

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



WRIA 9 Implementation Technical Committee Meeting

May 18, 2022 | 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89069145463?pwd=SUhLOHhTVES2VlhleTFML0x4V3J2UT09>

Meeting ID: 890 6914 5463

Passcode: salmon

9:30 **Welcome & Introductions**

9:40 **Watershed Strategies Summary Storymap**

All

Group discussion

The Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP) Salmonid Work Group is working on a high-level storymap summarizing salmon recovery strategies in a select set of Puget Sound watersheds. The storymap includes information about the Nooksack, Skagit, Stillaguamish, Snohomish, Cedar/Sammamish, Green/Duwamish, Puyallup/White, Nisqually, and Skokomish. We will review an 80% draft of the storymap and provide comments on content: what is missing? Are there inaccuracies or fatal flaws?

10:00 **King County's Flood Hazard Management Plan Update**

Jason

Presentation followed by Q&A and group discussion

Wilkinson,
King County

King County's Flood Hazard Management Plan defines flood management policies in King County. It identifies and assesses flood hazards and risks and outlines actions for reducing risk. Jason Wilkinson will present on the current Plan update, which intends to follow an integrated floodplain management approach and highlight themes of equitable community engagement, multi-benefit floodplain management, and climate change adaptation and resiliency.

10:40 **Round Robin Updates – ASYNCHRONOUS**

All

Slide deck activity

- **Pre-meeting prep (5 minutes)** – Please find a slide deck with instructions on slide 1 at this link: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ODBxmVvKeExHMINGprbWxtLhwz6gnNZSORML5yY_yj8/edit?usp=sharing. Use your slide to include relevant updates from your jurisdiction, project, or team. Feel free to make the slide your own with photos or maps of project sites.

11:00 **Adjourn**

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

Participant list:

Alexandra Doty, Alicia Kellogg, Chris Gregersen, Cleo Neculae, Collin Ray, Debbie Meisinger, Iris Kemp, Jason Wilkinson, Josh Kahan, Josh Hopkins, Julian Douglas, Katherine Lynch, Katie Beaver, Kerry Bauman, Marc Marcantonio, Martha Neuman, Matt Goehring, Mike Mactutis, Rowena Valencia-Gica

Round-table Updates and Reminders

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

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ODBxmVvKeExHMINGprbWxtLhwz6gnNZSORML5yY_yj8/edit?usp=sharing. Includes relevant updates from WRIA 9 staff, Puget Sound Partnership, King County, USACE, WDFW, Covington Water District, and City of Kent.

Watershed Strategies Summary Storymap ([draft storymap here](#); [slides here](#))

The [Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program](#) (PSEMP)'s Salmonids Work Group supports development and implementation of the [Chinook Implementation Strategy](#), identifies priority regional approaches to accelerate progress towards salmon recovery, and engages in projects around regional monitoring and data collection. The ITC reviewed and discussed a draft version of one of the Salmonids Work Group's recent projects: an online storymap created to illustrate recovery and monitoring strategies across Puget Sound watersheds and guide information and data roll-ups/consolidation across watersheds. The draft version includes the Green/Duwamish and other large Puget Sound watersheds. It was created by pulling together information from each watershed's plan ([WRIA 9's Salmon Habitat Plan 2021 update is linked here](#)) and doing targeted interviews and a workshop to gather additional information. ITC discussion and review comments were captured on the slides linked above.

King County's Flood Hazard Management Plan Update ([slides here](#))

Jason Wilkinson presented the status and anticipated next steps for updating the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan. The Flood Hazard Management Plan defines floodplain management policies within King County, identifies and assesses flood hazards and describes actions for reducing risk, and is a foundational planning document for the Flood Control District. The plan update takes an integrated floodplain management approach with areas of focus on community engagement focused on pro-equity process and outcomes, multi-benefit floodplain management, and climate change adaptation and resiliency. More details available on Jason's slides linked above.

Further questions? Contact Jason at jason.wilkinson@kingcounty.gov or 206-477-4786.

Discussion

- Matt – what is the role of the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan in incorporated areas? What is the relationship between the Flood Hazard Management Plan and local jurisdictions?

- Jason – the Plan doesn’t regulate other jurisdictions. The past Plan defined itself as having a county-wide scope but focused on river systems with greater focus on unincorporated King County. The intent for this update is to include a more comprehensive view – including coastal, small streams, urban flooding. Will be looking to partners to inform us how deep to get into those topics; hope that jurisdictions will inform us what strategies and recommendations should be included in plan update. Ideally, will be able to assess hazards and develop plans, of course not committing anyone to anything. The hope is that this is a plan that charts out a County-wide vision across all types of flooding, supported by partners within the County.
 - Martha – City of Seattle is really supportive of including coastal flooding, small streams, and equity approach. We are explicitly requesting Duwamish be included in this update.
 - Rowena – City of Kent supports including small streams and urban flooding.
- Martha – can you say more about the timing and make-up of the stakeholder committee?
 - Jason – we are envisioning staff level involvement and hoping to draw in community group representation through our equity process. Meetings will be working sessions: information presentations plus break-out rooms to react, process, and give guidance. We will engage with elected officials through other venues. The expected timeline is later in the summer. We are trying to integrate the EIS process with stakeholder work so as not to duplicate effort.
- Mike – will data from drainage master plans be included?
 - Jason – we don’t intend to take on jurisdictions’ stormwater management plans as part of our process. We want this update to be more accessible and easier to digest than the past plan. We expect broad characterization of risks that include urban flooding as well as river flooding. This is an evolving conversation as we are still working to refine our approach, but likely to be more of a high-level characterization of risk and strategies and recommendations than something very data-specific.
- Mike – the issues we deal with along the mainstem Green are often the same issues we deal with along small streams that flow through the city. Levees, hardened banks, high temperatures, lack of riparian buffer...
- Martha – how can we find synergy between flooding conversations and salmon conversations? Flooding impacts salmon; how can salmon plans contribute to flood risk and strategy discussions? City of Seattle has projects that are funded both through salmon and flood control funding sources.
 - Jason – when we talk about multi-benefit frameworks, salmon and habitat are in those desirable outcomes. As we build out what multi-benefit looks like within a

river corridor or watershed, going to adopted plans that articulate a vision for the space would be a first step. We haven't yet framed that out in a significant way, but I see the goals and strategies in all the salmon recovery plans as essential information. We need people to understand the tradeoffs of flood management strategies and to build a structure that acknowledges the various interests at play.

- Rowena – will biological factors related to flooding like excess vegetation and beavers be included in discussions for hazard and risk assessment?
 - Jason – habitat and biological factors are relevant and important in the conversation. I don't have a good answer at this stage for what level of depth we can get into or how closely those factors will be related to flood risk. If they are sources of flooding, we would capture that in some way, just not yet sure how.
- Katie – do you have any update on how the Lower Green Flood Hazard Management Plan fits into this plan?
 - Jason – that is TBD. The Lower Green Flood Hazard Management Plan is being led by the Flood Control District. King County submitted comments seeking alignment between the two plans especially with regards to multi-benefit, equity, climate change and intends to continue engaging in that process. We are working in close coordination with FCD staff for the County-wide update. We hope to continue sharing knowledge so as not to create duplication between the two efforts.