

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9
May 1, 2011 – August 31, 2011

Overview:

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

- Recruiting and hiring new WRIA 9 Planning and Stewardship Coordinator.
- Approving the 2012 ILA Budget.
- Reaching agreement on the 2012 Scope of Work and Staffing Plan for ILA-funded services.
- Presenting Adaptive Management and Monitoring Plan Development Reports to the Watershed Ecosystem Forum.
- Approving the 2011 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Prioritized Project List of four projects: Point Heyer Drift Cell, Downey Farmstead, Porter Levee, and Big Spring Creek.
- Approving the reallocation of returned SRFB funds to Downey Farmstead, and funding level changes to Porter Levee and Big Spring Creek.
- Endorsing the approach for evaluating and awarding grants in the Small/Stewardship/Water Quality 2011-2012 Grant Program Cycle.
- Advancing the discussion of draft watershed investment district legislation in partnership with other WRIAs.
- 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:

- Organized two meeting of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (Forum) (May 12 and August 11).
- Planned, prepared materials for, and participated in funding mechanism meetings to finalize the draft watershed investment district (WID) legislation, including one cross-WRIA summit (July 20), and one “focus group” of key elected leaders (June 7).
- Met with the following individuals to explain and build support for the draft WID legislation:
 - State Representative Sharon Nelson and Burien Mayor Joan McGilton (June 2).
 - King County Executive Dow Constantine and Mayor McGilton (June 9).
 - Aide Emiko Atherton to King County Councilmember Julia Patterson (June 11).
 - Martha Kongsgaard, Chair, Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council (June 30).
 - Puget Sound Partnership staff Michael Grayum, Director of Public Affairs, and Chris Townsend, Special Assistant to the Executive Director (August 25).
- Gave WID presentations to the Puget Sound Watershed Leads (July 14), Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (July 28), Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum (August 5), and WRIA 9 Forum (August 11).
- Secured approval of the 2012 ILA Budget, and the Scope of Work and Staffing Plan for ILA-funded services.
- Secured approval of the ranking and spending plan for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) project applications.
- 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 Salmon Recovery Board, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership, and Governor's Salmon Recovery Office on salmon recovery funding and technical issues.
- Attended three meetings (May 23, July 18, and August 15) of the Puget Sound Partnership South Central Action Area Caucus Group to develop high priority actions for the SCAA and to provide input into the update of the Puget Sound Action Agenda.
- Attended two Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council meetings (May 26 and July 28).
- Monitored the progress of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project to identify the subset of the 10% design action alternatives that best represent PSNERP guidance and analyses (projects were identified at March 30 and 31 workshops).
- Participated in one Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) meeting (August 4).

Schedule and staff four WRIA 9 Management Committee meetings to oversee the 2011 ILA-funded work program:

- Organized two meetings of the Management Committee (June 21 and July 28).
- 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 two times to work on a Adaptive Management Plan, and monitoring (May 26 and July 28).
- In a presentation to the Forum, Implementation Technical Committee members previewed the 2010 Adaptive Management Report and Monitoring Plan development (May 12).

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):

- Met twice with Kent Public Works director and staff and King County River and Floodplain Management Unit staff to coordinate City/County/WRIA project implementation (May 10 and August 31).
- Met with Department of Ecology oil spill response staff to encourage them to include North Wind's Weir in the Central Puget Sound Geographic Response Plan (August 26).

Help establish partnerships and seek funding for high priority capital 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 2011 Salmon Funding Recovery Board grant round and Pacific Salmon Commission's Southern Fund Committee for salmon habitat restoration projects.
- Issued a Request for Proposals for the WRIA 9 Grants for Salmon Habitat and Water Quality Projects jointly with King County Wastewater Treatment Division. Coordinated the grant review program for WRIA 9 grants. A total of four grant applications in the Small Grant program, for a total of \$79,381,

and three grant applications in the Stewardship/Education program, for a total of \$52,000, were recommended for funding. In addition, there were seven grants in the Duwamish Water Quality grant program were recommended, for a total of \$175,000 in joint King County Wastewater and City of Seattle funding.

- Updated the Habitat Work Schedule for four projects.
- Assisted project sponsors with preparation and review of applications for EPA Marine and Nearshore Protection and Restoration and Watershed Protection and Restoration grant opportunities that are being coordinated through Washington state agencies.

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

- Submitted the WRIA 9 3-Year Workplan and associated narrative to the Puget Sound Partnership for review by the Puget Sound Regional Implementation Technical Team (RITT).

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

- Solicited and reviewed draft Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) project applications for the 2011 grant cycle.
- Organized the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Review Panel field tour of 2011 SRFB projects. This field review provided the opportunity for the TAG members to provide feedback to project sponsors on their project design.
- Assisted project sponsors with Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant applications. The following prioritized list of projects was approved at the May 12th Forum meeting:
 - Point Heyer Drift Cell Preservation (acquisition) – King County;
 - Downey Farmstead (design) – Kent;
 - Porter Levee Removal (design) – King County; and
 - Big Spring Creek Construction – King County.

Coordinate regional aspects of the Green River Ecosystem Restoration Project:

- Supported local sponsors working on Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP) projects, including development of funding strategies.
- Assisted with planning and participated in one ERP Project Management Committee meeting (August 3).

Public Outreach (half time)

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

- Responded to multiple information requests from the public.
- Directed outreach activities put on hold from departure of Outreach Coordinator, Dennis Clark, and the recruitment of Elissa Ostergaard, new Planning and Stewardship Coordinator.

[During the second trimester, Elissa Ostergaard spent most of her 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.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/.