

**Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9
May 1, 2013 – August 31, 2013**

Overview:

Cost-shared services during the second trimester of 2013 focused on:

- Approving the 2013 Salmon Recovery Funding Board/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration prioritized project list of two construction projects: Duwamish Gardens Construction and Mill Creek/Leber Restoration.
- Approving the 2013 Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant funding list for eight projects.
- Coordinating the grant review process for the WRIA 9 Lower Duwamish Waterway “Green Grants” Program projects and recommending five grant applications for funding.
- Developing and obtaining Approval of the 2014 ILA Budget, Work Plan, Staff Plan, and Cost Shares.
- Providing an overview the WRIA 9 Monitoring and Adaptive Management program to the Watershed Ecosystem Forum.
- Reaching agreement on funding for the 2013/1014 monitoring projects, and negotiating and reaching agreement on the regional Open Standards work plan and budget.
- Coordinating with the State Legislature on watershed investment and governance legislation.
- Coordinating with King County Flood Control District and the Army Corps of Engineers on the launch of the Lower Green River floodplain System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) and the Horseshoe Bend SWIF.
- Coordinating with the U.S. Forest Service on the successful designation of the Green/Duwamish Watershed as one of 18 watersheds nationally as an Urban Waters Federal Partnership site.
- Coordinating with the Puget Sound Partnership, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, and South Central Action Agenda Caucus Group/Lead Implementing Organization 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 2013:

- Organized two meetings of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (Forum) (May 9 and August 8).
- Secured approval of the 2014 ILA Budget, and the Scope of Work, Staffing Plan, and Cost Shares for ILA-funded services.
- Secured approval of the 2013 prioritized Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) project list.
- Secured approval of the 2013 Flood Control District (FCD) Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant project list.
- Approved the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan amendment process and timeline, approved funding for the 2013/2014 monitoring projects. Reached agreement on the work plan and budget for the regional monitoring and adaptive management framework/Open Standards.
- Provided an over view of the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Cleanup Plan and prepared a comment letter to the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Attended a stakeholder meeting convened by State Representative John McCoy on watershed investment district legislation (May 30).

- Began coordinating and developed a strategy for conducting a statewide watershed investment stakeholder process.
- 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.

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:

- Attended one meeting of the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) South Central Action Area (SCAA) Caucus Group to develop the SCAA provisions for the region-wide update of the Puget Sound Action Agenda (June 17).
- Attended two Puget Sound (PS) Salmon Recovery Council meetings (May 23 and July 25).
- Participated in the PSP Ecosystem Coordination Board funding Subcommittee meeting (May 24).
- Participated in one conference call of the Puget Sound WRIA Leads (August 8).
- Attended the SRFB conference in Vancouver, WA (May 14-16).
- Attended the Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) workshop in Walla Walla (April 15-17).
- Advised the SRFB, PSP, Puget Sound (PS) Nearshore Partnership, SCAA Caucus Group, 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 two meetings of the Management Committee (MC) (June 7 and July 24).
- Conducted e-mail correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with MC 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:

- Coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on the successful designation of the Green/Duwamish Watershed as one of 18 watersheds nationally as an Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) site
- Coordinated planning of a UWFP fall launch event and press release.
- Coordinated with the King County FCD and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on the launching of the Lower Green River System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) process, including the designation of WRIA 9 staff and elected officials as representatives on the Technical Advisory Committee and the Advisory Council. Coordinated with the Corps on launching of the Horseshoe Bend SWIF.
- Obtained funding for the Duwamish Blueprint from the USFS, and developed a draft scope and schedule, and solicited working group members.
- 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:

- In a presentation to the Forum, Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) members provided an overview of the 2013 Draft WRIA 9 Monitoring and Adaptive Management (M&AM) Plan (May 10).
- The ITC met three times to work on the M&AM Plan and go over the project prioritization history in preparation for the 2015 Habitat Plan update (June 4, July 9 and August 6).

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):

- Secured approval of CWM grant funding list for eight project applications:
 - Duwamish Gardens Construction – Tukwila (\$765,000);
 - McSorley Creek Final Feasibility/Design – Washington State Parks (\$103,000);
 - Engaging Water Heroes for Puget Sound – Environmental Science Center (\$30,000);
 - WRIA 9 Capital Projects Implementation/Project Administration 2014 (\$140,000);
 - Cumulative Habitat Conditions Monitoring – Lower Green & Duwamish (\$40,000);
 - Project Effectiveness Monitoring/Fish Use in Lower Green Associated with Projects (\$40,000);
 - Beach Naturalist Program – Seattle Aquarium (2013 & 2014); and
 - Green River Screw Trap/Smolt Monitoring – WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (\$40,000).
- Supported City of Tukwila in moving forward with the Duwamish Gardens project to create shallow water habitat for juvenile Chinook with assistance with grant applications and project design. Obtained 100% of construction funding needed to build the project in 2014.
- Supported City of Kent with preparation of application materials and response the SRFB review panel for the Mill Creek/Leber project.

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 2013 SRFB and PSAR grant round and the CWM grant round.
- Issued a joint Request for Proposals for the WRIA 9 Small Grant Fund and Lower Duwamish Waterway “Green Grants” Program projects, funded by the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD). Coordinated the grant review program for WRIA 9 grants. Five grant applications, out of a total of ten, were recommended, for a total of \$102,875 in WTD funding. Fourteen Small Grant applications were received and seven projects selected to receive a total of \$106,124 in funding.

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

- Submitted the WRIA 9 Three-Year Workplan and associated narrative to PSP 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 SRFB and PSAR project applications for the 2013 grant cycle.
- Organized the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Review Panel field tour of 2013 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 SRFB/PSAR grant applications. The following prioritized list of projects was approved at the May 10 Forum meeting:
 - Duwamish Gardens Construction – City of Tukwila and
 - Mill Creek/Leber Restoration (construction) – City of Kent.

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 meeting preparation and coordination at the quarterly ERP Project Management Committee meeting with the Corps (August 14).

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.
- Coordinated with PSP, the Corps, and the City of Burien on planning the Seahurst Seawall Restoration project ground breaking event.

[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:

- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/.
- 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 Forum and MC meetings.
- Coordinated across the Forum on several issues, including PSP, PS Salmon Recovery Council, and SRFP.