt plant in Cedar River Basin; updates and announcements; and a presentation on the Lake Washington Ship Canal Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen synthesis report.
 - July meeting focus: update on CFT/Parks Levy Citizens Advisory Committee funding recommendations; approval of Management Committee recommendation for 2022 budget and work plan; presentation to approve WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee 2021 SRFB grant funding recommendations; presentation on the findings from the Salish Sea Marine Survival Project; presentation on new information about native run of sockeye/kokanee-like fish in some North Lake Washington tributary streams.
- Scheduled and staffed one WRIA 8 Management Committee meeting (June 7) to develop a 2022 budget and work plan recommendation for SRC approval in July.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) (May 24 & July 29).

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- Presentation from North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission on ocean conditions and fish responses
- Presentation from Long Live the Kings on the findings from the Salish Sea Marine Survival Project
- Status of the update to the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan
- Update on the 2022-2026 Action Agenda development and feedback on recovery strategies
- Affirming outcomes from the March retreat and discussing next steps
- Legislative session review and debrief

July meeting focus:

- Update on development of the 2022-2026 Puget Sound Action Agenda update
- Status of the update to the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan
- Legislative update focusing on salmon priorities
- Assessment of fish passage improvement opportunities at stream mouths along BNSF railway
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Duckabush restoration project proposal
- Discussion of “project of concern” designation for Point No Point Estuary Restoration and potential PS SRC support in appealing to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- Options for 2023-2025 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration large capital grant program project prioritization
- Criteria and funding strategy for a list of salmon recovery “mega projects” (NOTE: WRIA 8 is working on a public-private funding strategy for critical Ballard Locks infrastructure repairs as a pilot project for this effort).
- Participated in three meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (May 13, June 10, and July 8).
 - May meeting focus: Hear updates on PSAR and discuss the SRFB grant round, prep for the June 2 SRFB meeting and Targeted Investment conversations, discuss the May 27 SRC meeting agenda, and hear updates from Puget Sound Partnership and around the Sound.
 - June meeting focus: Discuss PSAR next steps and debrief the May Salmon Recovery Council meeting, debrief the Salmon Recovery Funding Board meeting, hear updates from Puget Sound Partnership and around the Sound.
 - July meeting focus: Hear a presentation on the Human Dimensions protocol, discuss the July 29 SRC meeting agenda and 2023-25 PSAR Large Cap prioritization options, hear an update on the Climate Advisory Team’s work, and hear updates from the Partnership and around the Sound.
- Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (Local Integrating Organization [LIO]) (June 4 and August 26).
 - June meeting topics included: PSP, ECB, Leadership Council and member updates; Stormwater summit lessons learned and next steps, ECO Net training.
 - August meeting topics included: Member updates, Green Bridges Ship Canal Project update, discussion of the goals and case studies for the “Co-Design” training, discussion of the scope and objectives of the ECO Net training, discussion of the 2022 LIO contract and ideas for funding.
- Updated 2022 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Conducted 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

- Scheduled, facilitated two WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (IC) meetings (May 4 and July 6).
 - May meeting topics included: Cedar River basin habitat acquisition and restoration strategies; draft 2022 WRIA 8 budget and work plan; review of Department of Ecology’s draft Water Quality Assessment, and May 20 Salmon Recovery Council agenda items.
 - July meeting topics included: Cedar River habitat restoration and stewardship discussion of existing work, lessons-learned, challenges/knowledge gaps and collaboration opportunities; and July 18 Salmon Recovery Council agenda items.
- Obtained Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) approval of \$3,686,543 in [WRIA 8 Cooperative Watershed Management](#) (CWM) grant program funding recommendations, providing over \$2.4 million to habitat restoration projects, \$724,330 for monitoring and assessment activities, and \$172,350 to outreach and education programs.
- Delivered the SRC-approved funding recommendations to the KCFCD and received their approval on July 13.
- Prepared 2021 [Salmon Recovery Funding Board \(SRFB\) grant recommendations](#) for SRC approval in July.
- Obtained SRC approval of the 2021 SRFB grant funding recommendations (July 16).
- Participated in one meeting of the Cedar River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Oversight Committee focusing on the 20-Year HCP Comprehensive Review (July 1).
- 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 two WebEx meetings (July 13 and August 26) of the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC). Topics covered various items of relevance for statewide salmon recovery, including Lead Entity funding and advising on RCO budget reductions and implementation of new RCO policies that carry implications for local grant round evaluations and grant funding program requests in the 2021-2023 biennium budget, and discussion with the new RCO Director.
- 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.
- Scheduled and facilitated three meetings of the WRIA 8 Diversity Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee.

Technical Coordination

- Scheduled and facilitated three WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meetings (May 12, July 14, August 11).
 - May TC meeting focus: Updates on two ongoing TC efforts and next steps, including temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions in the Ship Canal and impacts to salmon, and the 2020 WRIA 8 Progress Report; review and discussion of the TC’s monitoring and assessment prioritization and the grant review criteria; and a presentation from City of Bellevue staff on peamouth chub (*Mylocheilus caurinus*), which spawn conspicuously along the shores of Lake Washington and tributaries in spring.
 - July TC meeting focus: Presentation and discussion of King County’s conceptual model for critical factors in recovery of natural origin Chinook in Bear Creek and the Cedar River.
 - August TC meeting focus: Field tour of the Riverbend project site on the Cedar River. King County is moving toward 2022 construction of Riverbend Phase 2. The tour included

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discussion of how the site has evolved since the levee breach in 2020 and what the new design entails.

- Participated in four meetings of the Cedar Instream Flow Commission and attended meetings of the sockeye Adaptive Management Work Group.
- Presented WRIA 8 salmon recovery work to the Cedar River Council, Bothell City Council, Introduction to Restoration students at the University of Washington.
- Co-led the Lake Washington Ship Canal Roundtable Technical Workgroup.
- Provided regular TC status reports and salmon updates to the SRC.
- Provided technical support to the IC through participation in monthly meetings.

Communication

- Coordinated and planned the 2021 Salmon SEEson campaign (15th annual) to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation.
- Drafted and sent letters to the Washington State Congressional delegation sharing WRIA 8's federal legislative priorities, and a letter to Governor Inslee sharing WRIA 8's state legislative priorities.
- Produced 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

- Submitted a progress report and billing to RCO for the Lead Entity contract covering the period through June 30, 2021.
- Negotiated a scope of work with GSRO and PSP for the Lead Entity contract covering the period September 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.
- Developed the draft WRIA 8 2022 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 partners 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.