

MEMORANDUM

November 3, 2016

TO: WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum

FR: Doug Osterman, WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Manager

RE: **WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum Meeting— Thursday, November 10, 2016, 4 to 6:30 p.m., Renton City Hall**

The next meeting of the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) is Thursday, November 10, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., at **Renton City Hall, Council Chambers**. A map and driving instructions are located at: [Directions to Renton City Hall](#).

Please RSVP to Linda Grob at either 206-477-4704 or linda.grob@kingcounty.gov by Tuesday, November 8, to enable us to have a head count for refreshments and quorum purposes.

The key agenda items are:

Duwamish River Shallow Water Habitat Creation

Dr. Lynn Best, Chief Environmental Officer, Seattle City Light, is providing an overview of City Light's effort to create shallow water habitat at the City Light North (CLN) property. The CLN property is identified as a high-priority habitat restoration opportunity (Duw-11) to increase shallow water habitat in the Duwamish Transition Zone. City Light is considering building a training facility on a portion of the site and is working with King County, WRIA 9, and many other agencies and stakeholders on a mitigation plan that would be consistent with and potentially help achieve the habitat restoration goals in the Duwamish Transition Zone. At its November 14, 2014 meeting, the WEF approved the Duwamish Blueprint as an amendment to the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan. At this time, the WEF was apprised of the possibility that a training center would be built at the CLN site, which includes Hamm Creek, a tributary to the Duwamish. Dr. Best will update the WEF on City Light's efforts to develop a mitigation plan that maximizes the ability to create shallow water habitat at CLN.

WRIA 9 2017/18 State Legislative Priorities and 2017 Congressional Priorities

The Management Committee is recommending WEF approval of the WRIA 9 Legislative Priorities and that each of the WRIA 9 partner jurisdictions and other WEF members consider including the WRIA 9 Legislative Priorities in their individual federal and state priorities. For more information, please review the attached email memorandum I sent to the WEF on August 31 following the Nearshore Boat Tour in which the draft WRIA 9 Priorities were distributed. The WEF-approved Legislative Priorities will be distributed to each WEF member, together with other supporting information (map of capital project sites and fact sheets) that can be used when briefing state and federal elected and administrative officials and when attending legislative and congressional hearings.

Restructuring the South Central Action Area Caucus Group/Local Integrating Organization

WRIA 9 is one of three watersheds included in the geography of the "South Central Action Area, Local Implementing Organization" which was formed by the Puget Sound Partnership, along with several others in the Sound, to prioritize long- and near-term actions to cleanup Puget Sound (including salmon recovery actions). A multi-stakeholder group that is led by King County meets periodically to make decisions about project and program priority actions across the three watersheds. In response to recent and growing concerns about the value of the Caucus Group to implementing actions in these three watersheds, the Chair of the Caucus Group, King County Deputy Executive Fred Jarrett, prepared a discussion "straw dog" paper for discussion among entities and

participants. The principle tenant of the paper is implementation and funding in largely urban area of the Sound that have existing locally-based decision making/governance structures may be enhanced by structuring the Caucus Group around WRIAs.

Following is a snapshot of the recent Management Committee discussion on Mr. Jarrett's paper and the approach it recommends to the WEF for review and analysis of the paper's concepts that could affect WRIA 9: *The Management Committee will study the issue in a work session and make a recommendation to the Watershed Ecosystem Forum, probably not until the Spring at the soonest. The recommendation that the Management Committee study the issue will be taken to the WEF at its November 10th meeting in which Deputy Executive Jarrett is attending to directly overview his restructuring ideas.*

Habitat Plan Update Decision—Water Quality Conservation Hypotheses

Recent studies since 2005 show that contaminants and water temperature in the Green/Duwamish River are at levels high enough to negatively affect Chinook survival. Jim West reported on contaminants at the November 12, 2015 Forum meeting, and there are two temperature TMDL reports completed and one in progress for WRIA 9. The 2005 Salmon Habitat Plan gave water quality a medium level priority because it was not clear it was having a negative effect on Chinook. With this new information, the WRIA 9 Implementation Technical Committee recommends 1) adding a new Tier 1 conservation hypothesis for temperature and contaminants, and 2) revising the original water quality conservation hypothesis.

Habitat Plan Update Decision—Re-Green the Green Riparian Revegetation Strategy

WRIA 9 convened an 8-member work group to develop a strategy to attract additional funding for riparian tree planting in the places most in need of shade and native trees. The [Re-Green the Green: Riparian Revegetation Strategy](#) includes a list and map of priority areas for riparian tree planting, cost estimates, and an interactive, online map for tracking progress. The strategy has a target of replanting over 2,300 acres by 2025 where landowners are willing. This project would improve salmon habitat over time by shading the river and increasing native trees that contribute food, shelter, and other habitat benefits. The WEF is asked to approve this strategy as a new high priority project in the Salmon Habitat Plan.

Meeting Packet materials include:

1. Agenda
2. May 11, 2016 Meeting Summary
3. Slides of the presentation on Duwamish River Shallow Water Habitat at NCL property
4. Management Committee Recommended Legislative/Congressional Priorities
5. Discussion paper on restructuring the South Central Action Area Caucus Group Local Integration Organization
6. Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) Recommended Water Quality Conservation Hypotheses
7. ITC Recommended Executive Summary of the Re-Green the Green Riparian Revegetation Strategy for WRIA 9
8. 2017 WEF and Management Committee meeting schedule

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting, and those in 2017! Please contact me with questions.

Doug Osterman, AICP

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