

MEMORANDUM

February 2, 2017

TO: WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum

FR: Doug Osterman, WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Manager

RE: **WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum Meeting— Thursday, February 9, 2017, 4 to 6:30 p.m., Renton City Hall**

The next meeting of the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) is Thursday, February 9, 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 by Tuesday, February 7, to enable us to have a head count for refreshments and quorum purposes.

The key agenda items are:

WRIA 9 2017/18 State Legislative Priorities and 2017 Congressional Priorities

The WEF-approved Legislative Priorities packet, containing the Federal and State Priorities, fact sheets for each of the State Capital Budget requests, and maps depicting the priority shade areas of the Re-Green the Green project is on the WRIA 9 website: [Legislative Priorities](#). Two related tables are included in the meeting packet, one listing the State Agency and Governor's Capital Budget Requests, and the corresponding requests of WRIA 9. The other table lists the specific WRIA 9 habitat capital project requests. These tables are useful for tracking the legislature's progress in including and approving the WRIA 9 Priorities in the state budget.

Restructuring the South Central Action Area Caucus Group/Local Integrating Organization

Deputy County Executive Fred Jarrett attended the November 10, 2016 meeting of the WEF to explain his rationale for considering restructuring the process for prioritizing long- and near-term actions to clean up Puget Sound, including salmon recovery actions, across the three watersheds in the South Central Action Area (WRIAs 9, 8, and 10). The principle question he raised is, "Can the WRIAs with existing locally- and watershed-based decision making and governance structures, such as WRIA 9, more efficiently and effectively prioritize and implement the actions necessary to cleanup Puget Sound?" The Management Committee discussed restructuring at its January meeting and is preparing a concise purpose statement of WRIA 9 so that the implications of restructuring can be assessed.

Habitat Plan Update Information—Developing Habitat Goals

Elissa Ostergaard, Planning and Stewardship Coordinator, will describe our current process for developing long-term habitat goals where they were missing from the 2005 Salmon Habitat Plan (Plan), and new 10-year targets for the Plan update. The three technical briefings on climate change, water quality and fish productivity and habitat use that will form the basis of the Plan update are almost completed; the next step is to develop both long-term goals and short-term targets. New habitat goal and target recommendations from the Implementation Technical Committee will be brought for Forum approval in May and/or August. Elissa will describe how and why we develop goals, and provide examples of goals already included in the Plan.

Habitat Plan Update Technical Briefing—Climate Change Effects on Salmon

Kollin Higgins, Environmental Scientist from King County, will describe how scientists expect climate change to affect Chinook and important aspects of their habitat. This informational presentation will summarize the climate

change technical briefing, which is still in draft form. Handouts will include some useful charts and tables from the briefing; for more background on climate change impacts to WRIA 9, please see the [10/26/2016 presentation by Guillaume Mauger of the UW Climate Impacts Group](#).

Survey of WEF Meeting Time Options for Future Meetings

The Management Committee would like the WEF to consider options for the time of future WEF meetings (the remaining meetings this year are Thursday, May 11, August 10, and November 9) 4 to 6:30 p.m.) . Please review the survey that is included with the packet and consider the options for either keeping the time of WEF meetings the same or changing it to earlier in the day. You will be asked to complete and return the survey at the meeting. The Management Committee thought there might be advantages to having the meeting during working hours thereby reducing staff and food costs. For those of you newer to WRIA 9, the meetings have spanned late afternoon to early evening to accommodate the schedules of members who have day jobs and those who do not, and to accommodate a light dinner to help ease the ability to attend the meetings. As a streamlining measure, the survey also seeks opinions about keeping two public comment periods, at the beginning and end of meetings, on WEF agendas.

The attached Meeting Packet materials include:

1. Agenda
2. November 10, 2016 Meeting Summary
3. State Capital Budget Table
4. Key elements from the draft technical briefing on Climate Change Impacts on Salmon
5. Survey of WEF meeting time preferences
6. 2017 WEF and Management Committee meeting schedule

I look forward to seeing you at the first meeting of WEF in 2017. Please contact me with questions.

Doug Osterman, AICP

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Making Our Watershed Fit for a King