

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9
May 1, 2012 – August 31, 2012

Overview:

Cost-shared services during the second trimester of 2012 focused on:

- Organizing and conducting the successful “yellow bus tour” of Middle Green, Lower Green, Nearshore, and Duwamish restoration sites.
- Publishing and distributing the WRIA 9 Implementation Progress Report 2005-2011.
- Approving the 2012 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) prioritized project list of two construction projects: Fenster Levee Setback and Big Spring Creek.
- Coordinating with the King County Flood Control District(FCD) to transition 2012 project funding from the King Conservation District 2012 to the FCD.
- Approving the 2012 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Program grant funding list for eleven projects.
- Coordinating the grant review process for the WRIA 9 Lower Duwamish Waterway “Green Grants” Program projects and recommending four grant applications for funding.
- Approving the 2013 ILA Budget.
- Reaching agreement on the 2013 Scope of Work and Staffing Plan for ILA-funded services.
- Presenting an overview of the 2013 Comprehensive Monitoring Plan to the Watershed Ecosystem Forum.
- 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 2012:

- Organized two meeting of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (Forum) (May 10 and August 9).
- Met with a Bellingham City Councilmember (Seth Fleetwood), King County Councilmember (Julia Patterson), Washington Environmental Council staff, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Salmon Recovery Council, PSP Ecosystem Coordination Board Funding Subcommittee, and PSP Leadership Council Chair regarding the Watershed Investment District (WID) legislation
- Secured approval of the 2013 ILA Budget, and the Scope of Work and Staffing Plan for ILA-funded services.
- Secured approval of the 2012 prioritized Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) project list.
- Secured approval of the 2012 Flood Control District (FCD) Cooperative Watershed Grant (CWG) project list.
- 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 one meeting 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 (June 11).
- Attended three Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council meetings (May 31, July 26 and August 8).
- Chaired four meetings of the Puget Sound Partnership Habitat Strategic Initiative Subcommittee, and attended three meetings of the Urban Stormwater Strategic Initiative Subcommittee.
- Participated in three meetings of the Puget Sound WRIA Leads (May 10, June 14 and July 12).
- Met with the Governor and Executive Director of the Puget Sound Partnership on a field tour of the Seahurst Park North Seawall project (July 18).

Schedule and staff four WRIA 9 Management Committee meetings to oversee the 2012 ILA-funded work program:

- Organized one meeting of the Management Committee (July 26).
- 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:

- Published and distributed the WRIA 9 Implementation Progress Report 2005-2011
- 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:

- In a presentation to the Forum, Implementation Technical Committee members provided an overview of the 2013 Comprehensive Monitoring Plan (May 10).
- The Implementation Technical Committee met three times to work on overall monitoring and adaptive management plan components, priorities and budget (June 5, July 3 and August 7).

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):

- Secured approval of Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Program grant funding list for eleven project applications:
 - Miller Walker Creeks Monitoring – King County (\$21,871);
 - Ryan Hill Property Acquisition – Tukwila (\$7,510);
 - YMCA Earth Service Corps – YMCA of Seattle (\$12,000);
 - Sound Stewardship and Adaptive Management – People for Puget Sound (\$15,000);
 - Duwamish Gardens Construction (\$500,000);
 - Fenster Construction Cost Increase (\$300,000);
 - Duwamish Riparian Revegetation (\$53,619);
 - Burien Environmental Science Center (\$30,000);
 - WRIA 9 Capital Projects Implementation 2013 (\$140,000);
 - King County Grant Administration (\$60,000); and
 - WDFW Screw Trap – Smolt Monitoring (\$60,000).
- Supported City of Tukwila in moving forward with Duwamish Gardens project to create shallow water habitat for juvenile Chinook with assistance with grant applications and project design.

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 2012 Salmon Funding Recovery Board grant round and the Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management grant round, which replaced the King Conservation District grant round for 2012.
- Issued a Request for Proposals for the WRIA 9 Lower Duwamish Waterway “Green Grants” Program projects, funded by the King County Wastewater Treatment Division. Coordinated the grant review program for WRIA 9 grants. Four grant applications, out of a total of nine, were recommended, for a total of \$104,670 in King County Wastewater funding.

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 2012 grant cycle.
- Organized the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Review Panel field tour of 2012 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 10 Forum meeting:
 - Fenster Levee Setback (construction) – Kent 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.

Public Outreach (half time)

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

- Organized and conducted the successful “yellow bus tour” of Middle Green, Lower Green, Nearshore, and Duwamish restoration sites, visiting six project locations. Forty-eight participants attended the tour.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/.
- Responded to multiple information requests from the public.

[During the second trimester, Elissa Ostergaard spent a portion 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:

- Conducted other general administration work in support of implementation of the ILA, including work program development and monitoring, budget tracking, regular reporting, billing, personnel, and supervision.
- 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.