

# GREEN/DUWAMISH AND CENTRAL PUGET SOUND (WRIA 9) IMPLEMENTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



Green / Duwamish & Central Puget Sound

## WRIA 9 Implementation Technical Committee Meeting

November 15, 2023 | 9:30 am – 11:30 am

[Click here to join the meeting](#) or call in (Teams audio only) [+1 425-653-6586,,911155469#](tel:+14256536586)

Meeting ID: 291 061 535 541

Passcode: uafR9e

9:30 **Welcome & Introductions**

9:40 **Status & Trends: bank/shoreline armoring, marine sediment sources**

*Presentation followed by Q&A and group discussion*

Kollin Higgins, King  
County Science

**Pre-meeting reading:** [Bank Armor, pp. 52-65](#) and [Marine Sediment, pp. 126-132](#), WRIA 9 2012 Status & Trends Report.

Bank/shoreline armoring refers to any form of artificial hardening of the river bank or shoreline. Armoring has many long-term impacts and process-based impacts on aquatic organisms and habitats, including decreased prey production, restricted channel migration, decreased rearing habitat and high-flow refuge habitat, reduced riparian vegetation and wood recruitment, beach erosion, and more.

Sediment sources and sediment movement along the shoreline drive many aspects of shoreline habitat important to salmon, including benthic food availability, forage fish spawning habitat, submerged aquatic vegetation like eelgrass, and availability of rearing/shallow water habitat along the salmon migration corridor.

10:30 **2024 WRIA 9 Grant Round: draft Requests for Proposals (RFPs)**

*Presentation followed by Q&A and group discussion*

Suzanna Smith,  
WRIA 9

Each year, the WRIA releases RFPs for the competitive grant programs as part of their annual grant round. This year, that includes the Regreen the Green RFP, the Monitoring and Research RFP, and the Stewardship, Engagement and Learning (SEaL) RFP. The ITC will review and provide feedback on the updated RFPs.

11:15 **Round Robin Updates**

*Slide deck activity*

All

**Pre-meeting prep:** Please find instructions on slide 1 at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1aT6nCpl6EO9ZmZFj4O31UtBU9nOIQ0wIQAH0LSfeNK8/edit?usp=sharing>. Slides are pre-filled with names for convenience; please feel free to combine slides. You can also email updates directly to Iris ([ikemp@kingcounty.gov](mailto:ikemp@kingcounty.gov)) for inclusion in the slide deck.

11:30 **Adjourn**

WRIA 9 ITC web page: <http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/committees/ImpleTechCmte.aspx>

### **Participant list:**

Alicia Kellogg, Chapin Pier, Chester Bennett, Chris Gregersen, Erik Rigaux, Halley Kimball, Iris Kemp, Jenn Stebbings, Josh Kahan, Julian Douglas, Kollin Higgins, Marc Marcantonio, Matt Goehring, Natane Moore, Nikolas Novotny, Patty Robinson, Rowena Valencia-Gica, Suzanna Smith

### **Round-table Updates and Reminders**

**Action item:** ITC members, please provide feedback on the draft RFPs to Suzanna by Friday, November 17.

Read through our **WRIA 9 ITC November round robin** slides at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1aT6nCpl6EO9ZmZFj4O31UtBU9nOIQ0wIQAH0LSfeNK8/edit?usp=sharing>. Includes updates from WRIA 9 Team, Tacoma, Duwamish Basin Steward, Port of Seattle, Renton, Seattle, DNR, Kent.

**Stream bugs** in the news! <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/king-countys-urban-streams-are-showing-signs-of-improving-health-just-ask-the-bugs/#comments>

Give input on **priority locations for stormwater retrofit projects** on WSDOT infrastructure:

<https://www.wastormwatercenter.org/wp-content/uploads/Survey123FlierForLocalTribalPriorities.pdf>

Opportunity to contribute to **research on Puget Sound collaborative partnerships** through a University of Washington survey:

[https://uwevans.co1.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV\\_czEJ23LF0nKyRVQ](https://uwevans.co1.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_czEJ23LF0nKyRVQ). Questions? Contact the researchers at [puget.sound.nsf.study@gmail.com](mailto:puget.sound.nsf.study@gmail.com).

### **Status & Trends: bank/shoreline armoring, marine sediment sources**

[\(link to slides\)](#)

Freshwater armoring:

- Armoring comes in many forms, has been placed at various times in the river's history, and has not always been well-documented.
- In the Lower Green and Duwamish, armor analyses are particularly difficult. Previous surveys classified reaches in percentages of armor. Some amount of armor is not in King County's facility inventory. Many old roads constrain river movement but are not classified as armor/levees. For the 2023 Status & Trends report, recent projects affecting armor in this stretch of river will be described.
  - Recommendation moving forward is a subgroup to develop a new classification scheme for armor in the Lower Green and Duwamish.
  - Matt – did recent aquatic habitat surveys denote bank conditions? Could we pair known facilities with floodplain access to get a representation of condition?
    - Kollin – surveyors looked for new armor, not existing armor. A lot of older armor in the Lower Green is buried under blackberries/vegetation and also long-term sedimentation and sloughing processes can complicate the story. It's going to be tough to document where armor is in the Lower Green. Anticipate that we could use a fairly straightforward remote

sensing approach paired with 2004 surveys to develop best-judgment-based classifications and maps. Based on that, may further recommend some onsite groundtruthing at target sites.

- In the Middle Green, three armor removals have happened since 2009 and no new armor has gone in. The rate of improvement is positive but slow and limited by factors like landowner willingness. See slides for specific details.
- In the Upper Green, no new armor has gone in and the river has removed armor in one place. There are potential opportunities for setbacks/removals – when is the right time to pursue those opportunities? See slides for specific details.

#### Marine armoring:

- Much of the marine shoreline is armored (48% of the 52 miles rural shoreline, 83% of the 40 miles urban shoreline). Original analyses were based on photo interpretation, but field groundtruthing has shown that this methodology is inadequate. New analyses include field-verified change data.
- From 2009-2018, we have lost ground in terms of shoreline armoring. For every restoration project completed, more new armor has been constructed. See slides for specific details.
- Unpermitted activities are a concern. How can we support improved permit compliance and enforcement? If we include a recommendation in the report, what can we say that is useful but doesn't overstep?
  - Recommendation: request feedback from regulatory/compliance staff on draft report recommendation regarding unpermitted armoring activities. WDFW compliance staff participated in the most recent shoreline surveys.
  - Julian – we share enforcement concerns and appreciate the extra nudge to improve in that area.
- There are many opportunities to improve shoreline condition by softening if not fully removing armor.
  - Matt – when hard armor is converted to soft armor, is it counted as new armor in this analysis?
    - Kollin – no. Soft armor is still counted as armor but it is an improvement in condition. In future analyses, recommend considering nuance of hard armor, soft armor, and unarmored shoreline.
- Recommendation that WRIA should track and report soft armor, even though it is not directly tied to habitat goals/targets.

#### Marine sediment sources:

- Overall, most drift cell conditions have declined from 2009-2018. Approximately 60% have less than half their sediment sources intact and approximately 20% have no sediment sources at all.
- Restoration of sediment sources is a geological process and can take a long time to express positive benefits.

Further questions? Contact Kollin at [kollin.higgins@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kollin.higgins@kingcounty.gov).

## **2024 WRIA 9 Grant Round: draft Requests for Proposals (RFPs)**

[\(link to slides\)](#)

**Action item:** ITC members, please provide feedback on the draft RFPs to Suzanna by Friday, November 17. Please expect a final check for fatal flaws via email in the week of November 20.

WRIA 9 projects a 2024 grant round totaling \$6.19-\$6.25M.

Timeline:

- Nov/Dec – RFPs released and grant workshop for potential project sponsors
- Jan 12 – notice of intent due
- Feb 28 – applications due
- April – review, scoring, and ranking. ITC reviews draft funding package.
- May – Watershed Ecosystem Forum considers draft funding package for approval.
- Late summer-fall – FCD and SRFB approve final funding.

RFPs will be open for all WRIA 9 competitive grant programs:

- Stewardship, Engagement and Learning grants
- Monitoring and Research grants
- Regreen the Green grants – Track A (our typical CWM funding) and Track B (new SRFB funding opportunity)

The even-year High-Priority Capital Project solicitation will also be open. Project sponsors will have the opportunity to add new capital projects to the Salmon Habitat Plan or to update existing projects in the Plan via the Proposed Project Form, due Friday, January 12.

Please refer to linked slides and meeting materials for notable changes in RFPs and for full draft RFPs.

- Recommend clarification on scoring criteria. Two criteria appear contradictory (the use of trained crew is preferred in certainty of success section vs. volunteer crews included in the community support section). Suzanna will develop updated criteria language and pass to ITC and Regreen review team for approval.
- Recommend spelling out “cost per acre” for clarity.
- Recommend clarification on minimum buffer widths for the two Regreen tracks (Track A has no minimum; Track B has minimum based on SRFB criteria). The current RFP language is confusing.
- ITC members discussed equity and environmental justice scoring criteria, review team member scoring experience, and how best to include or reflect across grant programs. For this year’s RFPs, consider aligning Regreen and Monitoring and Research scoring criteria in community support sections. Recommend further discussion and reflection on ESJ criteria in other grant programs prior to 2025 RFP development.

Further questions? Contact Suzanna at [susmith@kingcounty.gov](mailto:susmith@kingcounty.gov).