

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9

May 1 to August 31, 2017

Overview:

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

- Recruiting the WRIA 9 Habitat Plan Manager/Miller-Walker Basin Steward position.
- 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.
- Attending the 2017 Puget Sound Day on the Hill in Washington DC to raise awareness of and seek congressional and administration support for Puget Sound's needs.
- Recruiting new WRIA 9 Planning and Stewardship Coordinator.
- Coordinating on the eleventh annual Salmon SEEs campaign to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation in WRIAs 8 and 9.
- Updating the WRIA 9 2017/2018 State and 2017 Federal 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 two meetings of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) (May 11 and August 10). Meeting topics included: Survey results of WEF meeting and agenda options; WRIA 9 Services Client Satisfaction Survey results; review of updated 2017-2018 Legislative Priorities; review and approval of Management Committee (MC) recommended WRIA 9 purpose statement; review and approval of the 2017 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) project lists; review and approval of the 2018 WRIA 9 budget, scope of work, and cost shares; overview of update to the WRIA 9 Strategic Assessment; and presentation on the Adaptive Management Framework for updating the Salmon Habitat Plan (Plan).
- Organized one meeting of the Management Committee (MC) (August 2).
- Updated the WRIA 9 2017/2018 State and 2017 Federal Legislative Priorities.
- Attended the 2017 Puget Sound Day-on-the-Hill in Washington D.C. to raise the awareness of national decision-makers about the issues Puget Sound faces and the innovative ways we are working together to address them (May 1 to 3).
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) (May 25 and July 27).
- Participated in one meeting of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area LIO Caucus Group (June 7).
- Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound Watershed Leads (May 11 and July 13).
- Attended annual conference and Lead Entity training in Chelan, WA (June 6 through 8).

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- Completed surveys to complete the Green/Duwamish Watershed Strategy Advisory Group project for the King County Executive and Mayor of Seattle.
- Coordinated with the federal Government Accounting Office on an audit of salmon restoration projects funded with federal dollars, including conducting a field tour of several sites (May 23).
- Coordinated with Seattle City Light and the Desimone Trust and others on project development at key sites in the Duwamish Transition Zone.
- Coordinated with cities on identification of open space needs that are consistent with the Salmon Habitat Plan as part of the County Land Conservation Initiative.
- Coordinated with King County Rivers and Floodplain Management on the update of the Salmon Habitat Plan and development of the Lower Green River Corridor Plan.
- 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

- Scheduled and attended two meetings of the Implementation Technical Committee (ITC). Meeting topics included: habitat plan goal setting and project funding updates (June 21 and July 19).
- 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) annual meeting, which included: Coordination with The Nature Conservancy on the Floodplains by Design program; information sharing with the Council of Regions, Regional Fisheries Coalition, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office/Recreation and Conservation Office, and Puget Sound Partnership; learned about RCO policy updates and discussed ways to better align grant programs; discussed the allocation subcommittee process and next steps and roles for WSC in continued funding conversations, the proposed LEAN study, and the Salmon Recovery Network; and received a presentation on FishViews (like Google maps but for rivers). One full day of the meeting was devoted to climate change topics, including case studies from watersheds around the state and discussion of how to integrate climate change considerations into local processes (June 6 to 8).
- Participated in one WebEx meeting of the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) Committee, a WSC subcommittee (July 10), and updated eight projects in HWS.
- Provided assistance to several cost-sharing city partners.

Capital Projects Implementation

- Assisted project sponsors with 2017 CWM grant applications. The WEF approved the following prioritized CWM list of projects/programs for \$1,642,105 at the May 11 meeting:
 - Downey Farmstead (construction) – City of Kent (\$882,799);
 - Frager Road Utility Relocation (construction) – City of Kent (\$120,000);
 - Lower Green River Acquisitions – WRIA 9/King County (\$250,000);
 - Education Program – Environmental Science Center (\$30,000);
 - 2017 Beach Naturalist Program – Seattle Aquarium (\$21,000)
 - 2018 Capital Projects Implementation – WRIA 9 (\$135,960);
 - 2018 Habitat Plan Technical Assistance & Outreach – WRIA 9 (\$89,000);
 - Otolith Microchemistry Sampling – WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) (50,000);
 - Middle Green River Smolt Trap & Otolith Sampling – WDFW (\$40,000); and
 - Chinook Use of Lower Green River Tributaries & Off Channel Habitat – King County (\$30,000).

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- Assisted City of Tukwila project sponsor with a 2017 grant application for up to \$295,895 in SRFB funds for the Riverton Creek Flapgate Removal Construction project, which was approved by the WEF at the May 11 meeting.
- Obtained approval at the May 11 WEF meeting for \$600,000 in potential returned PSAR funds for the Maury Island Aquatic Reserve Acquisition project (King County).
- Also obtained approval at the May 11 WEF meeting for a request from King County to use \$483,780 in returned KCD funds for the McSorley Creek Pocket Estuary at Saltwater State Park Armoring Removal project.
- Attended and presented at one meeting of the Flood Control District (FCD) Board of Supervisors, who passed a resolution funding the 2018 CWM grants (August 21).
- Distributed information to local governments about grant opportunities and assisted project sponsors with grant applications, including letters of support. These grant opportunities included Waterworks, Rose Foundation and Ecology's Terry Husseman Account.

Communications & Outreach

- Coordinated on the eleventh annual Salmon SEEson campaign to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation in WRIAs 8 and 9, adding a new viewing site at Tukwila Gardens for a total of six WRIA 9 locations.
- Coordinated with Sustainability Ambassadors to create a new curriculum and education lab for several school districts in the watershed (Green/Duwamish STEM Project Design Lab).
- Coordinated several outreach projects with the Green/Duwamish Urban Waters Federal Partnership.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/.
- Responded to information requests from members of the public, particularly on issues in the Federal Way area.

Program Management and Administration

- Recruiting the WRIA 9 Habitat Plan Manager/Miller-Walker Basin Steward position.
- Initiated recruitment of the shared WRIA 9 and 8 administrative support position.
- Submitted a progress report and final billing to RCO for the second year of funding through the 2016-2017 Lead Entity contract.
- Met monthly with King County Water and Land Resources Finance staff to monitor WRIA 9's budget.
- 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.