

WRIA 8 Update

May 17, 2012

- **Green Shorelines Steering Committee to be named a Puget Sound Champion** – Puget Sound Partnership sent WRIA 8 a notice yesterday that the Green Shorelines Steering Committee is being named a 2012 Puget Sound Champion. The award will be given on Monday, June 11th at noon, during the South Central Caucus Group meeting being held at the Renton City Hall Chambers. Martha Kongsgaard will represent the Leadership Council, along with Gerry O’Keefe, Executive Director of the Partnership.
- **Trees for Streams Workshop** – Held workshop on May 15 at UW Bothell. About 50 people attended. There was lots of energy and enthusiasm in the room. Presentations included tips for persuasive communications and short presentations by seven local governments and NGOs about successful programs that engage streamside landowners. We scheduled lots of time for networking, including facilitated lunch discussions on specific topics and brainstorming on a potential Trees for Streams grant. Brainstorming results: people are interested in a coordinated, multi-layer campaign to develop consistent branding and marketing, create outreach and education tools that all could use, and fund existing programs that work.

Evaluation results:

- 92% said workshop was useful or extremely useful (4 or 5 on a scale of 1-5)
 - 60% said it improved their capacity to work with streamside landowners
 - 81% said they were planning to work with streamside landowners to encourage them to plant or protect trees
 - 96% said they made connections that will be helpful to them in their future work
- **Puget Sound Regional Update – The adoption of the Puget Sound Action Agenda Update by the Puget Sound Leadership Council has been delayed until late August.** The steps that remain before the Puget Sound Leadership Council adoption of the Action Agenda are conducting a final, focused review of the near-term actions, completing the content of the strategic initiatives and prioritization. The Puget Sound Partnership will post a matrix describing changes that were made to the Action Agenda as a result of public comments will be on their website in May. In response to requests for a shorter, simplified version of the Action Agenda, the final document will be divided into Book 1 and Book 2. Book 1 includes strategic initiatives and a high level summary of the rest of the Action Agenda and a table of near-term actions; Book 2 provides the detailed Action Agenda with the strategies, sub-strategies, ongoing programs, local profiles, targets, etc. Currently on the PSP website is an April draft of “Book 2”. **The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council will meet on May 31. The South Central Action Area Caucus will meet on June 11.**
 - **Grant Update**
 - Salmon Recovery Funding Board / Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (SRFB/PSAR) 2012 grant round includes six project proposals for roughly \$745,000 in grant funding (\$400,000 in SRFB and \$345,000 in PSAR). Project Subcommittee to conduct site visits and proposal review meeting on May 30 to develop funding recommendations for Salmon Recovery Council consideration at July 19 meeting.
 - Project Subcommittee reviewed and recommended King County move forward with a proposed King Conservation District grant scope change amendment to shift grant funds

- from a 2007 Cottage Lake Creek Acquisition grant that was unable to move forward to a priority acquisition of streamside riparian property in the lower Bear Creek basin.
 - Issaquah Integrated Fish Passage Project received \$4 million through the 2012 State Supplemental Budget to implement the project in 2013.
 - City of Redmond received a work permit to move the Lower Bear Creek Restoration project forward, with restoration work planned to begin in 2013. At their last meeting, the Redmond City Council unanimously approved an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers to implement their plan for recovery of onsite cultural resources, which had delayed the project for almost three years.
- **Williams Pipeline Crossing of Cedar River** – On Wednesday, May 16, Williams Northwest Pipeline held a meeting of permitting agencies and key stakeholders, including WRIA 8 and King County to discuss the conceptual design for their preferred alignment, permitting requirements, project schedule, and to identify potential risks and other information they should consider. Their preferred alignment now is adjacent to the existing pipeline crossing (not the Rainbow Bend future restoration site). In order to cross the Cedar River at this site, the project will involve open cut excavation of a trench to bury the new pipe and will likely involve having to close the river for up to 48 hours and close the Cedar River Trail for a period of time. Williams Northwest Pipeline plans to submit permit applications in June 2012 and expects to go to construction in August 2013. The WRIA 8 team will continue to track this issue.

WRIA 8 Committee Reports

- **WRIA 8 Technical Committee** – Met on April 4 and May 9. Worked on project prioritization and ranking protocols for grant funding and overall prioritization. Discussed fish in/fish out monitoring priorities and triage in light of KCD grant round cancellation. Discussed and approved 3 Year Work Plan narrative.
- **WRIA 8 Implementation Committee** – Met on Apr. 10 and May 8. The committee discussed: 2013 WRIA 8 budget projections, the May 15 Trees for Streams Workshop, draft criteria for outreach and education grant proposals, the King County Floodplan update, the King Conservation District update, the recommendations of WRIA 8 Management Committee meeting, the narrative of WRIA 8 challenges for the Three Year Workplan Update and preparation for the May 17 Salmon Recovery Council meeting.
- **Green Shorelines** – The Green Shorelines blog now has 10 posts, 131 followers and over 2,000 views. Latest post is a video called “Young salmon and shorelines” in which fisheries scientist Roger Tabor describes his research on what young salmon need along shorelines.
 - Green Shorelines Steering Committee met on April 16. Among the agenda items: Ecology will have a Coastal Fellow working on green shorelines for two years beginning in September.
 - Green Shores for Homes held the first meeting of its technical committee. This EPA-funded project is developing a rating system similar to LEED for residential shoreline projects and incentives that local governments could use to encourage green shorelines.
 - The South Central Action Area Caucus has started research on SMP updates. This will include an inventory of status of local SMP programs, barriers to implementation, approved incentives, and inventory of shoreline setbacks.