

## MEMORANDUM

August 6, 2015

**TO:** WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum

**FR:** Doug Osterman, WRIA 9 Watershed Coordinator

**RE:** **WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum Meeting— Thursday, August 13, 2015, 4 to 6:30 p.m., Renton City Hall.**

The next meeting of the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum is Thursday, August 13th, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., at **Renton City Hall, Council Chambers**. A map and driving instructions are located at: [Directions to Renton City Hall](#).

Please RSVP to Linda Grob at either 206-477-4704 or [linda.grob@kingcounty.gov](mailto:linda.grob@kingcounty.gov) by Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, to enable us to have a head count for refreshments and know in advance a quorum is expected.

The key agenda items are:

### **Green/Duwamish Watershed Regional Open Space Strategy (ROSS) & Integration with WRIA 9 & Salmon Habitat Implementation**

The approach to developing the Green/Duwamish Watershed Strategy is modeled after the Regional Open Space Strategy (ROSS). The Watershed Advisory Group which includes representation of WRIA 9 and many other stakeholders will identify and prioritize measures to conserve and enhance systems that contribute to the ecological, economic, recreational, and aesthetic vitality of the watershed. Ikuno Masterson who is the Lead for the Green/Duwamish ROSS application is providing an overview of the nuts-and-bolts of ROSS, how it will be applied in the watershed, and how it integrates the WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Plan and the Watershed Ecosystem Forum. Ikuno will lead a discussion of the ROSS following the presentation which will provide an opportunity for the WEF to provide her with feedback at the early stages of the ROSS project in the watershed.

### **Habitat Project Lessons Learned, Yellow Bus Tour Highlights, & Video of Seahurst Park Shoreline Restoration Project**

A team of Karen Bergeron, Habitat Project Coordinator, Maureen Judge, Communications Coordinator, and Tara Luckie, Executive Director of the Environmental Science Center will be overviewing lessons learned about project development (including funding) and implementation over the past year, highlights of the Yellow Bus Tour of the multitude of habitat projects and other community activities taking place along the Duwamish River, and a video recently produced by the ESC showcasing the story of the Seahurst Park Shoreline Restoration Project from local community vision to construction—and the partnerships necessary for a habitat project of this scope and scale to succeed.

### **WRIA 9 ILA Renewal**

As of this date, 6 cities have approved renewal of the WRIA 9 Interlocal Agreement (2016-2015). The cities in order of approval are Burien, Seattle, Tukwila, Kent, Des Moines, and Auburn. The City Councils of several more ILA Parties are scheduled to consider renewing the ILA this and next month.

### **2015 Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) Grant Awards to WRIA 9**

Terry Lavender, Chair of the CFT Citizen's Oversight Committee, will provide an overview of the CFT grant awards this year throughout the County, with a focus on acquisition projects funded in WRIA 9 and that closely align with implementing the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan.

## **Strategy for WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Planning**

Elissa Ostergaard, Planning and Stewardship Coordinator, and I will present a conceptual, high-level approach that WRIA 9 could use to update the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan over the next few years. The WEF has previously updated the Salmon Habitat Plan incrementally on a case-by-case basis either to address an emerging and urgent need, such as the policy addressing mitigation funding and habitat goals for the Lower Green River, or to advance subarea plans and studies, such as the Duwamish Blueprint. As WRIA 9 continues its Monitoring and Adaptive Management program, there is a growing body of science and other information that suggests instituting a more concerted and bigger-picture approach to amending the Salmon Habitat Plan. Many other efforts are also underway at the watershed, state, and federal levels that will drive the need to update the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan. Examples include the: Green/Duwamish Watershed Strategy; update of the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan; update of the Puget Sound Action Agenda; and federal recovery plan for steelhead.

### **Meeting Packet materials include:**

- Agenda
- Cover Memo
- May 14, 2015 Meeting Summary
- Watershed Coordinator Update
- ROSS Briefing Paper
- ILA Renewal Status Table

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

### **Doug Osterman, AICP**

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