

MEMORANDUM

August 7, 2014

TO: WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum

FR: Doug Osterman, WRIA 9 Watershed Coordinator

RE: Watershed Ecosystem Forum meeting—Thursday, August 14, 2014, 4 to 6:30 p.m., Renton City Hall

The next meeting of the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) is Thursday, August 14, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., Renton City Hall, Council Chambers on the 7th floor. The agenda for the meeting and the summary of the May 8, 2014 meeting are attached.

Introduction of Colonel John G. Buck, Seattle District Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

In July, the Change in Command from Colonel Bruce Estok to Colonel John Buck as the Seattle District Commander took place. Colonel Buck is attending the WEF to acquaint himself early in his post with the Watershed Ecosystem Forum and its work. Read the Corps' July news release and profile of Colonel Buck: [Col. John G. Buck assumes command of Seattle District](#). He will update the WEF on key issues facing the Green/Duwamish Ecosystem Restoration Project, including Boeing Levee construction and re-estimating the costs of the ERP projects (both previously brought to the attention of the WEF by Colonel Estok). He also will discuss recent movement forward of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project General Investigation and Feasibility Report, as well as any new information about the fish passage facility at Howard Hanson Dam.

WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan Overview

Based on questions and concerns of Forum members about the habitat scientific recommendations it approved for the Lower Green River at the May WEF meeting, I will provide a short presentation on the background of the development of the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan. I will focus on the technical underpinnings of the Salmon Habitat Plan and its key policy and project recommendations. The background is intended to help new and veteran members alike understand the technical and policy basis that support the Salmon Habitat Plan's priority actions to recover the Green River Chinook salmon population. A second, more detailed overview of the actions and accomplishments of the Salmon Habitat Plan will be provided at the November meeting of the WEF. Attached is a diagram of the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan process and products over the past several years and the major adaptive management milestones in 2015. The attachment also includes more specific information about the status of the Duwamish Blueprint which will be a key topic of the November WEF meeting, and a significant element of the Salmon Habitat Plan update in 2015.

Lower Green River System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF)

Jennifer Knauer, Project Manager of the Lower Green River SWIF, and Kollin Higgins, Senior Ecologist and technical advisor to WRIA 9, will team to update the WEF on the status of the Lower Green SWIF. The project is at a critical stage to identify salmon habitat opportunities in the Lower Green. Alternative actions are being developed to identify projects that blend flood protection, economic, ecological, and community elements, with evaluation of the capital projects shortly ahead, with selection of a SWIF preferred alternative by early October. Given that the WEF does not meet again until November, I will join Jennifer and Kollin in a discussion about the desired level of involvement and oversight of the Forum in the SWIF alternative selection process.

WRIA 9 ILA Renewal

Attached is the draft ILA, unchanged from the draft distributed to the WEF for its May meeting, as well as a table of comments received to date on the draft ILA. The WEF will discuss the comments, with the opportunity to identify additional comments to include at this time. The ILA renewal schedule is also attached. A discussion of the schedule at the July meeting of the WRIA 9 Management Committee led to ILA schedule changes, most notably allowing more time for ILA approval by both the WEF and the cities and county. The May 2015 WEF meeting is now scheduled for WEF approval, with city and county approval by July 2015 if possible, or December 2015 at the latest (when the existing ILA expires).

King Conservation District 2015 Programs and Funding Proposals

On August 1, the King Conservation District (KCD) submitted proposals to the King County Council for the 2015 KCD programs and funding. Attached is a brief description of the proposals and the next steps. The WRIA 9 Management Committee provided the KCD with a letter of support for the program proposals (letter attached), however, the Management Committee would like the WEF to consider a support letter to the King County Council as it considers the proposals.

Please contact me with questions. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Doug Osterman, AICP

Watershed Coordinator

Green/Duwamish & Central Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA 9)

201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600

Seattle, WA 98104-3855

Doug.Osterman@kingcounty.gov

New! 206-477-4793

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