

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8 September 1 to December 31, 2020

Overview and Highlights of cost-shared services during the third trimester of 2020 focused on:

- WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) approved CM John Stokes as Chair and CM Mark Phillips as Vice-Chair for the 2021-2022 term.
- Produced two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters in [October](#) and [December](#).
- Continued work with Interlocal Agreement (ILA) partners to approve and execute ILA Amendment for Snohomish County to formally rejoin the ILA as a cost share partner.
- WRIA 8 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee updated language in Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Supplemental Application forms and grant review criteria to encourage a greater focus on social equity through the implementation of proposed projects and programs.
- Obtained SRC approval to adopt a Communications and Outreach Framework to guide staff communications, coordinate salmon recovery messaging, and inform local partner's communications and outreach programs.
- Obtained SRC approval to revise WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee's 2021 CWM funding guidance to allocate \$192k for education and outreach, \$721k for monitoring and assessment and \$2.6m for habitat acquisition and restoration.
- Completed the 14th Salmon SEEson campaign for 2020.
- Represented 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 and Regional Coordination

- Scheduled and staffed two meetings of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) (September 17 & November 19).
 - September meeting focus: discussed WRIA 8 2021-2022 Salmon Recovery Council leadership selection; introduce the WRIA 8 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee members; reviewed and discussed the 2021 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding guidance for use by the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee when reviewing proposals; an update on the 2020 salmon returns; reviewed and discussed a draft of the WRIA 8 Communications and Outreach Framework to guide staff communications, better coordinate salmon recovery messaging and inform local partner's communications and outreach programs; and a success story from Ocean's Initiative on the Acoustic Deterrence device installed at Ballard Locks to reduce pinniped predation.
 - November meeting focus: a decision on WRIA 8 2021-2022 Salmon Recovery Council leadership selection; decision on 2021 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding guidance for use by the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee. Approved to revise funding guidance to: \$192k for education and outreach, \$721k for monitoring and assessment and \$2.6m for habitat acquisition and restoration; decision to adopt WRIA 8 Communications and Outreach Framework that will guide staff communications, coordinate salmon recovery messaging and inform local partner's communications and outreach programs; presentation on Lake Sammamish Kokanee recovery status; and a success story from City of Redmond on wood placement project at Keller Farm on Bear Creek.

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- Initiated the WRIA 8 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee including SRC members and Puget Sound Partnership staff. WRIA 8 staff planned and facilitated bi-weekly (or weekly) meetings to establish DEI Subcommittee vision, definitions, goals, strategy framework, and initial workplan. The DEI Subcommittee also revised language in Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Supplemental Application forms and grant review criteria to encourage a greater focus on social equity through funding decisions and implementation of proposed projects, and programs.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) (September 24 & November 19).
 - September meeting focus: discussed a framework to identify and advance budget and policy priorities during the upcoming legislative session; presentation highlighting the successful collaboration with BNSF railroad at the Meadowdale Beach restoration site; reviewed top barriers to watershed recovery to lead the 2021 work priorities; NOAA Fisheries provided an update on the Salish Sea Nearshore Program and their draft Biological Opinion; discussed the values to select priority outcomes and strategies for the 2022-2026 Action Agenda; and the Funding Subcommittee discussed their pilot for integrating salmon recovery priorities into Conservation Futures Tax programs.
 - November meeting focus: proposals to advance the concept of ‘net ecological gain’ as an alternative to ‘no net loss’ of ecological function to ensure that public and private development projects result in a net gain of ecological functions over the life of the projects; 2021 legislative priorities update, including review of Puget Sound Partnership ranking of state agency budget requests and considering submittal of a letter sharing priorities with legislators; consideration and approval of the PS SRC’s Funding Subcommittee recommendations for pilot county Conservation Futures Tax programs to coordinate with to improve integration of salmon recovery priorities; review of ongoing challenges associated with operations of the Electron Dam on the Puyallup River and updates from federal and state agencies with oversight of the project; and, presentations on innovative and creative conservation finance mechanisms.
- Participated in two meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (October 8 & November 12).
 - October meeting focus: review if ranked project lists for capital grant funding programs and messaging for supporting Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funding program.
 - November meeting focus: Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program communication and messaging, Island Watershed salmon recovery chapter update, Salmon Recovery Funding Board planning discussion, Salmon Recovery Council meeting agenda topics, and Salmon Recovery Funding Board meeting agenda.
- Participated in three meetings of the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) (October 14, October 26, and November 9).
 - Meetings focused on: legislative priorities and outreach, regional monitoring, training on strengthening and re-building trust, permitting policy, and WSC mission and structure.
- Participated in two Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (Local Integrating Organization [LIO]) meetings (October 7 & December 2).
 - The meetings focused on: an update on 2022-2026 Action Agenda updates and how the LIO can provide support; approving LIO operating principles and 2020-2022 work plan updates; planning for a King County stormwater summit, land use strategies for preventing and mitigating stormwater pollution.

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- 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 (September 24, October 29, November 18).
 - September meeting topics included: Update on the Technical Workgroup meeting; discussion on projects included in the plan and a decision on project tiering; and a decision on safety factor/offset target.
 - October meeting topics included: discussion and confirmed Committee support for using 698.8 acre-feet/year as an offset target (consumptive use estimate of based on all home using legal limit of 950 gpd); reviewed and discussed updated project list from September WREC meeting; discussed adaptive management and policy recommendations; and discussed Net Ecological Benefit evaluation.
 - November meeting topics included: reviewed and discussed draft plan; interim approval of the draft WRE plan prior to local review.
- Attended one WREC Technical Workgroup meeting (September 17).
- Drafted a letter to the Governor regarding the 2021 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities.
- Facilitated a tour for King County Executive, Dow Constantine (September 25) of the Riverbend and Rainbow Bend floodplain restoration projects on the Cedar River.
- 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 staffed one WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (IC) meeting on November 3.
 - Meeting topics included: reviewed and discussed WRIA 8 CWM funding guidance options to present at the November 19 Salmon Recovery Council; a presentation on King County's stormwater retrofit in Bear Creek at Northshore School District site; reviewed and discussed 2021 meeting schedule and potential topics as part of the 2021 work plan; and review of November 19 Salmon Recovery Council agenda.
- Developed the funding announcement and updated application materials and the WRIA 8 website for the 2021 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Cooperative Watershed Management grant cycle.
- 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.

Technical Coordination

- Scheduled and facilitated two WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meetings (October 14 and December 9).
 - October meeting topics included: discussed Cedar River escapement; reviewed and discussed the CWM funding guidance; reviewed salmon population and habitat goals in the updated WRIA 8 Plan and identified any needed revision to current Plan goals as part of ongoing adaptive management.
 - December meeting topics included: discussion of the CWM monitoring and assessment fund increase to address critical data gaps and information needs; revised WRIA 8

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monitoring and assessment priorities and discussed proposal solicitation and strategic planning for these funds; discussed revisions to the WRIA 8 Plan habitat goals and content for the WRIA 8 Progress Report; viewed a presentation and participated in Q&A on study findings showing distribution of Myxozoan parasites in the Sammamish watershed.

- Participated in two meetings of the Cedar Instream Flow Commission and attended three meetings of the sockeye Adaptive Management Work Group.
- Updated habitat and salmon population metrics for the WRIA 8 Monitoring and Assessment Plan.
- Completed draft data summaries of habitat and salmon population metrics for the WRIA 8 Progress Report.
- Updated the WRIA 8 Technical Committee monitoring and assessment funding strategy for the 2021 CWM grant round.
- Incorporated reviewer comments into a revised Ship Canal Science Synthesis document focused on temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions and impacts to salmon.
- Provided regular TC status reports and salmon updates to the SRC.
- Provided technical support to IC through participation in monthly meetings.

Communication

- Developed the draft WRIA 8 Communications and Outreach Framework for Implementation Committee review and Salmon Recovery Council approval.
- Draft for SRC approval a letter to the Governor in support of WRIA 8 legislative priorities.
- Finalized and published 2021 state and federal legislative priorities.
- Coordinated and planned the 2020 Salmon SEEson campaign (fourteenth annual) to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation.
- Managed process to with local government partners to secure the fully executed ILA Amendment approving Snohomish County to rejoin the ILA as a cost share partner.
- Produced two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters ([October](#) and [December](#)).
- 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 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.