

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

September 1 to December 31, 2023

Overview and Highlights

Cost-shared services during the third trimester of 2023 focused on:

- Planned and facilitated September and November Salmon Recovery (SRC) meetings.
- Planned and facilitated September and November Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) meetings.
- Secured SRC approval of the updated 2024 federal and state legislative priorities.
- Secured SRC approval of Small Grant Program funding recommendations, awarding \$295,592 to three Project Development proposals and two Community Engagement, Equity, and Environmental Justice proposals.
- Secured SRC approval of 2024 WRIA 8 budget and work plan.
- Drafted and distributed October and December WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Launched the 2023 Salmon SEEson campaign (17th annual) to increase public awareness of salmon viewing opportunities and increase support for salmon recovery.
- Administered the 2023 WRIA 8 Partner Satisfaction Survey.
- Represented WRIA 8 interests at regional and state salmon recovery forums, including Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, Puget Sound Watershed Leads, Washington Salmon Coalition, and South Central Local Integrating Organization.

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) (September 21 and November 16)
 - [September](#) meeting focus: Review of 2024 Budget and Work Plan, presentation of 2024 federal and state legislative priorities, a presentation on Artificial Light at Night, the business portion of the meeting was followed by an in-person site visit to Riverbend Floodplain Restoration project on the Cedar River
 - [November](#) meeting focus: Presentation and decision on the 2024 Grant Round, decision on Project Innovation and Community Grant funding recommendations, decision on 2024 federal and state legislative priorities as well as associated letters to the Governor and Washington State Congressional delegation, 2023 Partner Satisfaction Survey, and a presentation on Sunrise Elementary School retrofit project
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) (September 28 and November 16).
- Participated in three virtual meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (September 21, October 12, November 8)
- Attended two virtual meetings of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (September 13/14 and December 13)
- Attended the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Portland, OR.
- Held meetings with WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council ILA partner jurisdiction to discuss WRIA 8 salmon recovery priorities, opportunities to advance projects, and funding opportunities.

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Plan Implementation

- Received SRC approval on recommended WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Project Innovation and Community 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. Provided ongoing support to projects funded by WRIA 8 in past years.
- Launched and managed the 2023 Salmon SEEson campaign (17th annual) to increase public awareness of salmon viewing opportunities and increase support for salmon recovery.

Technical Coordination

- Scheduled and facilitated two WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (ITC) meetings (September 13 and November 8).
 - September meeting focus: Presentation on innovative permit streamlining programs from the US EPA and WDFW, status of King County Flood Plan update, and review of 2024 WRIA 8 budget, workplan and legislative priorities.
 - November meeting focus: Upcoming funding opportunities updates from several funding program managers about various grant programs.
- Continued work to advance priority projects, including assessing solutions to reduce elevated Lake Washington Ship Canal water temperatures, recommendations report from technical workshop on pinniped predation on salmon at the Ballard Locks, and drafting a multi-species assessment.

Communication

- Produced two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (October and December).
- 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/.
- Developed updated Living with Salmon in King County brochure.

Program Management and Administration

- Initiated recruitment of vacant WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator position.
- Conducted general administrative work supporting implementation of the ILA, including work program development and monitoring, budget development and tracking, regular reporting, billing, personnel management, 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.