

# WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum Meeting Summary

Renton City Hall

May 12, 2016, 4:01– 6:25 p.m.

<b>Members/Jurisdictional Staff Alternates Present</b>		
1.	Councilmember (CM) Bill Peloza, Meeting Chair	City of Auburn
2.	CM Marlla Mhoon, Co-Chair	City of Covington
3.	Maiya Andrews	City of Burien
4.	Al Barrie	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group (MSFEG)
5.	Katy Buck	King County
6.	CM Kathryn Campbell	City of SeaTac
7.	Jay Covington	City of Renton
8.	CM Lisa Herbold	City of Seattle
9.	CM Erika Morgan	City of Black Diamond
10.	Joan Nolan	WA Department of Ecology
11.	Tyler Patterson	Tacoma Water
12.	CM Dana Ralph	City of Kent
13.	Stewart Reinbold	WA Department of Fish & Wildlife
14.	Loren Reinhold	City of Des Moines
15.	CM Dennis Robertson	City of Tukwila
16.	Chris Searcy	City of Enumclaw
17.	Theresa Thurlow	City of Federal Way
<b>Other Alternates Present</b>		
18.	Noel Gilbrough	MSFEG
19.	Mike Mactutis	City of Kent
20.	Ron Straka	City of Renton
<b>Other Attendees</b>		
21.	Kerry Bauman	King County
22.	Bob Burns	King County
23.	David Graves	City of Seattle
24.	Kollin Higgins	King County/WRIA 9
25.	Chris Hilton	Washington Environmental Council
26.	Christina Jarvis	City of Auburn
27.	Terry Lavender	Conservation Futures Tax Citizens Committee
28.	Michael Murphy	King County
29.	Mike Perfetti	City of Tukwila
30.	Jean White	King County
31.	Karen Bergeron	WRIA 9 Habitat Project Coordinator
32.	Linda Grob	WRIA 9 Administrative Coordinator
33.	Elissa Ostergaard	WRIA 9 Planning & Stewardship Coordinator
34.	Doug Osterman	WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Manager

Meeting Chair Bill Peloza opened the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) meeting, and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

## 1. Public Comment

Doug Osterman, Salmon Recovery Manager, announced that WRIA 9 is planning a nearshore boat tour for August or September. He requested that WEF members let him know of any conflicts for their cities. He said it looks like businesses along the Duwamish may sponsor the tour.

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## 2. Approval of Meeting Summary

*The Watershed Ecosystem Forum unanimously approved the meeting summary for the February 11, 2016 meeting.*

## 3. WRIA 9 Management Committee Procedural Changes

Dennis Robertson, Management Committee (MC) Chair, announced that the WRIA 9 budget is short \$100,000 in carryover funds that we expected to use beginning this year for the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan (Plan) update. A special finance committee of the MC was convened and developed new procedures for monthly review of the budget. He said one problem was WRIA 9 being the project sponsor for the McSorley project, which resulted in unbudgeted indirect charges accruing due to King County (KC) staff loaning into WRIA 9 for the project management work. WRIA 9 does a lot of services versus projects, and in the future the team will inform/secure approval of the MC before serving in the project sponsorship role. He reported that KC has agreed to provide monthly budget reports, which he as the MC Chair will review.

CM Robertson explained that the work for the Plan update will be delayed six months, which could work to our advantage because Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) hasn't given us a date when the update is due, or what it should look like. We will continue to update the science and adaptive management. He announced that a new Lower Green Basin Steward position is being considered.

## 4. Salmon Habitat Plan Work Plan Update

Elissa Ostergaard, Planning and Stewardship Coordinator, reported that because of the \$100,000 budget carryover from 2015, we are scaling back the schedule and amount of consultant support for the Plan update. Instead we are asking for a new two-year Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant of \$45,000 for 2016 and \$89,000 for 2017 for technical support and outreach. We will have fewer Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) meetings, cancelling the April, May and June meetings, and have a flexible schedule for efforts from July 2016 – December 2018. She said we are also getting 40 hours of coaching support from PSP for habitat goals and common indicators in support of the Monitoring and Adaptive Management (M&AM) Plan.

Elissa went over the revised outcomes for the Plan update, to be completed by the end of 2018:

- New priorities based on new science and information;
- Revised project prioritization criteria;
- Updated project and actions list;
- Finalized M&AM Plan; and
- Addendum to the 2005 Plan, including white papers, rather than a re-write.

Discussion:

- Noel Gilbrough noted that bull trout has long been a listed threatened species in WRIA 9 and more recently steelhead have been added to the Endangered Species Act list. He asked if these listed species are going to be included in the update. Elissa Ostergaard explained that our Plan is based on ecosystem analysis and, therefore, addresses multi-species. The Plan update, however, is going to be Chinook focused pursuant to updating the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan. Some watersheds are incorporating steelhead into their plans, but it all depends on where the money is coming from. Noel asked what direction we are getting from PSP. Karen Bergeron reported that PSP is working on a steelhead plan, with Long Live the Kings provided state and federal dollars for steelhead

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technical assessment, such as marine survival studies, which will be useful information for all watersheds.

## 5. 2017/2018 WRIA 9 Budget, Scope of Work and Cost Shares

Doug Osterman reported that the MC is recommending the WEF approve the 2017 budget, scope of work, and interlocal agreement (ILA) cost shares tonight. The 2018 budget is advisory, for planning purposes only since a few of the ILA partners do not prepare two-year budgets. KC GIS recently updated the cost share data calculations, based on a formula of jurisdictional area, population, and assessed value. Per agreement in 2015, annual cost share increases are tied to CPI-W increases. Some WRIA 9 city cost shares went up (Seattle), while others (King County) went down. The 2017 ILA cost share total is \$434,589, and 2018 is projected at \$445,584. He explained that the cost shares cover about 50.5% of the WRIA 9 budget, with the rest coming from leveraging those funds (CWM grants cover 28%, Miller-Walker Technical Services Agreement covers 9.3%, State Salmon Recovery Funding Board [SRFB] Lead Entity grant covers 7%, State Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration [PSAR] grant provides 4.4%). 95% of the total 2017 WRIA 9 budget of \$861,308 is for staff (salary, benefits, overhead), and 5% is for all other WRIA 9 costs (supplies, communication and printing, consultant services, vehicle use, computers and tech support). The 2017 WRIA 9 scope of work supports ongoing salmon recovery planning and implementation of the Salmon Habitat Plan.

### Discussion:

- Chris Searcy inquired if there is any chance that state funding will not be coming through, and if so how it will affect the budget. Doug Osterman replied that he believed SRFB Lead Entity will be funded next year, but PSAR capital money is more questionable, and could cripple big projects moving forward.
- Kathryn Campbell questioned the cost share amounts for SeaTac, and asked if it is realistic our population isn't going to change. Jean White, KC, responded that the cost shares were updated this year, and won't be updated for another three years.

***The Watershed Ecosystem Forum unanimously approved the WRIA 9 2017 budget, scope of work, and ILA cost shares, and the 2018 budget, scope of work, and ILA cost shares as advisory.***

## 6. King County Open Space Initiative

Michael Murphy, Manager, KC Land Conservation Program, said we live in a great place and he loves all the things you can do here, as do a lot of other people who are moving here. As we grow we need to look at our social and environmental systems to make sure they work in harmony to support sustainable growth. KC looked at multiple categories of lands to protect, and identified five land conservation categories to focus on: Completing natural land corridors; protecting healthy forest lands; protecting farmland for local food; completing regional trail connections; and protecting natural (Green River upstream of Auburn) and urban (Duwamish) river corridors.

Michael reported that there are benefits to protecting all these lands and there are benefits to the region as a whole, including economically. KC identified 14 Determinants of Equity, and land conservation supports six of these directly and three indirectly. He said we've done a lot so far in protecting these lands, with the eastern third of the county in fee ownership, 156,000 acres in KC-owned conservation easements, and 34,000 KC-owned in fee. The five land conservation categories total 4,200 parcels and 59,000-60,000 acres, and have an estimated cost of \$1.3 billion, which includes acquisition and transaction costs and 30 years of O&M. Anticipating existing funding sources, the funding gap is estimated

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at \$323 million. New funding options being considered include a bond, levy, REET-3, and increased Conservations Futures Tax (CFT) collections.

Michael noted that each option has a lot of complexity, and a soon-to-be established advisory group will look at this over the next few months. He reported that in March a work plan was transmitted to the KC Council. We have been briefing city members and we can present to other cities and the WEF again.

Discussion:

- Doug Osterman asked for clarification that all these parcels are unincorporated. Michael Murphy explained that most of our work to-date has focused on rural, unincorporated KC. He said we don't assume to know what parcels cities have.
- Marlla Mhoon asked about REET-3, and who has authority to raise excise taxes. Michael said the county has the authority, and voters have to approve. REET-3 can be used for the capital and spending authority.
- Kollin Higgins, KC/WRIA 9, commented that often when we have identified property it gets sold before we can do the purchase. Michael said we want to have funding available to accelerate our purchases. Bob Burns, KC, said the KC Executive is very engaged in this effort, and wants us to have conversations with the cities to identify parcels and complete the initiative.

## 7. 2016 WRIA 9 Capital Project Funding & Implementation

Karen Bergeron, Habitat Project Coordinator, reported that the grant amounts available for 2016 are:

- CWM: \$1,642,105 (\$1,615,505 plus \$26,600 returned funds)
- SRFB: \$238,058
- PSAR: \$1,101,070 (2017-2019 – estimated amount based upon prior year allocation)
- King Conservation District (KCD) returned funds: \$241,606

Karen highlighted the project booklet in the meeting packet. She said there are four decision items for WEF consideration tonight:

1. Approve project list and funding amounts for CWM grants;
2. Approve project list and funding amounts for SRFB and PSAR grants;
3. Approve request for additional funds for Mill Creek – Leber Restoration; and
4. Approve three projects for the PSAR Large Capacity grant round (2017-2019)

The projects for approval are:

### 1. CWM:

#	Projects	Amount
<b>Small Grant Program</b>		
1	Revegetation Grant Round	\$250,000
	▪ "Green the Green" Shoreline Revegetation Program (City of Tukwila): \$53,549	
	▪ Whitney Bridge Revegetation (King County [KC]): \$75,000	
	▪ Lower Green River Stewardship in Action (Forterra): \$121,541	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
<b>High Priority Project Implementation</b>		
1	Porter Levee Setback Construction (KC)	\$88,942
2	Van Doren's Park Preliminary Design (KC)	\$300,000
3	Lowman Beach Feasibility Study (City of Seattle)	\$250,000
4	Duwamish and Nearshore Landowner Outreach (WRIA 9)	\$160,000

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#	Projects	Amount
5	Big Spring Creek Construction (KC)	\$80,000
6	Teufel Feasibility Study (KC)	\$49,163
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$928,105</b>
<b>Education/Stewardship</b>		
1	Education Program (Environmental Science Center)	\$30,000
2	2016 Beach Naturalist Program (Seattle Aquarium)	\$21,000
3	Capital Projects Implementation (WRIA 9)	\$132,000
4	2016-2018 Habitat Plan Technical Assistance & Outreach (WRIA 9)	\$161,000
5	Green River Smolt Trap & Otolith Sampling (WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife [WDFW])	\$85,000
6	Duwamish Chinook Rearing Analysis & Report (University of Washington)	\$25,000
7	Streamflow Gages in Duwamish (U.S. Geologic Survey)	\$10,000
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$464,000</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,642,105</b>

## 2. 2016 SRFB/PSAR:

#	Projects	Funding Source	Amount
1	Porter Levee Setback Construction (KC)	SRFB	\$238,058
2	Riverton Creek Flapgate Removal (City of Tukwila)	PSAR	\$551,070
3	Lones Levee Setback (KC)	PSAR	\$250,000
4	Maury Island Aquatic Reserve Acquisition (KC)	PSAR	\$300,000
Alt.	<i>Maury Island Aquatic Reserve Acquisition (KC): \$500,000</i>	PSAR	\$0
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,339,128</b>

## 3. Mill Creek – Leber Restoration Request for Additional Funds:

Karen said the City of Kent is requesting additional funding to help cover a cost increase in the construction bid due to inflation and arsenic contamination. Approval is needed to use \$200,000 of \$241,606 in returned KCD project funds to cover this increase.

## 4. 2017-2019 PSAR Large Capacity:

#	Projects	Amount
1	Downey Farmstead (City of Kent)	\$4,800,000
2	Van Doren's Park Restoration (KC Flood Control District)	\$5,700,000
3	McSorley Creek Pocket Estuary at Saltwater State Park (KC)	\$8,919,600

Discussion:

- Kathryn Campbell inquired if KC owns the property after the purchase of the Des Moines houses adjacent to McSorley Creek, per the Duwamish and Nearshore Landowner Outreach project. Karen Bergeron said Des Moines would hold the property.
- Lisa Herbold asked for explanation of otoliths. Kollin Higgins explained that otoliths are salmon ear bones that have rings like a tree. Strontium in the different rings can show how long the fish spent in the fresh water versus salt water.
- Marlla Mhoon asked what strontium is. Kollin said it is an element that is found in higher concentrations in salt water.

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*The Watershed Ecosystem Forum unanimously approved:*

- *The 2016 Cooperative Watershed Management project list for \$1,642,105;*
- *The 2016 Salmon Recovery Funding Board/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) project list for \$1,339,128;*
- *\$200,000 in returned King Conservation District funds for Mill Creek – Leber; and*
- *The 2017-2019 PSAR Large Capacity project list.*

## **8. Public Comment**

Joan Nolan announced an upcoming TMDL Open House at Enumclaw Public Library. She also reported that WEF Ecology alternate Dave Garland is retiring at the end of June.

## **9. Wrap Up/Next Steps**

Doug Osterman said the next WEF meeting is August 11, Renton City Hall, followed by the nearshore boat tour in August or September.