

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

January 1 to April 30, 2021

Overview and Highlights

Cost-shared services during the first trimester of 2021 focused on:

- Updating 2021 [state](#) and [federal](#) WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Releasing the [WRIA 8 2020 Progress Report](#).
- Co-facilitating tour of Bear Creek restoration projects for King County Executive Dow Constantine and Lynda Mapes from the Seattle Times.
- Coordinating and facilitating meetings with Congresswoman Kim Schrier (District 8) and Congresswoman Susan DelBene (District 1) to discuss WRIA 8 federal legislative priorities.
- Creating and sending [February](#) and [April](#) WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Facilitating development and presenting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee's DEI Strategic Plan at the state Salmon Recovery Conference.
- Working with project sponsors to develop 35 grant applications for Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding and three proposals for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) funding.
- Conducting Project Subcommittee (PSC) site review meetings and facilitating the PSC's development of funding recommendations for approximately \$4 million to 35 CWM 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.
- 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.
- Representing 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.

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 21 and March 18).
 - [January](#) meeting focus: Discussion and approval to send letters to State legislators and Congressional delegation; a presentation on the final draft Plan from the Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee (WREC) from Washington State Department of Ecology; 2021 meeting themes and priority topics; updates and announcements; and success story from the Environmental Science Center's Salmon Heroes Program.
 - [March](#) meeting focus: Discuss the 2020 Client Survey; presentation on King County's Clean Water Healthy Habitat initiative; review and discuss the draft WRIA 8 2020 Progress Report; updates and announcements; and a presentation from the WRIA 8 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) on January 28 and March 25, as well as a retreat on March 26.
 - January meeting focus: Approving new appointments to the Puget Sound Partnership's Salmon Science Advisory Group; discussing 2021 work plan topics; presentation on tire

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- leachate and coho salmon pre-spawn mortality; legislative priorities; presentation on 2022-2026 Action Agenda proposed priority outcomes and recommendations; status of update to the regional Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan; presentation on white paper discussing factors limiting progress in salmon recovery.
- March meeting focus: Legislative session update; discussion of the basis for the regional allocation formula for distributing grant funding to watersheds; Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan update status; Funding Subcommittee update on work to engage two counties as pilots in improving integration of salmon recovery into their Conservation Futures Tax funding programs; and, presentation on the HEAL Act and state Environmental Justice Task Force recommendations.
 - March retreat focus: Watershed presentations of priorities and implementation strategies; discussion of whether recovery actions are being implemented in the right places; and, discussion of options for possibly adjusting the regional investment strategy.
 - Participated in three conference call/ virtual meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (January 14, February 11, and March 11).
 - January meeting topics: Updating the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan; 2021 Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant round issues and discussion; forest resilience bond presentation from Blue Forest; review of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council agenda.
 - February meeting topics: Revisions to the RFP, criteria, and timeline for the 2023 – 2025 PSAR large capital grant program; discussion of a nearshore conservation marketplace; discussion of SRFB targeted investment criteria.
 - March meeting topics: Discussion of various PSAR updates related to capacity funding, the rapid response acquisition fund, and challenges associated with PSAR large capital review by the SRFB technical review panel; follow-up on the ongoing 2021 SRFB grant round; review and discussion of Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council retreat agenda; regional updates from the Council of Regions and other regional forums.
 - Participated in one meeting of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (Local Integrating Organization) on February 23.
 - Meeting focus: Presentations and discussion on innovative approaches to integrating stormwater management and salmon recovery.
 - Participated in one meeting of the WRIA 8 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee (i.e., the Ecology-led planning process taking place under the Streamflow Restoration Act) on February 25.
 - February meeting topics: Discussed steps to Plan adoption; vote was denied approval in a 15 to 1 vote. Operating principles were discussed and approved.
 - Updated 2021 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
 - Conducted new elected member orientation for City of Mill Creek, 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

- Worked with project sponsors to develop 35 grant applications for Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding and three proposals for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) funding.
- Coordinated and led virtual site visits of the SRFB proposals with the Project Subcommittee (PSC), Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), and Puget Sound Partnership (PSP).
- Facilitated the PSC's initial screening of SRFB grant proposals and developed draft funding recommendations. Worked with RCO to provide feedback to applicants about ways to strengthen their proposals to align with local and regional salmon recovery goals.
- Coordinated and facilitated virtual site visits/presentations for 35 CWM grant proposals and initiated the PSC's evaluation of CWM grant proposals and development of funding recommendations for the CWM grant program (this work concluded in the next trimester).
- 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.
- Scheduled and facilitated three WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (IC) meetings (January 5, February 2 and March 2).
 - January 5: Discuss 2021 grant round schedule; reviewed Governor Inslee's budget as it aligns with WRIA 8 state legislative priorities and draft letter to state legislators; a presentation to view and discuss the Ecology-led WREC Committee on streamflow restoration and enhancement plan; reviewed 1/21/21 SRC agenda; review 2021 Salmon Recovery Council agenda topics.
 - February 2: Updates on salmon recovery related legislation; review and discuss the draft 2020 progress report.
 - March 2: Discuss legislative priorities updates on important Bills, 2021 grant round update, review WRIA 8 updated logo; a presentation from WRIA 8 staff on Lake Washington Ship Canal Synthesis report on elevated temperature and low dissolved oxygen impacts on salmon; presentation from King County Bear Creek Basin Steward and Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group on integrating green stormwater infrastructure and habitat restoration in Bear Creek; review of March 18 WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council meeting agenda topics.

Technical Coordination

Scheduled and facilitated three WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meetings (January 13, February 10, and April 14).

- January 13: Reviewed 2021 meeting schedule and topics; Cedar River baseline wood volume; discuss potential Merwin Trap pilot program.
- February 10: Presentation of 2020 juvenile outmigration data; Review and provide feedback on salmon population and habitat recovery data in the progress report; update on Ship Canal science synthesis and next steps; provide feedback on updated design to support salmon habitat beach regrade aspects at Be'er Sheva Park.
- April 14: Reviewed proposed projects for CWM funding consideration: Chinook Fish-In, Fish-Out; Lake Washington basin juvenile salmonid monitoring for 2022; Myxozoan parasite study; Targeted Acoustic Startle Technology (TAST); Lake Washington Enhanced spawning ground surveys, Piscivore monitoring, Merwin Trap effectiveness test; predation impacts on survival of juvenile salmon mediated by climate, urbanization and invasive species.

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- Organized and facilitated Predation Steering Committee to inform and coordinate predation assessment and management in WRIA 8.
- Managed project team to conduct scope of work focused on temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions in the Lake Washington Ship Canal.

Communication

- Completed 2020 Client Satisfaction Survey.
- Produced and distributed the 2020 WRIA 8 Progress Report
- Created and sent two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (February and April).
- 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

- Provided a progress report and billings to RCO for the Lead Entity contract.
- Drafted WRIA 8 2022 budget and work plan for SRC discussion.
- Conducted the 2020 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 or 206-477-4780.