

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9

September 1 to December 31, 2014

Overview and Highlights

Cost-shared services during the third trimester of 2014 focused on:

- Finalizing and publishing the Duwamish Blueprint.
- Unveiling the new Green the Green video: Raise a Glass to our Water.
- Participating in the Launch of the Green/Duwamish Watershed Strategy.
- Celebrating Auburn's Fenster Levee and Burien's Seahurst Park Restoration projects.
- Completing the "Puget Sound Funding Strategy to implement the Puget Sound Action Agenda", and presenting the document to the Puget Sound Leadership Council.
- Providing technical information and policy analysis to support the Lower Green River System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) and participating on both the SWIF Technical Advisory Committee and Advisory Council.
- Finalizing and distributing the WRIA 9 2015 Federal/State Legislative Priorities.
- Updating the 2005-2011 WRIA 9 Implementation Progress Report.
- Developing common indicators for monitoring and adaptive management with NOAA and Puget Sound Partnership
- Continuing to promote public salmon viewing at two sites along the Duwamish River as part of "Salmon SEEson," in cooperation with WRIA 8.
- Representing WRIA 9's interests in Puget Sound Watershed Leads group, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, South Central Caucus Group, and Washington Salmon Coalition.

The following summary of services is organized according to work items outlined in the approved WRIA 9 MOU.

Watershed Ecosystem Forum Coordination

Schedule and staff four WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum meetings at key decision points in implementing and monitoring of the Salmon Habitat Plan, and preparing the scope of work and budget for work to be cost-shared after 2013:

- Organized one meeting of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) (November 13).
- Continued conversation and review of the draft ten-year WRIA 9 Interlocal Agreement (ILA) to continue implementing projects and programs and monitor and adaptively manage salmon recovery in WRIA 9.
- Provided the Auburn City Council with a WRIA 9/ILA presentation (September 29).
- Participating in the Lower Green System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) process, attending the following meetings:
 - SWIF Advisory Council meeting (November 21);
 - SWIF Technical Advisory Committee (September 17, October 2 and October 15);
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Horseshoe Bend SWIF (September 17);
 - SWIF public meeting in Kent (September 30);
 - SWIF Alternatives Workshops (October 3 and October 30);
 - SWIF Technical Advisory Committee Work Group meeting (October 29); and
 - SWIF policy and alignments meeting (November 5).
- Coordinated local government and Forum communications with the State legislature.
- Conducted e-mail correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with WEF members.

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Selective participation and coordination with State and Puget Sound regional efforts, such as the Lead Entity Advisory Group, the Puget Sound Partnership, and regional or sub-regional efforts:

- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) (September 25 and November 20).
- Participated in one meeting of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (November 1).
- Attended no meetings of the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) and of the ECB Funding Subcommittee. Puget Sound “Funding Strategy for the Strategic Initiatives for the 2012-13 Puget Sound Action Agenda” presented to the Puget Sound Leadership Council (September 11 and 12).
- Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound Watershed Leads (September 19 and November 13).
- Participated in meetings of the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC):
 - Attended two WSC meetings (October 1 and December 2) and one WebEx (November 4);
 - Attended one WSC Funding Subcommittee meeting (September 11) and participated in the agenda development meeting (September 18);
 - Participated in one WSC conference call (October 16); and
 - Participated in three conference calls of the Outreach and Communications Committee for WSC (September 19, October 16 and October 21).
- Conducted interview of WRIA 9 for the region-wide assessment of watershed organizations, a State Legislature budget proviso (September 18).
- Advised the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), PSP and Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office on salmon recovery funding and technical issues.

Schedule and staff four WRIA 9 Management Committee meetings to oversee the 2014 ILA-funded work program:

- Organized one meeting of the Management Committee (October 22).
- Conducted e-mail correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with Management Committee members.

Coordinate with city and county staff and elected officials as practicable:

- Conducted e-mail correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with WEF staff.

WRIA Plan Implementation

Work with the WEF to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan:

- Provided briefings to the WEF on Habitat Plan implementation issues, and provided assistance to several cost-sharing city partners.

Implement adaptive management, and participate in regional or sub-regional planning, implementation, monitoring, and financing efforts as practicable:

- Attended two meetings to develop common indicators for Chinook Monitoring and Adaptive Management (M&AM) (September 22 and October 24).
- Developed a 2015 work plan for M&AM with PSP.

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- The Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) met three times to work on project implementation, including the Duwamish Blueprint, Lower Green habitat opportunities and SWIF, and M&AM (October 7, November 18 and December 16).
- Held a public meeting on the draft Duwamish Blueprint in Tukwila (September 23).
- Scheduled and staffed two meetings of the Duwamish Blueprint working group (September 24 and October 31) to respond to public comments and finalize the document.
- Finalized and published the Duwamish Blueprint.

Capital Projects Implementation

Coordinate cross-jurisdictional implementation of projects identified as WRIA priorities (e.g., projects funded by the watershed allocation of Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR), Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM), and other funds):

- Attended launch event for the Green/Duwamish Watershed Strategy/Initiative of Seattle Mayor Ed Murray and County Executive Dow Constantine (September 8):
 - Organized meeting with Christie True, Director, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks and WRIA 9 on the Green/Duwamish Watershed Strategy (September 30).
 - Attended interview of WRIA 9 regarding the Green/Duwamish Watershed Strategy (October 14).
- Attended Fenster restoration project “VIP” tour and event (September 11).
- Attended and spoke at the Seahurst Park Shoreline Restoration Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (September 12).
- Attended one King County Flood Control District (FCD) Board meeting to answer questions regarding the Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grants (September 29).

Help establish partnerships and seek funding for high priority capital projects:

- Worked with King County’s Mitigation Reserve Program on alternative funding sources for large Duwamish projects (Chinook Wind, Cecil Moses Park).
- Distributed information to local governments about grant opportunities and assisted project sponsors with grant applications, including letters of support. These grant opportunities included the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Environmental Solutions for Communities Grants Program on behalf of the Sustainability Ambassadors and Western Brownfields. Letters of support were submitted for Chinook Wind, Kanagy Bulkhead Removal, Porter Levee Setback, Downey Farmstead, and Maury Island Aquatic Reserve Armoring Removal projects.

Develop and manage the long-term WRIA-wide capital facility plan and 3-year capital improvement program:

- Updated 17 projects in the Habitat Work Schedule database with recent project cost information and metrics.

Coordinate regional aspects of the Green River Ecosystem Restoration Project:

- Convened the Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP) Executive Committee (November 13).
- Assisted with planning and participated in one ERP Project Management Committee meeting (October 15).
- Supported local sponsors working on ERP projects, including Porter Levee Setback.
- Met with the Corps, Kent, King County, and FCD on implementing the Boeing Levee project in Kent.

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Participate in the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (representing Puget Sound Lead Entities):

- Attended no meetings of the PSNERP Steering Committee. Prepared comments on the Draft Feasibility Report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Communications & Outreach

- Continued to develop the Communications Plan to better tell the story of WRIA 9:
 - Finalized and unveiled the new Green the Green video: Raise a Glass to our Water (over 1,600 views so far).
 - Sent out eight twice-monthly editions of The WRIA 9 WIRE.
- Updated the 2005-2011 WRIA 9 Implementation Progress Report.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/.
- Held two volunteer stewardship events to plant trees along the Duwamish River in Tukwila (November 15 and November 22).
- Responded to four information requests from the public, including a tour of Longfellow Creek with Puget Soundkeeper Alliance so they can develop a volunteer salmon survey program.
- Continued to promote salmon viewing at two sites along the Duwamish River as part of “Salmon SEEson,” in cooperation with WRIA 8, which started this public outreach program several years ago.

Program Management and Administration

Conduct general administration work in support of ILA implementation:

- Held verbal and email progress discussions at and between WRIA 9 WEF and Management Committee meetings.
- Coordinated across Forum on several issues, including the PSP, PSSRC, and SRFB.
- Supervised work of ILA-supported staff.