

MEMORANDUM

May 4, 2017

TO: WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum

FR: Doug Osterman, WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Manager

RE: **WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum Meeting— Thursday, May 11, 2017, 4 to 6:30 p.m., Renton City Hall**

The next meeting of the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) is Thursday, May 11, 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, May 9, to enable us to have a head count for refreshments and quorum purposes.

This is a major capital project decision meeting—a quorum is required.

The key agenda items are:

Survey Results of WEF Meeting and Agenda Options

The WEF considered and took a vote on meeting time options at its February meeting. The tally of votes is included with the meeting packet. A considerable majority of members indicated support for keeping the meetings from 4:00 to 6:30, or for no change. However, commencing at its May 2017 meeting, the WEF agendas will have only one public comment period at the beginning of meetings pursuant to the WEF's preference.

WRIA 9 Services Client Satisfaction Survey 2016

As it has done for the past several years, King County conducted a client satisfaction survey of WRIA 9 services in 2016, the report of which is included in the packet. As usual, the survey results demonstrate a high level of satisfaction with WRIA 9 services, in fact an uptick in satisfaction over previous years.

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

Included in the packet is an updated table comparing the Governor, Agency, Senate, and House capital budget proposals with WRIA 9's requested amounts of funding. In every case, the Senate and House proposed appropriations to the primary funding programs that benefit WRIA 9 are less than the Agency's, Governor's and WRIA 9's requests. The biggest disappointment, which will surely negatively impact implementation of the WRIA 9 Plan, is that not a single capital project for which WRIA 9 requested funding was included in either the House or Senate capital budgets. This, together with the lower amounts for capital funding programs than requested and the reduction of Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant funding to Puget Sound (as discussed at the last MC meeting), presents a significant hurdle to implementing the Plan over the next two years.

The WEF-approved Legislative Priorities packet, containing the Federal and State Priorities, fact sheets for each of the State Capital Budget requests, and maps depicting the priority shade areas of the Re-Green the Green project is on the WRIA 9 website: [Legislative Priorities](#).

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

Deputy County Executive Fred Jarrett attended the November 10, 2016 meeting of the WEF to explain his rationale for considering restructuring the process for prioritizing long- and near-term actions to clean up Puget Sound,

including salmon recovery actions, across the three watersheds in the South Central Action Area (WRIAs 9, 8, and 10). The principle question he raised is, “Can the WRIAs with existing locally- and watershed-based decision making and governance structures, such as WRIA 9, more efficiently and effectively prioritize and implement the actions necessary to cleanup Puget Sound?” The MC discussed restructuring at its January meeting and at its April meeting completed a purpose statement of WRIA 9 so that the implications of restructuring can be assessed. The purpose statement is included with the packet of materials. The WEF will be asked to approve the purpose statement.

2017 Priority Implementation of Habitat Capital Projects and Programs

A primary WEF-function is annually approving a prioritized list of habitat capital projects (included in the Salmon Habitat Plan) to implement. Karen Bergeron will present the WEF with a proposed list of projects and programs to fund over the next year using Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) and SRFB grants to WRIA 9. The staff-proposed list of capital projects is included with the packet, with accompanying project descriptions. Also included with the packet is a table depicting the portfolio of WRIA 9 habitat capital projects that are ready to implement, but are held up by lack of funding. The table highlights that the amount of funding WRIA 9 receives from all funding sources is an order of magnitude less than that needed to implement the Plan, with a total funding need of \$68 million needed for “shovel ready” projects.

Salmon Recovery Manager Report

A brief written report (that delves into agenda items to a larger degree and provides information on other activities of the watershed) is included with the meeting packet materials.

The attached Meeting Packet materials include:

1. Agenda
2. February 9, 2017 Meeting Summary
3. WEF Meeting Survey Results
4. State Capital Budget Table
5. MC-recommended WRIA 9 Purpose Statement
6. 2017 CWM Funding Recommendations
7. 2017 SRFB Recommended Projects
8. WRIA 9 Project Portfolio
9. Salmon Recovery Manager Report
10. 2017 WEF/MC Meeting Schedule

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Please contact me with questions.

Doug Osterman, AICP

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Making Our Watershed Fit for a King