

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9

May 1 to August 31, 2016

Overview:

Cost-shared services during the second trimester of 2016 focused on:

- Planning and co-hosting the successful Nearshore Boat Tour to highlight the success and potential for nearshore protection and restoration in WRIA 9.
- Securing Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) approval of the 2017-2018 WRIA 9 budget, scope of work, and cost shares.
- Obtaining WEF approval of one revegetation grant round, six high-priority project applications, and seven education/stewardship applications for \$1,642,105 in Cooperative Watershed Management grant funds.
- Obtaining WEF approval of four high-priority project applications for \$1,339,128 in Salmon Recovery Funding Board/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant funds.
- Completing the first draft of the WRIA 9 Riparian Revegetation Strategy.
- Continuing to develop the strategy for updating the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan and securing grant funds for technical support.
- Sending out seven twice-monthly editions of The WRIA 9 WIRE.
- Developing an ad for the 2016-2017 Chinook Book in partnership with WRIA 8.
- Updating the WRIA 9 2016 Federal/State Legislative Priorities.
- Supporting project sponsors in developing funding strategies and requests for habitat projects.
- Representing WRIA 9's interests in and information to/coordination with Puget Sound Watershed Leads group, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, South Central Caucus Group, and Washington Salmon Coalition.

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 Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) (May 12). Meeting topics included: Management Committee (MC) procedural changes for monthly review of the WRIA 9 budget; revised strategy for updating the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan (Plan); review and approval of the 2017-2018 WRIA 9 budget, scope of work, and cost shares; presentation on the King County Open Space Initiative; and review and approval of the 2016 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) and Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) project lists.
- Updated the WRIA 9 2016 Federal/State Legislative Priorities.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) (May 26 and July 28).
- Attended one joint meeting of the Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board and PSSRC. Led a walking field tour for joint meeting attendees of three Duwamish Transition Zone projects in Tukwila: Duwamish Gardens, Chinook Wind, and North Winds Weir (June 8).
- Participated in four meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area LIO Caucus Group (May 4, June 1, July 6 and August 3).
- Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound Watershed Leads (May 12 and July 14) and one strategy workshop (June 15).
- Participated in one Floodplains by Design planning meeting on climate change (May 27).

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- Attended two meetings/workshops of the Green/Duwamish Watershed Strategy Advisory Group (May 4 and June 28).
- Briefed WRIA 9's new Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator from Puget Sound Partnership on recovery strategies, projects, and monitoring and adaptive management planning.
- 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

- Planned, coordinated, and conducted the 2016 Nearshore Boat Tour (NBT) (August 11). Attended by over 100 elected officials, federal, state and local administrators, business executives, citizens, and non-profits, the NBT featured several subject matter expert presentations and a moderated panel discussion on the importance of the Puget Sound nearshore and what is being done to protect and restore the nearshore in WRIA 9, showcasing several past and future nearshore restoration sites. The panel was moderated by Lynda Mapes of the Seattle Times; the NBT was hosted by the WEF and the King Conservation District (KCD).
- Completed the first draft of the WRIA 9 Riparian Revegetation Strategy.
- Scheduled and facilitated two meetings of the Implementation Technical Committee (ITC). Meeting topics included: schedule and approach for updating the WRIA 9 Plan; review of the draft Riparian Revegetation Strategy; update water quality conservation hypotheses; provide input to Seattle City Light on their proposed mitigation plan for their Technical Training Center along the Duwamish River, and King County's land conservation and preservation work plan (July 27 and August 31).
- Revised the strategy for updating the WRIA 9 Plan and presented it to the WEF (May 12).
- Worked on habitat plan update topics and technical summaries, including climate change, water quality, project prioritization, and fish use of habitat.
- Participated in the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) retreat to discuss Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) and Salmon Funding Recovery Board budget updates, overview of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife science program, and Recreation and Conservation Office policies and updates (June 8 and 9).
- Participated in two WebEx meetings of the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) Committee, a WSC subcommittee (June 13 and July 11), and updated thirteen projects in HWS.
- Reviewed WRIA 9 monitoring reports, including juvenile salmon productivity in the Middle Green, and Green River temperatures in summer 2015.
- Provided assistance to several cost-sharing city partners.

Capital Projects Implementation

- Met with the Army Corps of Engineers and King County on the habitat project cost estimating update of the remaining Green/Duwamish Ecosystem Restoration Projects (June 29).
- Assisted project sponsors with 2016 CWM grant applications. The WEF approved the following prioritized CWM list of projects/programs for \$1,642,105 at the May 12 meeting:
 - Revegetation Grant Round (\$250,000);
 - Porter Levee Setback (construction) – King County (\$88,942);
 - Van Doren's Park restoration (preliminary design) – King County (\$300,000);
 - Lowman Beach Seawall Removal (feasibility study) – City of Seattle (\$250,000);
 - Duwamish & Nearshore Landowner Outreach (WRIA 9) – (\$160,000);
 - Big Spring Creek Restoration (construction) – King County (\$80,000);

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- Teufel Nursery Off-Channel Rehabilitation (feasibility study) – King County (\$49,163):
- Improving Watershed Health Environmental Education – Environmental Science Center (\$30,000);
- 2016 Beach Naturalist Program – Seattle Aquarium (\$21,000)
- Capital Projects Implementation – WRIA 9 (\$132,000);
- 2016-2018 Habitat Plan Technical Assistance & Outreach – WRIA 9 (\$161,000);
- Green River Smolt Trap & Otolith Sampling – WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (\$85,000);
- Duwamish Chinook Rearing Analysis & Report – University of Washington (\$25,000); and
- Streamflow Gages in Duwamish – U.S. Geologic Survey (\$10,000).
- Attended and presented at one meeting of the Flood Control District (FCD) Board of Supervisors, who passed a resolution funding the 2016 CWM grants (July 11).
- Assisted project sponsors with 2016 SRFB/PSAR grant applications. The WEF approved the following prioritized SRFB/PSAR list of projects for \$1,339,128 at the May 12 meeting:
 - Porter Levee Setback (construction) – King County (\$238,058);
 - Riverton Creek Flapgate Removal (construction) – City of Tukwila (\$551,070);
 - Lones Levee Setback (construction) – King County (\$250,000); and
 - Maury Island Aquatic Reserve (acquisition) – King County (\$300,000).
- Obtained approval at the May 12 WEF meeting for a request from the City of Kent to use \$200,000 in returned KCD funds to help cover a cost increase in the construction bid for the Mill Creek-Leber Restoration project.
- Also obtained approval at the May 12 WEF meeting for the 2017-2019 PSAR Large Capacity project list:
 - Downey Farmstead Restoration – City of Kent (\$4,800,000);
 - Van Doren’s Park Restoration – King County FCD (\$5,700,000); and
 - McSorley Creek Pocket Estuary at Saltwater State Park – King County FCD (\$8,919,600).
- Added high priority Duwamish Blueprint sites to King County’s land conservation initiative map.
- Provided input regarding King County’s proposed Black River Lake-to-Sound trail alignment.
- Continued work on the Duwamish Riparian Revegetation CWM grant to restore native plants and trees along the Duwamish in Tukwila, including hiring a crew to weed invasive plants, and knotweed control by King County Noxious Weeds Control Program.
- Reviewed three Waterworks grant proposals for King County Wastewater Treatment Division.
- Distributed information to local governments about grant opportunities and assisted project sponsors with grant applications, including letters of support. These grant opportunities included Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program and Waterworks.

Communications & Outreach

- Attended and lectured at the Law Seminars International, Water Law in Washington Seminar, “Opportunities and challenges: impacts of major case law, water rights, supply planning, management strategies, and project permitting.” The WRIA 9 lecture, “Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed Salmon Habitat Plan: How it fits into the Shared Strategy, Federal and State Cooperation” received 22 excellent and good ratings by seminar attendees.
- Coordinated a seven-day educational opportunity for four college students from Japan.
- Fine-tuned the Communications Plan to align with the WRIA 9 Plan update
 - Sent out seven twice-monthly editions of The WRIA 9 Green/Duwamish newsletter, a.k.a The WIRE;
 - Continued work on branding for all marketing and outreach materials;
 - Updated 25 WRIA 9 project fact sheets;

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- Developed illegal water withdrawals page for WRIA 9 website; and
- Developed a Chinook Book ad for the 2016-2017 Chinook Book in partnership with WRIA 8.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/.
- Responded to one information request from a member of the public, Lisa Parsons of the Green River Gorge Greenway and Icy Creek.

Program Management and Administration

- Submitted a progress report and final billing to RCO for the first fiscal year of funding through the 2016-2018 Lead Entity contract.
- Met monthly with King County Water and Land Resources Finance staff to monitor WRIA 9's budget. In lieu of the MC meeting scheduled for July 27, provided the quarterly work program and budget report to MC members electronically.
- Conducted other general administrative work supporting implementation of the ILA, including work program development and monitoring, budget development, regular reporting, billing, personnel, and supervision.
- Held verbal and email progress discussions at and between WEF and MC meetings.
- Coordinated across WEF on several issues, including the PSP, PSSRC, and SRFB.
- Supervised work of ILA-supported staff.