

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9

May 1 to August 31, 2014

Overview and Highlights

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

- Obtaining approval of the 2015/2016 WRIA 9 Budget, Work and Staff Plans.
- Completing the work of the Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board Funding Subcommittee to develop a funding strategy to implement the Puget Sound Action Agenda strategic initiatives—habitat restoration, regional stormwater management, and protection of shellfish beds. Puget Sound Funding Strategy completed.
- Preparing draft WRIA 9 Interlocal Agreement for 2016-2025, and process and schedule for city and county renewal of a 10-year Interlocal Agreement.
- Completing phase 1 of the Monitoring and Adaptive Management framework project.
- Convening Working Group meetings to update the Duwamish Blueprint.
- Obtaining Watershed Ecosystem Forum approval of the Mill Creek/Green River Confluence – Leber Construction project for \$407,018 in Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds.
- Obtaining Watershed Ecosystem Forum approval of three high priority project applications, two education/stewardship applications, four monitoring applications, and one small grant/stewardship grant round for \$1,508, 846 in Cooperative Watershed Management funds.
- Providing technical information and policy analysis to support the Lower Green River System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) and participating on both the SWIF Technical Advisory Committee and Advisory Council.
- Completing the 2014 Three-Year Work Plan Narrative and submitting it to Puget Sound Partnership and the Recovery Implementation Technical Team:
- Continuing to create project fact sheets as part of the WRIA 9 Communication Plan.
- Leading a kayak tour of habitat restoration sites along the Duwamish River with the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition
- Promoting public salmon viewing at two new sites along the Duwamish River as part of “Salmon SEEson,” in cooperation with WRIA 8.
- 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 two meetings of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (Forum) (May 8 and August 14).
- Developed draft updated Interlocal Agreement and began conversations about WRIA 9 ILA renewal for another 10 year period to continue implementing projects and programs and monitor and adaptively manage salmon recovery in WRIA 9.
- Coordinated local government and Forum communications with the State legislature.

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- Conducted e-mail correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with Forum and Forum staff members.
- Prepared for and attended three meetings of the Lower Green System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) Technical Advisory Committee (May 21, July 16, August 20). No meetings of the SWIF Advisory Council were convened. Attended eight SWIF technical work sessions and workshops, and convened numerous briefings of Forum Co-Chairs and Management Committee Chair.

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 (May 27, July 24).
- Participated in one meeting of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (June 11).
- Attended one meeting of the Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) (May 29) and three meetings of the ECB Funding Subcommittee (June 6, July 16, July 17).
- Met with the Association of Washington Cities regarding the ECB Funding Strategy on June 6.
- Participated in three meetings of the Puget Sound Watershed Leads (May 8, July 10, and September 19).
- Participated two conference calls of the Washington Salmon Coalition (June 6, August 5).
- Attended the Washington Salmon Coalition conference in Chelan on June 9 and 10.
- Participated in three conference calls of the Outreach and Communications Committee for LEAG (Jun 7, June 17, and August 21).
- Met with staff of the University of Washington Green Futures Lab on the status of the Regional Open Space System program, including funding scenarios (June 6).
- Met with The Nature Conservancy on statewide funding strategies on August 28.
- Attended and provided information to the King Conservation District Advisory Committee on its rates, charges, and funding program proposals (May 28).
- Attended and made presentations to the Salish Sea Conference in Seattle on May 1 and 2.
- 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 one meeting of the Management Committee (July 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:

- Provided briefings to the Forum on Habitat Plan implementation issues, and provided assistance to several cost-sharing city partners.

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Implement adaptive management, and participate in regional or sub-regional planning, implementation, monitoring, and financing efforts as practicable:

- Completed phase 1 of converting the WRIA 9 Plan into the regional Monitoring and Adaptive Management (M&AM) framework.
- The Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) met four times to work on M&AM, Lower Green habitat opportunities and SWIF, and the Duwamish Blueprint (May 20, June 17, July 15, and August 19).
- Participated in one project management team planning meeting (June 4) with the WRIA 9 Stormwater Retrofit Project to finalize reports and celebrate the success of the project.
- Scheduled and staffed four meetings of the Duwamish Blueprint working group (May 27, June 24, July 29, and August 26) to define and delineate the Duwamish transition zone area, update the project list and maps, and update the approach for creating salmonid habitat along the Duwamish. Attended two neighborhood community meetings (April 21 and June 10) to inform Duwamish communities about the effort and the upcoming public meeting.

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):

- Assisted project sponsors with CWM grant applications. The following list of projects/programs for \$1,508,846 in CWM funds was approved at the May 8 Forum meeting:
 - Small Grant/Stewardship Grant Round (\$25,000);
 - Porter Levee Setback – King County (\$300,000);
 - Mill Creek/Green River Confluence-Leber – City of Kent (\$787,846);
 - Capital Implementation/Outreach & Communication Products – WRIA 9 (\$225,000);
 - Improving Watershed Health Environmental Education – Environmental Science Center (\$30,000);
 - Beach Naturalist Program – Seattle Aquarium (\$21,000);
 - Green River Smolt Trap – WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (\$45,000);
 - Monitoring Baseline Conditions-Vegetation, Shorelines, Shallow Water Habitat – WRIA 9 (\$40,000);
 - Green River Chinook Productivity Analysis – WRIA 9 (\$10,000); and
 - Program Implementation Survey – WRIA 9 (\$25,000).
- Attended meetings of the Flood Control District Board and Executive Committee on July 30 and August 18.

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 2014 SRFB/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 twelve applications received, were recommended, for a total of

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\$102,825 in WTD funding. Two Small Grant applications were received and funding was divided between both projects selected to receive a total of \$25,000 in funding.

- Forged a partnership with Boeing to develop a strategic implementation plan for partnering with non-profits to re-vegetate the Green and Duwamish Rivers.

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:

- Assisted project sponsors with SRFB/PSAR grant applications. The following prioritized list of projects for \$407,018 was approved at the May 8 Forum meeting:
 - Mill Creek/Green River Confluence-Leber– City of Kent (\$407,018); and
 - Porter Levee Setback – King County (alternate/backup).
- Also at the same meeting, the following list of three projects were approved to move forward for 2015-2017 PSAR Large Capacity funding:
 - Porter Levee Setback – King County (~\$5,000,000);
 - Downey Farmstead Side Channel Creation – City of Kent (\$4,891,000); and
 - McSorley Creek Nearshore Armoring Removal – WA State Parks (\$TBD).
- Worked with Boeing and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to establish a tree-planting strategy for Green/Duwamish River.
- Convened King County and the King Conservation District to scope a grant proposal for nearshore outreach and education; coordinated and funded the preparation of the grant application.

Coordinate regional aspects of the Green River Ecosystem Restoration Project:

- Assisted with planning and participated in one ERP Project Management Committee meetings (July 31).
- Supported local sponsors working on ERP projects, including development of funding strategy for Porter Levee Setback Restoration Project.
- Met with the Army Corps of Engineers, Kent, King County, and Flood Control District on implementing the Boeing Levee project in Kent.

Participate in the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (representing Puget Sound Lead Entities):

- Attended a meeting of the PSNERP Steering Committee on August 5.

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 including a Green/Duwamish video.
 - Created six WRIA 9 project fact sheets.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/.
- Responded to two information requests from the public.

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- Led a kayak tour of habitat restoration sites along the Duwamish River with the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition on August 28.
- Promoted salmon viewing at two new sites along the Duwamish River as part of “Salmon SEEson,” in cooperation with WRIA 8, which started this public outreach program several years ago.

Program Management and Administration

Conduct general administration work in support of ILA implementation:

- 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.