

MEMORANDUM

November 5, 2015

TO: WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum

FR: Doug Osterman, WRIA 9 Watershed Coordinator

RE: **WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum Meeting— Thursday, November 12, 2015, 4 to 6:15 p.m., Renton City Hall**

The next meeting of the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum is Thursday, November 12, from 4 to 6:15 p.m., at **Renton City Hall, Council Chambers**. We are ending the meeting 15 minutes early to accommodate transition from our meeting to a following meeting of another group in the 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 by Tuesday, November 10, to enable us to have a head count for refreshments and quorum purposes.

The key agenda items are:

Strategy for WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Planning

At the August meeting of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF), Elissa Ostergaard and I led a presentation on the need over the next two years (or more) to update the 2005 Salmon Habitat Plan, Making Our Watershed Fit for a King, to adapt to new and emerging scientific information and to prepare for an anticipated update of the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan under the guidance of NOAA Fisheries and the Puget Sound Partnership. We overviewed a couple of scenarios for accommodating our needs with the needs of the federal and state agencies, and synching the efforts as much as possible. (Please refer to the draft August meeting summary for the gist of the WEF's conversation and direction that followed the presentation.)

The WEF supported an iterative planning process that integrates the plan update pursuant to new scientific information and guidance from federal and state agencies for the update of the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan (when it becomes available). The WEF asked staff to assess the scope of and capacity needs for an iterative update planning process, and to develop a schedule and budget for the approach. At its October meeting, the WRIA 9 Management Committee discussed advantages and disadvantages of options for the planning process. The Management Committee recommends that the WEF affirm:

Use existing staff, plus a temporary engineer through the Vets4Hire Program, potentially increase meetings of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum or other communication and policy discussion means (such as on-line), and to focus available funding (whether through grant opportunities or existing consultant funding) toward updating the Salmon Habitat Plan to incorporate the new scientific information. The priority of the WRIA 9 work program is to meet regulatory requirements, and the schedule of the plan update should be flexible to be informed by available guidance from the Puget Sound Partnership. To maximize current staffing levels for the plan update, the Management Committee would like to reevaluate the existing staff work plans, and to consider opportunities to increase WRIA 9's capacity to update the plan if funding becomes available.

WRIA 9 ILA Renewal

I will provide an update of the rapid approvals of the new WRIA 9 ILA which will be celebrated over the ensuing refreshment break.

Marine Survival of Chinook Salmon in the Green River

James West, Senior Research Scientist from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, will summarize advanced studies of levels of contaminants in juvenile Chinook salmon from the Green River and implications for their early marine survival. Together with Elissa Ostergaard, James will identify the remaining work to be done and the possible implications this new information has on managing the Chinook salmon of the river. This presentation is a good example of the Salmon Habitat Plan update planning process for 2016-2017. First the Implementation Technical Committee was informed of and vetted the information, followed by the WEF hearing and discussing the information with the richness of the ITC's discussion. After additional research, the ITC will develop recommendations to inform management strategies and policies in making changes to the 2005 Salmon Habitat Plan. The WEF should anticipate technical presentations (boiled down to what it means to salmon recovery management and changes to the Salmon Habitat Plan) at each of its meetings in 2016.

Meeting Packet materials include:

- Agenda
- 2016 WEF/Management Committee Meeting Schedule
- August 13, 2015 Meeting Summary
- Contamination and Early Marine Survival of Chinook from the Green/Duwamish River – summary
- Table of WRIA 9 ILA approvals

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

Doug Osterman, AICP

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New! 206-477-4793

Making Our Watershed Fit for a King