

## Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

January 1 to April 30, 2019

### Overview and Highlights

Cost-shared services during the first trimester of 2019 focused on:

- Updating 2019 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Creating and sending two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Working with project sponsors to develop seventeen grant applications for Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding and two proposals for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding.
- Conducting Project Subcommittee (PSC) site visits and facilitating the PSC's development of funding recommendations for the seventeen CWM grant proposals.
- Initiating the hiring process, reviewing applications, and conducting interviews for the WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator position.
- Meeting with Legislators in Olympia 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, and Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) programs (February 6 and February 27).
- Representing 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 Coordination/Puget Sound Partnership**

- Scheduled and staffed two meetings of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) (January 17 and March 21).
  - January meeting focus: Discussion of 2019 WRIA 8 budget and work plan adjustment options to address loss of Snohomish County cost share; update on monitoring of habitat restoration metrics in the WRIA 8 Monitoring and Assessment Plan; and presentation on the Environmental Science Center's Salmon Heroes Program.
  - March meeting focus: Information on the King County Client Satisfaction Survey; update on WRIA 8's 2019 state and federal legislative priorities and outreach efforts; update on the Orca Task Force's recommendations and next phase of work; and presentation on the Zackuse Creek Fish Passage and Stream Restoration Project in the City of Sammamish.
- Attended January 17 meeting of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) (did not attend March 28 meeting)
  - January meeting focus: Discussion of PSSRC decision making and operating procedures; presentation on Shelton Harbor 2019-2021 PSAR Large Capital Project; and update on 2019 legislative session.
- Participated in two conference call meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (February 14 and March 14).
  - February conference call focus: Discussion of salmon benefit index; update on SRFB grand round; presentation on 2019 work plan priorities.
  - March conference call focus: Presentation on contaminants in urban stormwater; and preparation for Salmon Recovery Conference.
- Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (January 18 and March 6).

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- Meeting topics included: Discussion of Puyallup LIO transition; discussion and selection of potential vital sign metrics for Ecosystem Recovery Plan Update; presentation on Our Green Duwamish; review of Action Agenda updates; presentation on Puget Sound Regional Performance Management Initiatives; and presentation on shoreline armoring.
- Participated in three meetings of the WRIA 8 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee, i.e., the Ecology-led planning process taking place under the Streamflow Restoration Act (January 24, February 28, and April 25).
- Presented on a panel on Watershed Planning Tools at the Seattle Post Sustainability Training Forum for Puget Sound Recovery and the Built Environment (March 28).
- Updated 2019 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Met with Legislators in Olympia 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, and Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) programs (February 6 and February 27).
- Attended the biennial Washington State Salmon Recovery Conference (April 8-9).
- 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 two WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (IC) meetings (January 8 and March 5).
  - Meeting topics included: Updates on WRIA 8's legislative priorities, potential 2019 Salmon Recovery council meeting topic themes, Salmon Recovery Funding Board 2018 grant round funding decisions, 2019 Four-Year Work Plan, 2018 Salmon SEEs programming, coordinating King Conservation District (KCD) programs with WRIA 8 priorities, WRIA 8 engagement in Cedar-Sammamish Water Resource Enhancement Committee; review of options to address loss of Snohomish County cost share; discussion on future Cooperative Watershed Management grant funding; update and review of hiring WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator position; update on monitoring of habitat restoration metrics in the WRIA 8 Monitoring and Assessment Plan; discussion of preliminary 2020 budget and work plan information; review of draft scope to advance feasible options for improving high temperature and low dissolved oxygen conditions in the Lake Washington Ship Canal; and review of the agenda topics for the January 17 and March 21 Salmon Recovery Council meetings.
- Worked with project sponsors to develop seventeen grant applications for WRIA 8 King County Flood Control District (KCFCD) Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding.
- Conducted Project Subcommittee (PSC) site visits and facilitated the PSC's development of funding recommendations for the seventeen CWM grant proposals (April 29-30).
- Worked with project sponsors to develop grant applications for SRFB funding.
- 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.
- Participated in one meeting of the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) (February 25) and attended the annual meeting (March 18-19) to discuss: Lead Entity training; steelhead recovery efforts across the state; culvert prioritization; and Lean Study recommendations.
- Responded to citizen and agency inquiries on the WRIA 8 process, priorities, and Plan implementation.

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- 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. This included visits to select project sites to discuss alignment with WRIA 8 objectives and future funding strategies.

### **Technical Coordination**

- Scheduled and facilitated three WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meetings (January 9, February 26, and April 10). Meeting topics included: Update on hiring new Technical Coordinator; discussion of potential WRIA 8 comments on draft Steelhead Recovery Plan; prioritization of WRIA 8 monitoring and research needs; discussion on request for proposals for Lake Washington Ship Canal temperature and dissolved oxygen issues; prioritization of WRIA 8 Technical Committee 2019 work plan; and review of WRIA 8 Cooperative Watershed Management monitoring proposals.
- Provided regular TC status reports and salmon updates to the SRC.
- Provided technical support to IC through participation in monthly meetings.

### **Communication**

- Completed summary of the 2018 Salmon SEEson campaign (twelfth annual) to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation.
- Created and sent two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (February and April).
- Submitted comments to the National Marine Fisheries Service on the Proposed Recovery Plan for Puget Sound Steelhead.
- 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/](http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/).

### **Program Management and Administration**

- Initiated the hiring process, reviewed applications, and conducted interviews for the WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator position.
- Provided a progress report and billings to RCO for the Lead Entity contract.
- Updated the draft WRIA 8 2020 budget and work plan for SRC discussion.
- Conducted the 2018 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.
- 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](mailto:jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov) or 206-477-4780.**