

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9

January 1 to April 30, 2017

Overview:

Cost-shared services during the first trimester of 2017 focused on:

- Assisting with planning and coordination of the 2017 Puget Sound Day on the Hill, the major effort of the Puget Sound Partnership and Congressional Caucus to raise awareness of and seek congressional and administration support for Puget Sound's needs.
- Developing the timeline for 2017 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) projects and coordinating field date and application materials.
- Conducting SRFB Review Panel site visits of Riverton Creek Flapgate project and future project Teufel Restoration, and "lessons learned" visits of three completed projects, Duwamish Gardens, Reddington Levee, and Mill Creek Leber.
- Developing timeline for application materials and coordinated preparation of ten grant applications for 2017 King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management funding.
- Continuing work on WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan update topics and technical summaries, including climate change, water quality, project prioritization, and fish use of habitat.
- Coordinating the second Tree Planting Viewer Workshop for users.
- Communicating WRIA 9 legislative priorities to congressional delegation and state legislators conveying the importance of salmon recovery funding.
- Conducting 2016 WRIA 9 Client Satisfaction Survey.
- Representing WRIA 9's interests in Puget Sound Watershed Leads group, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, Puget Sound South Central Area Caucus Group, and Washington Salmon Coalition, including participating on subcommittee and work groups to advance recovery efforts.

The following summary of services is organized according to work items outlined in the approved WRIA 9 Memorandum of Understanding.

Watershed Ecosystem Forum & Regional/State Coordination

- Organized one meeting of the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) (February 9). Meeting topics included: Update on the Governor's capital budget request; WRIA 9 Management Committee (MC) update on restructuring the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (Caucus Group) Local Integrating Organizations; Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) decision on Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) allocation proposals; and information for the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan (Plan) update on developing habitat goals and climate change impacts on salmon.
- Organized two meeting of the MC (January 25 and April 26).
- Attended two meetings of the PS SRC (January 26 and March 23).
- Participated in two meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (January 12 and March 9) and two conference calls (February 9 and April 13).
- Participated in two meetings of the Caucus Group (February 1 and April 5).
- Attended the 2017 Green/Duwamish Watershed Workshop, "Fostering Collaborations" (February 27), two meetings of the Our Green/Duwamish Workshop Team (January 5 and February 8), and one meeting of the Our Green/Duwamish Watershed Advisory Group (April 5).
- Attended two King County (KC) Land Conservation meetings with the Renton City Council (January 12) and Kent City Council (January 17), and staff of Renton (January 12) and Burien (January 19).

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- Twice met with State Legislators in Olympia (February 13, and February 22 as part of Floodplains by Design Day). City of Kent Councilmember (CM) Dana Ralph attended the February 13 meeting, and Kent CM Brenda Fincher attended on February 22.
- Attended Pure Blue Leadership Advisory Board (LAB) meeting to present on “bridging innovation in watersheds” (April 18).
- Attended two Puget Sound Day on the Hill WebEx meetings (April 20 and 27) and a preparatory meeting in D.C. (April 30). Provided extensive input to and materials for Puget Sound Day on the Hill. Participated with other travelers to D.C. in scoping and strategizing for the 2017 event.
- Worked with KC CMs Reagan Dunn and Pete von Reichbauer and their staff and KC Parks Department staff on naming a WRIA 9 salmon restoration acquisition site in honor of long-time WRIA 9 Steering Committee member, Doreen Johnson, creating the “Doreen Johnson Conservation Area” of the Green River Natural Area. Attended a KC Council TrEE Committee meeting about the naming (January 31).
- Conducted e-mail correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with WEF/MC and WEF staff members.
- Provided information to all jurisdictions equally.

WRIA Plan Implementation

- Continued work on Plan update scheduling, capacity, developing habitat goals, and drafting technical briefings, including climate change, water quality, and fish productivity and use of habitat.
- Scheduled and facilitated four Project Prioritization Criteria meetings for the Plan update (January 10, February 23, March 6 and 21).
- Scheduled and facilitated four meetings of the Implementation Technical Committee (ITC). Meeting topics included: Monitoring and Adaptive Management; developing habitat goals; project prioritization; continue developing technical briefs for the amendment to the Scientific Foundation to the Plan update, including climate change, water quality (temperature and contaminants), and fish productivity and use of habitat; and discussion of schedule for Plan update (January 18, February 15, March 15, and April 19).
- Analyzed and provided preliminary report on the WRIA 9 survey of Plan programmatic actions.
- Conducted a second Tree Planting Viewer workshop for users (March 8).
- Attended Department of Ecology’s Soos Creek TMDL bioassessment update meeting (March 7).
- Attended the second annual Green Infrastructure Summit (February 16).
- Participated in a Green Infrastructure Partnership meeting about The Nature Conservancy’s new “City Habitats: Turning the Tide on Polluted Runoff” program.
- Attended Yale Webinar on ecosystem valuation (April 6).
- Continued work on the Duwamish Riparian Revegetation Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant to remove knotweed and restore native vegetation along the Duwamish in Tukwila.
- Gave a presentation on the Plan and pertinent programs to the Black Diamond planning commission (March 30).
- Participated in a Depave Puget Sound coordination meeting with multiple partners (February 7).
- Provided briefings to the WEF on Plan implementation issues, and provided assistance to several cost sharing partners.

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Capital Projects Implementation

- Developed timeline for 2017 SRFB projects and coordinated field date and application materials for the Riverton Creek Flapgate project.
- Conducted SRFB Review Panel site visits of Riverton Creek Flapgate and future project Teufel restoration, and “lessons learned” visits of three completed projects, Duwamish Gardens, Reddington Levee, and Mill Creek Leber (April 20).
- Developed timeline for application materials and coordinated preparation of eleven grant applications for 2017 KC Flood Control District (FCD) CWM funding.
- Met with WA State Parks staff on the McSorley Creek project (January 12).
- Met with Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest staff (January 25) to discuss long-term opportunities for the Upper Green River subwatershed.
- Participated in fieldtrip to Teufel restoration site with KC Rivers Section staff to look at the planting footprint and long-term restoration (April 3).
- Organized meeting with Forterra and KC Noxious Weeds on the “Green the Green: The Green-Duwamish River is Making a Comeback” program (formerly the Re-Green the Green program) to expand on previous, successful efforts to reduce the impact of noxious weeds in the lower Green by controlling knotweed and other riparian weeds and restoring native plant communities to streamside public and private lands (March 22).
- Participated in two WebEx meetings of the Washington Salmon Coalition to discuss the SRFB regional reallocation (January 23 and February 22).
- Participated in two Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) WebEx meetings (February 13 and April 10). Worked with project sponsors to obtain updated project information for twelve projects and entered the updated information in HWS on their behalf.
- Distributed information to local governments about grant opportunities and assisted project sponsors with grant applications, including letters of support. These grant opportunities included SRFB, CWM, Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program (WA DNR), 2017 Coastal Resilience Grant Program (NOAA, NMFS), Puget Sound Stewardship & Mitigation Fund (Rose Foundation), and KC Waterworks Grant Program.
- From April 10 to 28, coordinated with KC, FCD, and Kent CMs to develop an option for restoring a portion of the Kent Municipal Golf Course.

Communications & Outreach

- Attended the Communicating Science webinar (January 10).
- Attended the King Conservation District Annual Dinner and Auction (February 7).
- Helped at the KC Wastewater Treatment Division education booth at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show (February 22 and 24).
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/.
- Presented about riparian restoration techniques and opportunities at a volunteer training for Habitat Stewards, put on by National Wildlife Federation (February 23).
- Attended 2017 GoGreen Conference on sustainability for business and public sector decision-makers (March 16), and staffed an educational table about WRIA 9 salmon recovery.
- Responded to three information requests from the public, including: Kristen Bryant and Frank Barton.

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Program Management and Administration

- Conducted 2016 WRIA 9 Client Satisfaction Survey.
- Conducted the WRIA 9 Team work planning retreat (January 24).
- Conducted other general administrative work supporting implementation of the ILA, including work program development and monitoring, budget development, regular reporting, billing, personnel, and supervision.
- Coordinated with the MC, KC Human Resources, and interlocal agreement partners to develop the job announcement and recruitment process for the WRIA 9 Planning and Technical Coordinator position.
- Met monthly with KC Water and Land Resources Finance staff to monitor WRIA 9's budget.
- Held verbal and email progress discussions at and between WRIA 9 WEF and MC meetings.
- Coordinated across WEF on several issues, including PSP, PS SRC, and SRFB.