

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

January 1 to April 30, 2018

Overview and Highlights

Cost-shared services during the first trimester of 2018 focused on:

- Updating the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council's (SRC) operating guidelines and guidelines for commenting.
- Briefing new SRC members on salmon recovery priorities and how the SRC operates.
- Working with project sponsors to develop fourteen grant applications for Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding and four proposals for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding.
- Coordinating WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee site visits, review, and ranking of fourteen grant proposals to develop recommendations for \$1,765,812 in CWM funds.
- Coordinating WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee site visits and review of four proposals for SRFB/PSAR funding.
- Developing draft WRIA 8 2019 budget and work plan for Management Committee review and Salmon Recovery Council approval.
- Updating WRIA 8's 2018 state and federal legislative priorities.
- Communicating legislative priorities to congressional delegation and state legislators and conveying the importance of salmon recovery funding.
- Participating as a member of the Ballard Locks advocacy group, working on a strategy to support federal request for funding to implement critical Locks infrastructure repairs, including for fish passage.
- Creating and sending two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- 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/Regional Engagement

- Scheduled and staffed two meetings of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) (January 18 and March 15).
 - January meeting focus: Review and discussion of recommendations from WRIA 8 Technical Committee and Implementation Committee for investing available funds on priorities identified through the Plan Update process; update on the legislative session and review of updated legislative priorities, materials, and communication strategies; input on topics of interest for 2018 SRC meetings; review of SRC operating guidelines and guidelines for commenting; and a success story on Stewardship in Action on the Cedar River and Bear Creek with Forterra.
 - March meeting focus: Discussion and review of draft 2019 WRIA 8 budget and work plan; presentation on King County's watershed-based stormwater management study and integration with salmon recovery priorities; presentation on the status of Lake Sammamish Kokanee recovery; and success story on Water Systems Teacher/Fellows Program.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) (January 25 and March 22).
 - January meeting focus: Discussion of proposed 2018 boards system shared goals and connection to PS SRC work plan; update on legislative activities; approval of 2019-2021 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Large Capital Projects Request for Proposals (RFP); and discussion of the PS SRC's role in reviewing Chinook Near-Term Actions.

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- March meeting focus: Refresh of Puget Sound salmon recovery efforts; update on federal funding in the omnibus spending bill; approval of allocation formula for 2018 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) funds and 2019-2021 PSAR funds; approval of regional monitoring projects policy for 2018 grant round; and 2018 legislative session summary.
- Participated in two meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (January 11 and March 8) and one conference call (April 12).
 - January meeting focus: Discussion of budget and Lead Entity (LE) scope of work; steelhead recovery planning; and timeline, scoring criteria, and review process for PSAR RFPs.
 - March webex meeting focus: Legislative updates; review of 2018 Puget Sound SRFB Monitoring Project Policy; discussion of Local Integrating Organization (LIO) establishment, operating principles, and coordination between LIOs and LEs; and review of NTA submittal process.
 - April conference call focus: Updates on PSAR rapid response program concept and assessments policy; debrief and discussion of next steps on March SRC “refresh” workshop and North of Falcon meeting; and review of Lead Entity capacity scope of work.
- Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (January 3 and March 7).
 - January meeting focus: 2018 Action Agenda NTA solicitation and review process and the role of LIOs; Caucus Group 2018 work plan; and process for addressing requests for letters of support.
 - March meeting focus: Discussion of LIO Operating Principles document produced by Puget Sound Partnership to help define roles and responsibilities of LIOs and ensure alignment with Chinook salmon recovery Lead Entities; discussion of 2018 Action Agenda near-term action (NTA) proposals and the LIO review process; and informational presentations on stormwater planning from Department of Ecology and Pierce County.
- Participated in a South Central Action Area Caucus Group workshop on April 26 to score near-term action proposals as part of the 2018 update to the Action Agenda for Puget Sound recovery.
- Briefed new SRC member representatives from City of Kirkland (February 13), City of Issaquah (March 1), City of Seattle (March 6), and new staff lead from City of Woodinville (March 20).
- Briefed and/or attended WRIA 8 partner city council meetings regarding the WRIA 8 Plan Update and ratification, including Edmonds City Council (January 16), Seattle City Council (February 13), Shoreline City Council (March 5), Kirkland City Council (March 6), Woodinville City Council (March 6), Issaquah City Council (March 15), Bothell City Council (March 20), and Medina City Council (April 16).
- Coordinated ratification of the WRIA 8 Plan Update with partner local jurisdictions; as of April 30, 24 out of 28 jurisdictions had ratified the Plan Update and the remaining four are in the process of ratifying the Plan Update.
- 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 three WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (IC) meetings (January 9, March 6, and April 3). Meeting topics included: General WRIA 8 updates; discussion of WRIA 8 and partner near-term action proposals; 2018 Salmon Recovery Council meeting topics; discussion of technical and programmatic priorities for investing carryforward funds; discussion of Plan Update progress; review of the WRIA 8 2019 budget; presentation on Bear Creek Stormwater Watershed Study; review and discussion of agendas for the January 18 and March 15 SRC meetings; discussion of Ballard Locks repairs advocacy; and update on Green Shores for Homes program.
- Worked with project sponsors to develop fourteen grant applications for WRIA 8 King County Flood Control District (KCFCD) Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding.

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- Conducted Project Subcommittee (PSC) site visits and facilitated the PSC's development of funding recommendations for the fourteen CWM grant proposals (April 19 and April 23).
- Worked with project sponsors to develop four grant applications for SRFB and PSAR funding.
- Conducted Project Subcommittee (PSC) site visits and facilitated the PSC's initial evaluation of the four PSAR/SRFB grant proposals (April 27 and April 30).
- 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.
- Attended the River Restoration Northwest conference (February 5-8) in Stevenson, WA to share information and learn from others about interdisciplinary river restoration throughout the Pacific Northwest. Conference topics included: the idea of stage 0 recovery; technology applications in stream restoration; the intersection of farm, fish & flood needs in the Skagit River Delta; rethinking fish barriers; and sediment management in dam removal.
- Attended the Salish Sea Ecosystem conference (April 4-6) in Seattle, WA with scientists, First Nations and tribal government representatives, resource managers, community and business leaders, policy makers, educators, and students. Conference presenters spoke on the latest science on the state of the ecosystem and future actions for protecting and restoring the Salish Sea ecosystem. The conference featured a welcome from tribal representatives, a keynote address by former U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, and plenary comments from Governor Jay Inslee and King County Executive Dow Constantine. WRIA 8 hosted a poster during the poster session highlighting the critical Ballard Locks infrastructure repairs, which are needed to ensure effective fish passage and investment in restoration in the broader watershed.
- Participated in four WebEx meetings of the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) Executive Committee (January 9, February 8, March 6, and April 3).
 - January meeting focus: 2018 legislative session and implications of the supplemental budget for salmon recovery; updates on the Salmon Recovery Network; and discussion of potential in-person meeting topics and timing.
 - February meeting focus: Updates on the new Lead Entity contract and scope of work; preparation for March Salmon Recovery Funding Board meeting and WSC update to the Board; and continued discussion of in-person meeting needs for supporting Lead Entities statewide.
 - March meeting focus: Discussion of Lead Entity training needs; and discussion and consideration of a letter to the Orca Task Force highlighting the role of salmon recovery in recovering orcas.
 - April meeting focus: Lead Entity scope of work and changes in the new contract due to there now being a greater percentage of capital funds in the contracts; and finalization of potential dates and topics for summer and fall in-person meetings with a focus on coordination with RCO and training for Lead Entities.
- Attended three meetings (January 19, February 1, and March 27) and two conference calls (March 5, April 25) with informal group of stakeholders to coordinate advocacy for critical Ballard Locks repairs and to prepare for a coordinated lobbying effort in Washington D.C. in May 2018. WRIA 8 participated to maintain the importance of fish passage needs as part of the infrastructure repairs at the Locks. In response to the March 22 omnibus spending bill, which allocated additional funding to the Army Corps of Engineers to fund priority projects in 2018, the Locks stakeholder group developed a template letter to send to Corps Headquarters and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requesting that they allocate \$22.485 million for Locks projects in the Fiscal Year 2018 work plan.
- Attended a public plenary session co-hosted by tribes and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) during the annual North of Falcon process of setting salmon harvest rates and seasons to represent the watershed habitat perspective and hear from the harvest sector.

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- Met with state legislators in Olympia (January 10) to promote WRIA 8 state legislative priorities and voice support for project funding.
- Participated in a meeting (March 9) of partners interested in exploring the possibility of coordinating habitat restoration efforts along the Sammamish River.
- Responded to citizen and agency inquiries on the WRIA 8 process, priorities, and Plan implementation.

Technical Coordination

- Scheduled and facilitated four WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meetings (January 10, February 14, March 14, and April 11). Meeting topics included: Discussion of large wood surveys; update on Issaquah Creek mitigation project; update on ship canal temperatures; update on Bear Creek Watershed Plan and Bear Creek salmon habitat study; discussion on priorities and funding approach for implementing WRIA 8 Monitoring and Assessment Plan (MAP); presentations on monitoring grant proposals; update on Riverbend Levee Setback project; and update on Ship Canal piscivorous fish sampling project.
- As part of implementation of the MAP, coordinated development of a TC recommendation for Salmon Recovery Council consideration to invest available carry forward funds to conduct wood surveys in the Cedar River, Sammamish River, and Tier 1 and 2 streams. The SRC approved the funding recommendation at the March 15 meeting.
- Participated on a technical panel on Cedar River salmon returns and population trends at the Cedar River Council (April 24).
- 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 2017 Salmon SEEson campaign (tenth annual) to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation.
- Created and sent two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (February 28 and April 27).
- 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.
- Developed the draft WRIA 8 2019 budget and work plan for MC review and SRC approval.
- Conducted the 2017 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 Salmon Recovery Manager, at jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov or 206-477-4780.