

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9

January 1 to April 30, 2014

Overview:

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

- Developing the 2015/2016 WRIA 9 Budget, Work and Staff Plans.
- Continuing to translate the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan into the regional Monitoring and Adaptive Management framework.
- Convening Working Group meetings to update the Duwamish Blueprint.
- Providing technical information to support the Lower Green River System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) and participating on both the SWIF Technical Advisory Committee and Advisory Council.
- Creating project fact sheets as part of the WRIA 9 Communication Plan.
- Jointly receiving with the City of Burien the 2014 Futurewise Livable Community Award for Excellence in Protecting Natural Resource Areas for the Seahurst Shoreline Restoration Project.
- Supporting project sponsors in developing funding strategies and requests for habitat projects.
- Representing WRIA 9 on the Puget Sound Partnership's Ecosystem Coordination Board Funding Subcommittee (developing a regional funding strategy).
- Representing WRIA 9's interests in Puget Sound Watershed Leads group, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, South Central Caucus Group, and Lead Entity Advisory Group.

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 (Forum) (February 13).
- Coordinated local government and Forum communications with the State legislature.
- Conducted e-mail correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with Forum and Forum staff members.
- Prepared for and attended 3 meetings of the Lower Green System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) Technical Advisory Committee (including Horseshoe Bend) (February 2, March 19, and April 16). No meetings of the SWIF Advisory Council were convened.

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 Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) meetings (January 23 and March 27).
- Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (February 19 and April 21).
- Attended five meetings of the Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board Funding Subcommittee (February 7, March 18, April 1, April 18, and April 29).
- Participated in three meetings of the Puget Sound Watershed Leads (January 9, March 7, and April 1) and one regular conference call (February 13).
- Participated in the Puget Sound Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) retreat (February 25-27).

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- Participated in three conference calls of the Outreach and Communications Committee for LEAG (January 14, February 10, and February 18).
- Advised the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), Puget Sound Partnership (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 2013 ILA-funded work program:

- Organized three meetings of the Management Committee (January 22, March 20, and April 23).
- 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:

- Jointly awarded with the City of Burien the 2014 Futurewise Livable Community Award for Excellence in Protecting Natural Resource Areas for the Seahurst Shoreline Restoration Project (March 18).
- Urban Waters Federal Partnership federal agencies awarded a grant to the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition for their ongoing role as citizen advocate for a clean river and healthy community.
- Provided briefings to the 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:

- Continued work on the Duwamish Riparian Revegetation CWM grant, restoring native vegetation along the Duwamish in Tukwila.
- Continued to translate the WRIA 9 Plan into the regional Monitoring and Adaptive Management (M&AM) framework. The core team met several times, and worked with the Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) to complete many of the work items.
- The ITC met four times to work on the M&AM framework, review design and funding for several projects, review monitoring budget for 2014/2015, and hear updates on the WRIA 9 Stormwater Retrofit Project and Lower Green SWIF (January 21, February 18, March 18, and April 15).
- Participated in one project management team planning meetings (January 16) and one public workshop (February 27) with the WRIA 9 Stormwater Retrofit Project to finalize reports.
- Scheduled and staffed three meetings of the Duwamish Blueprint working group (January 28, February 25, March 25) and additional subcommittee meetings to develop working group protocols, scope and schedule; define and delineate the Duwamish transition zone area; update the project list; and develop a community outreach plan.

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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):

- Received Puget Sound Partnership Project Implementation Development Award (PIDA) for McSorley Creek Restoration project at Saltwater State Park (\$200,000). Funding will be used to prepare restoration design in cooperation with Washington State Parks and local stakeholders.

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.
- Distributed information to local governments about grant opportunities and assisted project sponsors with grant applications, including letters of support. These grant opportunities included the WRIA 9 Small Grant Round, King County's Green Grants, Conservation Futures, and National Fish and Wildlife Urban Waters and Five Star grant.
- Forged a partnership with Boeing to develop a strategic implementation plan for partnering with non-profits to re-vegetate the Green and Duwamish Rivers.

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

- Developed timeline for 2014 Salmon Recovery Funding Board projects and coordinated field dates and application materials for Mill Creek – Leber (City of Kent), Downey Farmstead (City of Kent), and Porter Levee Setback (King County) projects.

Coordinate regional aspects of the Green River Ecosystem Restoration Project:

- Assisted with planning and participated in one ERP Project Management Committee meetings (April 16).
- Supported local sponsors working on ERP projects, including development of funding strategy for Porter Levee Setback Restoration Project.

Communications & Outreach

- Continued to develop the Communications Plan to better tell the story of WRIA 9:
 - Sent out eight twice-monthly editions of The WRIA 9 WIRE.
 - Continued work on branding for all marketing and outreach materials.
 - Created 15 WRIA 9 project fact sheets.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/.
- Responded to four information requests from the public.

Program Management and Administration

Conduct general administration work in support of ILA implementation:

- Developed the 2015/2016 WRIA 9 Budget, Work and Staff Plans.
- Held verbal and email progress discussions at and between WRIA 9 Forum and Management Committee meetings.
- Coordinated across Forum on several issues, including the PSP, PSSRC, and SRFB.
- Supervised work of ILA-supported staff.