

**Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9
January 1, 2011 – April 30, 2011**

Overview:

Cost-shared services during the first trimester of 2011 focused on:

- Coordinating with The Russell Family Foundation on selection of WRIA 9 for the foundation's new initiative called the Watershed Assessment, a multiple year funding program to help support operations of watershed management.
- Undertaking cross-WRIA meetings to develop funding mechanisms, and drafting first complete set of watershed investment district legislation in partnership with other WRIsAs.
- Securing approval of the strategy for 2011 Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funding.
- Presenting Adaptive Management and Monitoring Plan Development Report to the Watershed Ecosystem Forum.
- Developing draft 2012 staff plan, work plan, and budget for Management Committee review.
- Giving presentation to 200 students in six classes of 4th and 5th graders on "Getting to Know Your Watershed" at Water Festival at Green River Community College sponsored by the City of Kent.
- Moving habitat projects to construction by consistently addressing and resolving multiple barriers encountered by project sponsors
- Coordinating with the Puget Sound Partnership, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, and Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project on salmon recovery implementation and policy development.

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 prepare the scope of work and budget for work to be cost-shared after 2011:

- Coordinated with The Russell Family Foundation (TRFF) and organized a site visit and conversation with TRFF about selecting WRIA 9 as the watershed that the foundation would use as a model for a new initiative called the Watershed Assessment (the site visit took place in second trimester, May 9).
- Organized one meeting of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (Forum) (February 10).
- Undertook meetings/briefings/research/drafting to develop funding mechanisms including:
 - Hired consultants for cross-WRIA meeting facilitation.
 - Planned, prepared materials for, and participated in two cross-WRIA meetings on funding mechanisms (February 2 and April 13), and one "focus group" of key elected leaders (March 22).
 - Completed first complete draft of watershed investment district legislation in partnership with other WRIsAs, and coordinated two legal reviews with King County PAO attorney.
 - Reviewed 2011 state legislation for potential impacts to funding mechanism effort; facilitated cross-WRIA Steering Committee meeting to analyze four bills of greatest interest.
 - Briefed Washington Environmental Council (March 1).
- Secured approval of the staff strategy for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding in 2011.
- Conducted e-mail correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with Forum and Forum staff members.

- Coordinated local government and Forum communications with the State legislature.

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

- Advised the SRFB, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership, and Governor's Salmon Recovery Office on salmon recovery funding and technical issues. Met multiple times with the Puget Sound Partnership's liaison to WRIA 9, Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz.
- Attended two meetings (February 28 and March 14) of the Puget Sound Partnership South Central Action Area Caucus Group to identify, prioritize, and sequence protection, restoration, and reducing sources of pollution.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (January 27 and March 24).
- Participated in phone calls of the subgroup of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council that is developing the process for identifying projects of regional significance.
- Attended a two-day workshop of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (March 30 and 31) to identify a subset of action alternatives that best represent PSNERP guidance and analysis.
- Attended no PSP Watershed Leads meetings.
- Participated in two Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) meetings (February 9 and April 25).

Schedule and staff four WRIA 9 Management Committee meetings to oversee the 2010 ILA-funded work program:

- Organized two meetings of the Management Committee (January 26 and April 27).
- Developed draft 2012 staff plan, work plan, and budget for Management Committee review.
- 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 Forum staff.

WRIA Plan Implementation

Work with the Watershed Ecosystem Forum to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan:

- Provided briefings to the Watershed Ecosystem Forum 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:

- The Implementation Technical Committee met four times to work on an Adaptive Management Plan and monitoring (January 19, February 16, March 16, and April 28).
- In a presentation to the Forum, Implementation Technical Committee members continued the discussion of the Adaptive Management and Monitoring Plan Development Report (February 10).

Capital Projects Implementation

Coordinate cross-jurisdictional implementation of projects identified as WRIA priorities (e.g., projects funded by the watershed allocation of King Conservation District funds, Puget Sound Partnership, State Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and other funds):

- Participated in review of the National Fish and Wildlife Community Salmon Fund grant applications.
- Assisted project sponsors with preparation and review of applications for King County Conservation Futures and Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection grant programs.
- Assisted project sponsors with King Conservation grant applications. The following grants, which were recommended at the November 2010 WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum meeting, were approved by the King Conservation District for funding:
 - Beach Naturalist Program – Seattle Aquarium Society;
 - Big Spring Creek Construction – King County;
 - Duwamish Alive! Restore Our River – Nature Consortium;
 - Olympic Sculpture Park Monitoring – City of Seattle/Seattle Public Utilities; and
 - Expanding Watershed Restoration Education for 2011, Environmental Science Center.

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

- Participated in planning meeting (February 17) and public workshop (April 12) on WRIA 9 stormwater retrofit grant with King County.
- Analyzed Draft Final Feasibility Study for Lower Duwamish Superfund and drafted comment letter on behalf of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum in early January.
- Met with Kent Public Works director and staff and King County River and Floodplain Management Unit staff to coordinate City/County/WRIA Plan implementation (January 11).
- Met with Tukwila Parks Director and staff from Community Development and Public Works to discuss riparian re-vegetation opportunities on Upper Duwamish as part of Habitat Plan implementation (March 3). Created spreadsheet listing opportunities for riparian restoration in the Upper Duwamish.
- Assisted Tukwila staff in briefing potential consultants for Duwamish Gardens design work (March 28).
- Distributed information to local governments about grant opportunities and assisted project sponsors with grant applications, including letters of support.

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

- Finalized and submitted the 3-Year Work Plan and narrative to PSP (May 13).

Support the Watershed Ecosystem Forum in developing, prioritizing, and presenting project recommendations to the State Salmon Recovery Funding Board for funding:

- Attended two-day SRFB Project Conference (April 26-27) to learn about other salmon recovery projects in Washington state and relevant issues. The conference presentations, including details about projects in WRIA 9 that were showcased, is available at: http://www.rco.wa.gov/salmon_conference.shtml.
- Prepared the timeline and solicited grant applications for the 2011 SRFB grant cycle. Led site visit for WRIA 9 Technical Advisory Group and SRFB Review Panel Members to Point Heyer Drift Cell Preservation Project (April 21).

Coordinate regional aspects of the Green River Ecosystem Restoration Project:

- Assisted with planning and participated in one Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP) Project Management Committee meeting (February 2).
- Supported local sponsors working on ERP projects, including development of funding strategies.

Public Outreach (half time)

Coordinate a public outreach and involvement strategy for the WRIA 9 planning and implementation process:

- Worked with EarthCorps and People For Puget Sound to construct 350 linear feet of goose exclusion fencing at North Wind's Weir (April 5).
- Met with nine citizens at Cedar Downs Homeowners Association, Kent staff, and Maple Valley staff to visit restoration sites and proposed stream revegetation location on Jenkins Creek tributary (February 26). Drafted stream stewardship plan for HOA.
- Worked with King County staff to assess erosion at North Wind's Weir project site (February 23).
- Gave presentation to 200 students in six classes of 4th and 5th graders on "Getting to Know Your Watershed" at Water Festival at Green River Community College sponsored by Kent (March 23). Gave PowerPoint presentations to 13 students at Kentridge High School (January 11).
- Responded to three information requests from the public.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/.

[During the second trimester, Dennis Clark, Public Outreach/Stewardship Coordinator, spent half his time on Miller/Walker Creek basin stewardship. While it contributes to WRIA 9 watershed health, that work was funded by the Miller/Walker basin partners and thus is not summarized in this trimester report.]

Program Management and Administration

Conduct general administration work in support of ILA implementation:

- Held verbal and email progress discussions at and between WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum and Management Committee meetings.
- Coordinated across Forum on several issues, including the Puget Sound Partnership, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, Puget Sound Partnership, and Salmon Recovery Funding Board.
- Supervised work of ILA-supported staff. Oversaw in-kind services work provided by Seattle.