

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9

May 1 to August 31, 2018

Overview:

Cost-shared services during the second trimester of 2018 focused on:

- Coordinating regional conversations on H-integration with NOAA, WDFW, and Puget Sound Partnership.
- Developing 2019 state and federal WRIA 9 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Supporting project sponsors in developing funding strategies and requests for habitat projects.
- Obtaining Management Committee (MC) and Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) approval for WRIA 9 2019 budget and work plan and provisional approval for WRIA 9 2020 budget.
- 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.
- Obtaining WEF approval of \$2,620,855 in grant funding from the WRIA 8 King County Flood Control District (KCFCD) Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM), Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR), and Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) programs.
- Drafting comments on NOAA Fisheries' Notice of Intent to draft an Environmental Impact Statement analyzing the effects of the Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Resource Management Plan; on the King County Flood Control District Lower Green River Corridor Plan; to Department of Ecology in support of King County's voluntary watershed alternative approach to stormwater management under the Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit; and to the co-chairs of the Governor's Orca Task Force highlighting the critical importance of habitat restoration strategies to increase Chinook salmon abundance and productivity.
- Coordinating integration of ongoing Habitat Plan Update with Lower Green River Corridor Planning process.
- Drafting letters of support for partner projects and programs.

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

- Scheduled and staffed two meetings of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) (May 10 and August 9). Meeting topics included: Discussion and decision on recommendation for commemoration of Mayor Joan McGilton; discussion on Duwamish-Green Hatcheries Draft Environmental Impact Statement for 10 salmon and steelhead hatchery programs and WRIA 9's involvement with H-integration; approval of WRIA 9 2019 budget and work plan and provisional approval of 2020 budget; approval of WRIA 9 capital project and program priorities for 2018; briefing of WRIA 9 middle school curriculum program; approval of WRIA 9 2019 state and federal legislative priorities; approval of WRIA 9 letter to Orca Task Force; discussion of Lower Green River Corridor Planning; presentation on multijurisdictional approach to regional stormwater retrofit planning; and presentations on Howard Hanson Dam flow management and implications to salmon recovery.
- Scheduled and staffed two meetings of the Management Committee (MC) (May 1 and July 25).

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- Developed 2019 state and federal WRIA 9 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) (May 31 and July 26).
 - May meeting focus: Discussion and approval of Puget Sound Rapid Response for Salmon Fund; approval of a proposal by the Hood Canal Coordinating Council to shift Lead Entity capacity funds from a Chinook recovery focus to Summer Chum recovery in an effort to remove Summer Chum from being listed under the Endangered Species Act; update and feedback to the Environmental Protection Agency on National Estuary Program funding allocation and guidance; discussion on Puget Sound Partnership's "Beyond 2020 Vision" proposal; and discussion on reevaluating regional salmon recovery approach and priorities.
 - July meeting focus: Presentations on the Hood Canal Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan and the Governor's Orca Task Force; discussion of recommendations for 'bold actions' to focus and accelerate salmon recovery in Puget Sound; and updates from Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) on "Puget Sound Day on the Hill" highlights and PSP's 'mobilizing funding' request for proposals to hire a contractor to reinvigorate the Foundation for Puget Sound as a means to solicit private funding for Puget Sound recovery.
- Participated in two meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (May 10 and July 12).
 - May meeting focus: Examples of coordination success; updates on PSAR program; review of Lead Entity Roles and Responsibilities; and review of Lead Entity draft Scope of Work template.
 - July meeting focus: Salmon Day on the Hill; updates on Washington Salmon Coalition; update on Orca Task Force's Prey Availability Work Group; update on PSAR & SRFB large capital projects review; 4-Year Work Plans; feasibility and assessment projects in 2019; and Rapid Response Revolving Fund.
- Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (May 2 and July 11).
 - May meeting focus: Near-term action (NTA) development and review process; deep dive on watershed-based stormwater planning; and deep dive discussion on funding innovations.
 - July meeting focus: Update on regional NTA review and Action Agenda; update on Puget Sound Day on the Hill; update on Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force; discussion on Local Integrating Organization (LIO) restructuring; and discussion of opportunities for 2018 work plan implementation.
- Coordinated with Seattle City Light and the Desimone Trust and others on project development at key sites in the Duwamish Transition Zone.
- Participated in tour and discussions of Black River Pump Station.
- Coordinated regional conversations on H-integration with NOAA, WDFW, and Puget Sound Partnership.
- Attended Congressional Staff tour of Tacoma Headworks Dam, Howard Hanson Dam, and Soos Creek Hatchery (August 13).
- Attended the August 28 meeting of the Orca Task Force.
- Coordinated with cities and the County 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.

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- Provided information to all jurisdictions equally.

WRIA Plan Implementation

- Scheduled and attended three meetings of the Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) (May 16, June 20, and July 18).
 - Meeting topics included: updates on WRIA 9's involvement with H-integration; updates on CWM project and monitoring funding; updates on revegetation grants; update on Marine Shoreline Project; update on Tukwila's Re-Green the Green revegetation project; discussion on Lower Green River Corridor Planning; summary of Habitat Plan Update workshop; and overview and discussion on watershed wide policies and programs.
- Coordinated integration of ongoing Habitat Plan Update with Lower Green River Corridor Planning process.
- Participated in one WebEx meeting of the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) Committee, a HWS training (August 15) and updated sixteen projects in HWS.
- Reviewed and shared high rankings for the following WRIA 9 Near Term Actions (NTAs) to Puget Sound Partnership: Risk of recontamination for restored salmon habitat in the Duwamish Estuary; Effects of PCB exposure on juvenile Chinook salmon survival; Puget Sound Teacher Fellows Program; Howard Hanson Dam Downstream Fish Passage Facility facilitation and coordination; Duwamish Estuary acquisitions; and Duwamish Basin Steward.
- Provided assistance to several cost-sharing city partners.

Capital Projects Implementation

- Obtained WEF approval of \$2,620,855 in grant funding from the WRIA 8 King County Flood Control District (KCFCD) Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM), Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR), and Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) programs.
- Presented final CWM grant applications to King County Flood Control District.
- Distributed information to local governments about grant opportunities and assisted project sponsors with grant applications, including letters of support.
- Conducted site visits to McSorley Creek and Vashon and Maury Islands for Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) grant projects.
- Participated in ESRP reviews (August 20 and August 24).

Communications & Outreach

- Drafted letters of support for partner groups' projects and programs aligning with WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan (Downey Farmstead Restoration Project Phase 2; Judd Creek Estuary Enhancement Project; Paradise Valley LWD, Judd Creek Habitat Enhancement Small Habitat Restoration Project; McSorley Creek Shoreline and Pocket Estuary Restoration Project; and Maury Island Aquatic Reserve Armoring Removal Phase 3).
- Submitted scoping comments on NOAA Fisheries' Notice of Intent to draft an Environmental Impact Statement analyzing the effects of the Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Resource Management Plan.
- Submitted pre-scoping comments on the King County Flood Control District Lower Green River Corridor Plan.
- Submitted comments to the Washington State Department of Ecology in support of King County's voluntary watershed alternative approach to stormwater management under the Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit.

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- Sent a letter to the co-chairs of the Governor's Orca Task Force highlighting the critical importance of habitat restoration strategies to increase Chinook salmon abundance and productivity.
- Worked with several ILA Parties and WEF members on WEF membership and representation.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/.
- Responded to information request from members of the public.

Program Management and Administration

- Met monthly with King County Water and Land Resources Finance staff to monitor WRIA 9's budget.
- Developed draft WRIA 9 budget options and work plan for Management Committee review and WEF approval.
- 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.