

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

January 1 to April 30, 2017

Overview and Highlights

Cost-shared services during the first trimester of 2017 focused on:

- Working with project sponsors to develop twenty grant applications for Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding and two proposals for Salmon Recovery Funding Board funding.
- Coordinating WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee site visits, review, and ranking of twenty grant proposals to develop recommendations for \$2,379,345 in CWM funds.
- Convening five sub-basin working group meetings to refine project lists for the ten-year WRIA 8 Chinook Conservation Plan (Plan) update.
- Organizing a cross-watershed grants information session for potential project sponsors with Snoqualmie Watershed staff.
- Continuing Puget Sound Partnership grant-supported work to update the WRIA 8 Plan.
- Developing draft WRIA 8 2018 budget and work plan for Management Committee review and Salmon Recovery Council approval.
- Updating the 2017 state and federal legislative priorities.
- Communicating legislative priorities to congressional delegation and state legislators conveying the importance of salmon recovery funding.
- Creating and sending two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Creating and running Chinook Book inline ads promoting salmon-safe behaviors and actions.
- Representing WRIA 8's interests in Puget Sound Watershed Leads group, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, South Central Caucus Group, and Washington Salmon Coalition, including participating on subcommittees and work groups to advance regional and statewide salmon 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 19 and March 16).
 - January meeting focus: Proposal to restructure Puget Sound local integrating organization (LIO) functions at the watershed scale; WRIA 8 Chinook Conservation Plan (Plan) status update, including schedule review, recovery strategies, habitat goals, and project and programmatic actions; and success story presentation on the Bear Creek juvenile Chinook habitat use study.
 - March meeting focus: WRIA 8 Plan status update, including habitat/stream "Tier" designations, habitat goals, and recovery strategies; review and discussion of initial draft 2018 WRIA 8 budget; and success story presentation on the Green Shores for Homes Program.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) (January 26 and March 23).
 - January meeting focus: Roles of various groups in Puget Sound regional salmon recovery; the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) regional allocation task force work to negotiate a new allocation of state and federal capital funding to the state's salmon recovery regions; update from the state's Fish Barrier Removal Board on their fish passage barrier removal project solicitation process and funding outlook; status of the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Chinook Implementation Strategy; and discussion of whether and how the PS SRC should be involved in the Co-Managers (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and tribes) "North of Falcon" process to set annual harvest limits for the fishing season.

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- March meeting focus: Status of state and federal legislative priorities; potential for greater PS SRC partner participation in the annual North of Falcon process that establishes harvest limits on salmon populations; approval of a recommended approach to apply the Puget Sound allocation formula to the state SRFB's interim 2017 capital project funding allocation; update on the focus for the 2018 Action Agenda Implementation Plan; and update on the final Chinook Implementation Strategy.
- Participated in two meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (January 12 and March 9) and two conference calls (February 9 and April 13).
 - January meeting focus: Discussion of watershed-based adaptive management; 2017 – 2019 lead entity scope of work; and progress of the SRFB allocation subcommittee.
 - February conference call focus: SRFB allocation subcommittee update; updates on common indicators and opportunities to engage in the process to refine common indicators for Puget Sound; and discussion on how PSP can help to engage the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to reduce SRFB projects of concern.
 - March meeting focus: Outcomes of the SRFB allocation subcommittee; consideration of a regional review process for SRFB and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grants to align with RCO's process; needs and/or concerns related to the 2017 – 2019 lead entity scope of work; and discussion of aligning or integrating LIOs with lead entities.
 - April conference call focus: Legislative and funding updates; discussion of new SRFB regional allocation; and discussion of draft Puget Sound Lead Entity Scope of Work.
- Participated in two meeting of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (February 1 and April 5). Meeting topics included: Reviewing a 2017 work plan and schedule; participation in the March 3 Puget Sound Summit for LIOs; discussion of PSP's implementation strategies (focusing on shoreline armoring as the example); update on the 2018 Action Agenda priorities and the role of local integrating organizations; update on federal and state budgets and effective messages/strategies to impact budget decisions; discussion of the pros and cons to potential LIO restructuring scenarios; "deep dive" presentation and discussion on Futurewise's, "Lay of the Land Report and Low Impact Development Social Marketing"; and general member updates.
- Briefed new SRC member representatives from the Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group (January 4), the City of Kirkland (March 10), and Cedar River Council (March 16).
- 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 four WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (IC) meetings (January 10, February 7, March 7, and April 4). Meeting topics included: General WRIA 8 updates; discussion of the proposal to restructure LIOs at the watershed scale; discussion of Plan update progress, including priority land use actions and developing recommendations for habitat goals, recovery strategies, and Tier designation adjustments; review of the WRIA 8 2018 budget; and review and discussion of agendas for the January 19 and March 16 SRC meetings.
- Organized a cross-watershed grants information session/workshop for potential project sponsors with Snoqualmie Watershed staff (January 25).
- Worked with project sponsors to develop twenty grant applications for WRIA 8 King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding.
- Conducted Project Subcommittee (PSC) site visits and facilitated the PSC's development of funding recommendations for the twenty CWM grant proposals (March 30, April 3 and 6).
- Worked with project sponsors to develop two grant applications for SRFB and PSAR funding.

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- Convened five sub-basin working group meetings to refine project lists for the Plan update: Issaquah Creek (January 10); Sammamish River, North Creek and Little Bear Creek (January 18); Bear Creek (January 26); Lake Washington and Ship Canal (February 8); marine nearshore (March 7). Met with other partners and followed-up on the sub-basin meetings as necessary.
- Attended the biannual Washington State Salmon Recovery Conference (April 25-27) in Wenatchee, WA with over 800 scientists, fisheries managers, policy makers, education and outreach professionals, and interested citizens to share information and learn from others about salmon recovery efforts in Washington and the greater Pacific Coast. Conference topics included: Monitoring, fish passage, riverine and floodplain restoration, marine nearshore, monitoring, managing salmon recovery in a changing climate, and telling the salmon recovery story.
- Participated in four WebEx meetings of the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) Executive Committee (January 9, February 27, March 20, and April 17).
 - January meeting focus: Federal and state updates from RCO and Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO); SRFB allocation subcommittee updates and process; legislative strategy and needs for 2017 state legislative session.
 - February meeting focus: Federal and state updates from RCO and GSRO, including the state's application to the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund; drafting a letter for the SRFB on the proposed regional reallocation of SRFB funds; issuing an RFP for continued contractor support for WSC meeting coordination and facilitation; WSC Executive Committee leadership for 2017 – 2018; reviewing the draft agenda for the WSC annual meeting.
 - March meeting focus: Federal and state updates from RCO and GSRO; providing input on the Salmon Recovery Conference; discussion of how to best engage with the Fish Barrier Removal Board.
 - April meeting focus: Federal and state updates from RCO and GSRO; legislative updates; planning for the annual WSC summer meeting and setting the agenda; reviewing the WSC Action Plan for potential revisions to be considered at the WSC annual meeting.
- Participated in one WebEx meeting of the WSC Communications and Outreach Committee (February 27).
- Participated in one WebEx meeting of the full Washington Salmon Coalition to discuss the SRFB regional reallocation.
- Responded to citizen and agency inquiries on the WRIA 8 process, priorities, and Plan implementation.

Technical Coordination

- Scheduled and facilitated three WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meetings (January 11, February 7, and March 7). Meeting topics included: Reviewing Lower Issaquah Creek restoration concepts; considering the status of the Upper Cedar Watershed in the Plan update; finalizing recommendations for habitat goals, Tier designations and strategy recommendations for the Plan update; and reviewing draft WRIA 8 monitoring framework and narrative.
- Continued work on PSP-funded support for WRIA 8's monitoring and adaptive management (M&AM) process and the Plan update.
- Participated on a technical panel at the Cedar River Council (April 25).
- Provided regular TC status reports and salmon updates to the Salmon Recovery Council.
- Provided technical support to IC through participation in monthly meetings.

Communication

- Completed summary of the 2016 Salmon SEEson campaign (tenth annual) to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation.
- Created and sent two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (February 16 and April 17).

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- 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/.
- Updated Green Shorelines website with current resources and events.
- Mailed Green Shorelines information to 50 new lakeshore homeowners.
- Created and ran Chinook Book inline ads promoting salmon-safe behaviors and actions: “Don’t Drip and Drive” information for January and Earth Day activities for April.
- Gave presentation on WRIA 8 to Native Plant Stewards class (February 3).
- Staffed WRIA 8 booth at Go Green conference (March 16).

Program Management and Administration

- Provided a progress report and billings to RCO for the Lead Entity contract.
- Developed the draft WRIA 8 2018 budget and work plan for MC review and SRC approval.
- Conducted the 2016 WRIA 8 Client Satisfaction Survey.
- Conducted other 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 Watershed Coordinator, at jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov or 206-477-4780.