

WRIA 8 Update

July 19, 2012

- **Puget Sound Regional Update** – The **Puget Sound Action Agenda (AA) update** is still in process. Comments were due on July 10 on “Book 1” which summarizes high priority actions to be taken in the next two years related to the three strategic initiatives of: Prevention of pollution from urban stormwater runoff; Protection and restoration of habitat; and Recovery of shellfish beds. WRIA 8 staff has participated in the technical ranking of sub-strategies to be considered as near term actions and the subcommittee that drafted near term actions related to habitat. The tribes sent comments on the habitat strategic initiative after it was released for public comment. There is a meeting tomorrow to discuss how the tribal input compares to the committee work on the habitat strategic initiative. WRIA 8 staff will attend. Key dates for the AA update: the Ecosystem Coordination Board meets July 25, the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council meets July 26 and the Puget Sound Leadership Council will adopt final AA Update on Aug. 8.

The Governor appointed a **new Executive Director to the Puget Sound Partnership**, Col. Anthony Wright, retired commander of the Seattle District of the Army Corps of Engineers.

The **Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council** met on May 31 and discussed the AA Update, the federal response to the tribal treaty rights at risk paper and a fall implementation status conference. The **South Central AA Caucus** met on June 11 and discussed the ECB funding subcommittee recommendations, AA Update and EPA funding for Puget Sound.

- **King Conservation District (KCD) Public Hearing & Board Meeting** – The KCD will hold a public hearing on **Monday, July 23 at 6:15PM** at the at the District office located at 1107 SW Grady Way in Renton. There will be a presentation of their new proposed system of rates and charges and an opportunity for public comment. The KCD is in the process of developing a proposal for their 2013 workplan which is due to King County Council on Aug. 1, 2012.
- **Salmon SEEson** – Promotional material for the fifth annual WRIA 8 campaign to promote salmon viewing opportunities throughout the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed will be available soon. Salmon can be seen from July to January at eight different locations in the watershed. Please look for email with details on how you can help promote this program.
- **Brazilian Elodea Removal Project** – The Washington Department of Natural Resources has given King County ten days of diving time to remove the aquatic weed Brazilian Elodea from the Sammamish River. The work to hand pull these weeds will start around August 7, 2012. The King County River Management program will do outreach to neighboring residents and businesses about the weed removal. King County is also working with the Sammamish River Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan Stakeholder Group to develop a plan to address regulated noxious weeds in the Sammamish River. It will include an appendix of best practices for addressing non-regulated noxious weeds (Eurasian watermilfoil, knotweed, Himalayan blackberry). The final plan is due to the Department of Ecology on June 30, 2013. There will be a public hearing on the plan in April 2013.
- **King County Conservation Futures 2013 Recommendations** – The Citizens Committee recommendations for Conservation Futures Levy and the King County Parks Expansion Levy include the following WRIA 8 projects: North Creek Forest (21 acres, Bothell), Issaquah Creek Waterways (12 acres, Issaquah), Bear Creek Waterways (20 acres, King County), Lower Cedar

River – Riverbend (18 acres, King County). The recommendations also include acquisition of a boater parking/take out location on the lower Cedar River near the future Cedar River Rainbow Bend Floodplain Restoration Project.

- **Williams Pipeline Crossing of Cedar River** – Williams Northwest Pipeline will be holding a public meeting on July 30 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Renton at 7p.m. It will be a public scoping meeting related to their environmental assessment for their Federal Energy Regulatory Commission application. Scott Stolnack will attend for WRIA 8. Their preferred alignment now is adjacent to the existing pipeline crossing just upstream of the Belmondo Reach Natural Area parking lot (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.
- **Grants Update** – Earlier this spring, the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee considered and recommended four King County grant amendments to reallocate grant funds from projects that were unable to be implemented or could not currently use existing funds to priority projects in need of funding.

The King Conservation District Board of Supervisors approved two grant amendments:

- 1) Shift funds from the 2007 Cottage Lake Creek Acquisition grant that could not be implemented to a priority acquisition on Lower Bear Creek.
- 2) Re-scope the 2009 WRIA 8 Beach Nourishment grant to scale back the scope from developing conceptual designs for four beach nourishment alternatives to focus on the upfront information synthesis and analysis to support future development of project designs.

The Recreation and Conservation Office approved two Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant amendments with King County:

- 1) Shift remaining funds (approximately \$100,000) from the 2008 Lower Cedar Acquisitions project, which is complete, to support funding for Riverbend Acquisition project on the Cedar River.
- 2) Shift currently unused funds (approximately \$450,000) from the 2010 Elliott Bridge Reach Acquisition grant to the Riverbend Acquisition project on the Cedar River.

WRIA 8 Committee Reports

- **WRIA 8 Technical Committee** – Met on June 6 in a joint meeting with the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee. Heard grant proposal presentations from Salmon Watchers and Issaquah Confluence Parks/Issaquah Creek Restoration 30%-50% design review. Discussed summer projects, including Recovery Implementation Technical Team Monitoring and Adaptive Management framework document.
- **WRIA 8 Implementation Committee** – Met on July 10. The committee discussed: the project subcommittee's grant recommendations, Puget Sound Partnership's strategy for PSAR request, the Salmon Trails and Tails ecotourism website being developing by the Skagit watershed for all of Puget Sound and preparation for the July 19 Salmon Recovery Council meeting.
- **Green Shorelines** – The Green Shorelines blog now has 12 posts, 150 followers and over 2,500 views. The two latest posts: 1) a new book, *Wolf Bauer's Inland Sea*, is now available; 2) a video

with Joanna Buehler, a Lake Sammamish landowner, about changes she made to her shoreline property.

- We revised two green shorelines brochures that were mailed to all shoreline property owners on Lakes Washington and Sammamish two years ago. We're mailing them in July and August to people who bought shoreline property on the two lakes in the last two years, about 625 properties.
- We're planning workshops on shorelines for real estate agents and architects.
- We're working on fact sheets on green shoreline topics for permit staff to give to landowners when they apply for shoreline permits.