

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)

Project Subcommittee Report

Cooperative Watershed Management Grant (CWMG) Program 2012 Grant Round

Project Subcommittee Members:

- Hans Berge (King County)
- Councilmember Don Fiene (City of Lake Forest Park, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council)
- Peter Holte (City of Redmond)
- Kirk Lakey (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council, Recovery Implementation Technical Team)
- Kathy Minsch (City of Seattle)
- Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (Subcommittee Chair, WRIA 8 Actions and Funding Coordinator)
- Kerry Ritland (City of Issaquah)
- Jessica Saavedra (King Conservation District)
- Scott Stolnack (WRIA 8 Technical Committee Chair)

2012 Funds and WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Funding Guidance: In 2012, the King County Flood Control District made a total of \$1.2 million available for a WRIA 8 Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Program. These funds serve to backfill for funding provided in past years through the King Conservation District (KCD), but which KCD was unable to make available in 2012 due to legal issues pertaining to its assessment. WRIA 8 received 14 proposals for a total request of \$2,205,458, leaving a shortfall of approximately \$1,005,458 (Table 1). At the May 17 WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meeting, the SRC recommended allocating the \$1.2 million as follows (see Table 1):

- 1) Site-specific restoration and acquisition: approximately 67% (\$804,000)
- 2) Monitoring: approximately 25% (\$300,000)
- 3) Education and public outreach: approximately 8% (96,000)

Table 1. Summary of 2012 WRIA 8 CWMG Funds			
2012 Total CWMG Funds	\$1,200,000		
Site-Specific Project Allocation	\$804,000		
Monitoring Allocation	\$300,000		
Public Outreach and Education Allocation	\$96,000		
	Total Cost	Total Request	Total Matching Funds
Total Proposal Costs, Requests, and Match	\$11,001,341	\$2,205,458	\$8,795,883
Shortfall of funds		Shortfall (\$1,005,458)	

Project Eligibility and Matching Funds: For CWMG funding, projects must be within King County and be on the WRIA 8 Plan 10-Year Start-list of actions or be consistent with priorities identified in the monitoring chapter. Proposals for site-specific habitat acquisition and restoration projects are evaluated using criteria that assess relative benefit to Chinook and certainty of success. Priority is given to projects in the Cedar River and Tier I priority areas of the watershed, including the Cedar River, Migratory areas, and naturally spawning Sammamish population areas. Proposals for monitoring are evaluated according to criteria that assess consistency with WRIA 8 monitoring priorities, scale of usefulness, and value of data. Program proposals are evaluated using criteria that assess consistency with WRIA 8 Start List outreach and education priorities, clarity of scope and objectives, extent and quality of outreach and/or education, and audience and messages. Match funds are not required for CWMG grants.

WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Process: The WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee is charged with reviewing project proposals and developing funding recommendations for Salmon Recovery Council consideration. To review project proposals the Project Subcommittee received the following: 1) copies of the CWMG proposals, 2) grant criteria, narrative guidance for applying criteria, and scoring sheets, and 3) conflict of interest statement. On July 2, Project Subcommittee members visited five site-specific projects and heard five proposal presentations. On July 3, the Subcommittee heard the remaining three proposal presentations, followed by a review/scoring meeting to develop funding recommendations. Project Subcommittee members used individual scores to help develop a single, consensus-based score for each proposal, which served as the foundation for Subcommittee discussion to develop funding recommendations.

Summaries of the Subcommittee's funding recommendations are provided in the Tables 2-4 for site-specific projects, public outreach and education, and monitoring, respectively. Following each table are project descriptions, in rank order, with highlights from the Subcommittee discussions.

Table 2. WRIA 8 CWMG 2012 Grants - Summary of Site-Specific Project Funding Recommendations					
Rank	Proposal Name, Plan #, and Sponsor	Total Project Cost	Amount of Request	Matching Funds	Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendation
1	<i>Riverbend Acquisition (Cedar River)</i> Plan #: C219 King County	\$6,834,000	\$750,000	6,084,000	\$750,000
2	<i>Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action: Focus on Invasives</i> Plan #: C005A Seattle Public Utilities	\$134,400	\$67,200	\$67,200	\$61,312
	Subtotals for Projects Recommended for Funding	\$6,968,400	\$817,200	\$6,151,200	\$811,312
3	ALTERNATE 1: Confluence Parks/Issaquah Creek Restoration (Issaquah Creek) Plan #: I211; I213; I282; I283 City of Issaquah	\$1,404,952	\$400,000	\$1,004,952	Alternate project to be funded if a project recommended for funding cannot be implemented
4	ALTERNATE 2: Lower Lewis Creek Restoration (Lake Sammamish) Plan #: new Kokanee and Chinook benefit project #s TBD City of Issaquah	\$325,000	\$200,000	\$125,000	Alternate project to be funded if a project recommended for funding cannot be implemented
5	ALTERNATE 3: Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action: Focus on Invasives Plan #: C005A King County	See above	Fund balance of full request above (\$5,889)	See above	Alternate project to be funded if a project recommended for funding cannot be implemented

6	ALTERNATE 4: <i>Beaux Arts Shoreline Restoration (Lake Washington)</i> <i>Plan #: C288B</i> Western Academy of Beaux Arts	\$115,454	\$113,353	\$2,101	Alternate project to be funded if a project recommended for funding cannot be implemented
7	ALTERNATE 5: <i>Upper Bear Creek Re-vegetation</i> <i>Plan #: N276</i> King County	\$77,264	\$49,392	\$27,872	Alternate project to be funded if a project recommended for funding cannot be implemented
8	Tosh Creek Realignment and Culvert Replacement (tributary to Sammamish River) <i>Plan #: N362</i> City of Redmond	\$1,220,000	\$120,000	\$1,100,000	\$0
9	Issaquah Creek Riparian Enhancement <i>Plan #: I248; I250</i> King Conservation District	\$433,650	\$66,595	\$367,055	\$0
Subtotals for Alternate Projects		\$3,576,320	\$949,340	\$2,626,980	
TOTALS		\$10,544,720	\$1,766,540	\$8,778,180	\$811,312
Recommended Allocation Target (approx. 67% of total)			\$804,000		
Shortfall to requests and amount recommended over target			Shortfall (\$962,540)		\$7,312 (amount recommended over 67% target, which came from remaining funds in monitoring and public outreach and education categories)

Site-Specific Project Descriptions and Project Subcommittee Review Comments

Note: Projects listed in rank order

1. Riverbend Acquisition (Cedar River)

King County

This grant will enable King County to acquire a 18.6 acre property along the Cedar River in Maple Valley for future floodplain and salmon habitat restoration. Acquiring this property fills a gap in significant public ownership and habitat along the left bank of the Cedar River between the Elliot Bridge Reach and Belmondo Natural Area, and is adjacent to the Cedar Rapids floodplain restoration site. The Riverbend mobile home park is currently located on the property, and has experienced significant flooding. Through acquisition and eventual restoration of the property, King County seeks to restore habitat and reduce flood risk by relocating residents. Additional funding is necessary for relocating residents and habitat restoration.

Discussion: The Subcommittee recognized the value of this property as a link between existing areas of public ownership, as well as for the potential future restoration opportunities it provides. The property is in a critical location along the Cedar River that builds on past acquisition and restoration investments. It is rare to have the opportunity to acquire such a large property from one owner, and it is crucial for King County to acquire the property at this time as the owner intends to sell the property if the county is unable to purchase it. The Subcommittee discussed concerns with the relatively high cost of acquiring the property (approximately \$6.8 million). It was noted that King County will need additional funds to complete restoration, including an estimated \$6 million to relocate existing residents. However, the Subcommittee acknowledged that there are multiple funding sources contributing substantially to the acquisition and the significance of anticipated habitat benefits of acquiring and restoring the property for salmon recovery outweigh concerns about the cost. Furthermore, this may be a once in a generation opportunity to acquire this property for future large-scale floodplain restoration and flood management. The project sponsor noted that this proposal represents the final grant funding needed to enable the acquisition to proceed. The Subcommittee also recommended funding this acquisition with \$299,000 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds in the 2012 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)/PSAR grant round, for a total combined WRIA 8 2012 grant round recommendation of \$1,050,000.

Recommend - \$750,000 (100% of request)

2. Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action: Focus on Invasives

Seattle Public Utilities and Forterra

This project will build on Seattle Public Utilities' existing effort with Forterra and the Friends of the Cedar River Watershed to remove invasive species and restore riparian ecosystems in the lower Cedar River Watershed. Stewardship-in-Action will focus on invasive species identification and eradication, replanting treated areas, and outreach and education of river-front property owners.

Discussion:

Invasive species threaten the health and function of riparian habitats throughout WRIA 8, and protecting and restoring riparian areas in the watershed is a priority focus for WRIA 8. In 2010, SPU, Forterra, and Friends of the Cedar River Watershed received an EPA grant to

initiate a strategic, coordinated knotweed removal and control project in the Cedar River Watershed. This proposal continues an existing successful project and leverages this existing investment, to continue knotweed removal and treatment re-plant treated areas with native vegetation, and inventory and address other invasive species of concern. The Subcommittee noted that this proposal also focuses on an important WRIA 8 priority to reach out to streamside property owners to treat invasive species on their property and educate them about the function of riparian areas and best management practices to improve and maintain the health of the habitat on their property. The project is also recommended as an alternate, which would receive the balance of the original proposal request (\$5,889) if one of the other projects recommended for funding is unable to be implemented and grant funds are returned. ***Recommend - \$61,312 (91% of request)***

3. FUNDING ALTERNATE 1: Confluence Parks/Issaquah Creek Restoration
City of Issaquah

This project seeks to restore aquatic and riparian habitat at the confluence of Issaquah Creek and East Fork Issaquah Creek. The project includes increasing floodplain habitat, modifying the creek channel, removing rock armoring, placing wood, and planting riparian vegetation. The proposal serves as the final amount of funding needed for project construction and builds on previous WRIA 8 grants for project design, permitting, and a portion of construction.

Discussion: Issaquah Creek is a high restoration and protection priority in WRIA 8. The WRIA 8 Plan identifies the confluence of Issaquah Creek and East Fork Issaquah Creek as a Tier 1 subarea, for which protecting and restoring riparian cover is the most important restoration approach. The Subcommittee recognizes this as a significant restoration project in a priority location in the Issaquah Creek sub-basin. The Subcommittee has worked with the project sponsor and design team to improve the habitat restoration design to maximize the habitat benefits for salmon. The Subcommittee believes the proposed design reflects good improvements to habitat restoration elements based on Subcommittee comments. The Subcommittee is supportive of this project, and recommends it as a funding alternate in this grant round. The Subcommittee expects to recommend funding this project in a future grant round if the funding need still exists.

Recommend as funding alternate - \$400,000 (100% of request)

4. FUNDING ALTERNATE 2: Lower Lewis Creek Restoration
City of Issaquah

This project will implement channel modifications, grade control structures, and riparian planting along 1,800 lineal feet of Lewis Creek, including the creek mouth where it empties into Lake Sammamish, to provide an integrated solution to restore degraded juvenile Chinook rearing and Kokanee spawning habitat.

Discussion: The Lake Sammamish shoreline is a tier 1 migratory area in the WRIA 8 plan, and the WRIA 8 plan recommends restoring stream mouths in Lake Sammamish to improve migratory habitat for Chinook. In the 2011 grant round, the Subcommittee recommended the City of Issaquah conduct a sediment study to identify and address the sediment source on Lewis Creek, and to ensure the work to address sedimentation issues in the lower portion of Lewis Creek was appropriate, sustainable, and effectively integrated to address upstream sediment source issues. In response to the Subcommittee's recommendation, the City of

Issaquah conducted a Grade Control Engineering Study, which provides the Subcommittee felt does a good job assessing sedimentation issues in Lewis Creek, and provides a design that effectively integrates sediment source control and channel modifications to improve Kokanee spawning and Chinook rearing habitat. The Subcommittee is supportive of this project, and recommends it as a funding alternate in this grant round. The Subcommittee expects to recommend funding this project in a future grant round if the funding need still exists.

Recommend as funding alternate - \$200,000 (100% of request)

**5. FUNDING ALTERNATE 3: Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action: Focus on Invasives
*Seattle Public Utilities and Forterra***

See proposal description and Subcommittee discussion above (funding recommendation #2).

Recommend as funding alternate - \$5,889 (remaining balance of proposal request)

6. FUNDING ALTERNATE 4: Beaux Arts Shoreline Restoration

Western Academy of Beaux Arts

This project will restore portions of 1,100 linear feet of shoreline on Lake Washington for juvenile Chinook salmon use. As part of a larger shoreline restoration effort, this project will remove or set armoring back to create two beach coves with more natural gradient and replanted emergent riparian vegetation. Originally inspired by a WRIA 8 shoreline restoration workshop and City of Seattle Green Shorelines Handbook, this project will become a shoreline restoration “proof of concept” site for other lakefront property owners.

Discussion: Restoring shoreline in Lake Washington is a high priority for recovering salmon in WRIA 8. This project is a direct result of recent efforts to advance the concept of green shorelines in Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish, and builds on several WRIA 8 grants for design and restoration of one beach area. Although shoreline restoration efforts have been implemented on several public lands around the lake, there remains a need for restoration on the substantial amount of shoreline on private property. The Subcommittee recognizes the importance of this project as a demonstration of smaller scale shoreline restoration, to illustrate to private property owners that these methods can serve as effective alternatives to hard armored shorelines. The proposal provides for one organized public site visit, and the Subcommittee emphasized the need for the project sponsor to allow more organized opportunities for the public to see the shoreline restoration sites. The Subcommittee is supportive of this project, and recommends it as a funding alternate in this grant round. The Subcommittee expects to recommend funding this project in a future grant round if the funding need still exists.

Recommend as funding alternate - \$113,353 (100% of request)

7. FUNDING ALTERNATE 5: Upper Bear Creek Re-vegetation

King County

This project will re-vegetate Upper Bear Creek near the Woodinville-Duvall Road after the removal of a large infestation of yellow flag iris that impairs the habitat quality of Bear Creek in an area known to be used by Chinook salmon, as well as other salmonid species.

Discussion: Bear Creek is an important Chinook spawning stream for the Sammamish Chinook population, and is a Tier 1 priority for WRIA 8. The WRIA 8 Plan calls for planting

native riparian vegetation to restore the riparian corridor in Upper Bear Creek. The Subcommittee recognizes the importance of improving the riparian vegetation in Upper Bear Creek, and noted that the proposal is sequenced well, as it builds on past and planned invasive species removal. The Subcommittee noted that it may be more appropriate for the proposed re-vegetation to be coordinated through the King County Noxious Weed Board. The Subcommittee expressed some concern about the cost of the proposed project and noted that the proposal has a lower benefit to Chinook relative to other proposals. The Subcommittee noted that the cost of the project could be reduced by having more work and project management done by the Washington Conservation Corps and/or other non-profit restoration organizations, such as Earth Corps. The Subcommittee recommends the proposal receive partial funding as a funding alternate, and suggests that an effort be made to seek a reduction in project costs.

Recommend as funding alternate - \$30,758 (62% of request)

8. Tosh Creek Realignment and Culvert Replacement

City of Redmond

This project will realign and restore the Tosh Creek channel between West Lake Sammamish Parkway and the Sammamish River to improve salmon habitat and mitigate flooding impacts.

Discussion: The WRIA 8 Plan identifies restoring tributary creek mouths on the Sammamish River as a priority action to provide cool water refuge for juvenile Chinook. While restoring the mouth and lower reach of Tosh Creek would benefit juvenile Chinook, the proposal does not call for restoring the mouth at the time, but instead shows how that can occur in the future as part of the larger Willowmoor Reach Transition Zone restoration project. For this reason, the Subcommittee noted that the proposal has a low benefit to Chinook, and would be better sequenced if it were implemented in tandem with or after the Transition Zone project.

Recommend - \$0 (Request of \$120,000)

9. Issaquah Creek Riparian Enhancement

King Conservation District

This project will reduce pollution, including excess sedimentation, to Carey and Holder creeks by replacing two livestock and farm vehicle stream crossings with bridges. The project will restore riparian areas disturbed by bridge construction including the crossing access roads.

Discussion: The WRIA 8 Plan calls for protecting and restoring riparian areas in this portion of Issaquah Creek. The Subcommittee recognized the importance of improving the stream crossings included in the proposal, to improve salmon habitat. The Subcommittee noted that the proposed cost was high relative to the anticipated benefit to Chinook, and that lower cost crossing improvement alternatives should be considered, including improving the existing ford. Also, the riparian planting included in the proposal is generally focused on the areas to be disturbed by bridge construction and do not appear to greatly increase the area of restored riparian habitat.

Recommend - \$0 (Request of \$66,595)

Table 3. WRIA 8 CWMG 2012 Grants – Summary of Public Outreach and Education Funding Recommendations

Rank	Program and Applicant	Total Project Cost	Amount of Request	Matching Funds	Project Subcommittee Recommendations
1	<i>Cedar River Salmon Journey 2013</i> Friends of the Cedar River Watershed	\$104,224	\$33,017	\$71,207	\$33,017
1	<i>Salmon Watcher Program 2013-2014</i> King County	\$87,104	\$43,930	\$43,174	\$43,930
3	<i>Beach Naturalist Program 2013</i> Seattle Aquarium	\$70,393	\$12,600	\$57,793	\$12,600
4	<i>Salmon in the Schools</i> Salmon Education Alliance	\$21,200	\$17,400	\$3,800	\$0
	Total Public Outreach and Education Request	\$282,921	\$106,947	\$175,974	\$89,547
	Recommended Allocation Target (approx. 8% of total)		\$96,000		
	Shortfall and amount over target allocation		Shortfall (\$10,947)		\$6,453 (amount under 8% target; these funds were reallocated to the Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action project – see Table 2)

Public Outreach and Education – Program Descriptions and Discussion Highlights

Note: Programs listed in rank order

1. Cedar River Salmon Journey 2013

Friends of the Cedar River Watershed

The Cedar River Salmon Journey educates watershed residents about salmon ecology and watershed health. Trained community volunteers make family-friendly riverside presentations to the public in the fall at several locations on the Cedar River and at the Hiram Chittenden Locks in the summer.

Discussion: The Cedar River Salmon Journey effectively educates a large number of members of the public and watershed residents, and demonstrates good outreach and education metrics to evaluate its effectiveness over time. The program effectively communicates watershed salmon recovery messages and increases awareness of habitat restoration and protection efforts in the Cedar River. The Subcommittee recommended seeking opportunities to increase coordination with the Beach Naturalist Program coordinated by the Seattle Aquarium. The program received strong Subcommittee support.

Recommend - \$33,017 (100% of request)

1. Salmon Watcher Program 2013 – 2014

King County

The Salmon Watcher Program involves eight cities in WRIA 8 working together with King County to recruit and train watershed residents about local salmon and salmon conservation issues. The program collects data on salmon presence in streams and educates citizens and streamside residents about salmon and streams in their watershed.

Discussion: In the 2011 grant round, the Subcommittee recommended the Salmon Watcher Program reconsider its program objectives, to increase focus on public outreach and education rather than on data collection. The Subcommittee believes the proposal reflects a significantly improved and increased emphasis on an education and outreach strategy and approach. The proposal includes a new emphasis on reaching out to streamside property owners to try and engage them in the program, and a significant focus on informing program participants about best management practices and the importance of protecting and restoring riparian areas. The Subcommittee was concerned about the cost of the program, and suggested that consideration be given to transitioning the program to a non-profit organization that could manage it at a much lower cost.

Recommend - \$43,930 (100% of request)

3. Beach Naturalist Program 2013

Seattle Aquarium

The Beach Naturalist Program engages and educates Puget Sound citizens how to protect and conserve the marine and nearshore environment, including the vital role the nearshore plays as habitat for salmon rearing and migration. Volunteers are trained as naturalist interpreters and scheduled to work on ten local beaches between 13 and 16 days during spring and summer.

Discussion: The program conducts effective outreach to the public regarding the importance of the nearshore ecosystem to salmon. This is an especially important message in WRIA8

where the nearshore is generally constrained and highly developed and advancing priority nearshore restoration actions has been challenging. The program is also coordinated with the Cedar River Salmon Journey, and the Subcommittee suggested that additional coordination and cross promotion should be considered.

Recommend - \$12,600 (100% of request)

4. Salmon in the Schools

Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery and Salmon Education Alliance

This grant will support the “Salmon in the Schools” education program in 83 schools in WRIA 8. The program directly engages students in rearing salmon, and raises awareness of what behaviors preserve and degrade healthy salmon habitat, deepens knowledge of salmon ecology, and reinforces the importance of being a responsible steward of the natural environment.

Discussion: The Subcommittee recognizes the importance of having salmon ecology and recovery curriculum as part of youth education, to improve the understanding of salmon recovery efforts and conservation ethic of the next generation. The Subcommittee applauded the effort of the Salmon Education Alliance to pick up and work to improve a program that was not managed well and was recently defunded by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Subcommittee expressed concern that the program did not have a clear approach or objectives, and it was uncertain how well or completely the curriculum/messages would be used in different schools or how well outcomes would be measured.

Recommend - \$0 (Request of \$17,400)

Table 4. WRIA 8 CWMG 2012 Grants – Summary of Monitoring Funding Recommendations					
Rank	Proposal Name	Total Project Cost	Amount of Request	Matching Funds	Project Subcommittee Recommendations
1	Chinook Spawning Ground Surveys and Outmigrant Trapping 2013 King County	\$481,787	\$299,141	\$182,646	\$299,141
2	Reproductive Success of Cedar River Chinook Salmon During Colonization Seattle Public Utilities	\$40,162	\$32,829	\$7,333	\$0
Monitoring Totals		\$521,949	\$331,970	\$189,979	\$299,141
Recommended Allocation Target (~25%)			\$300,000		
Shortfall and amount over target allocation			Shortfall (\$31,970)		\$859 (under 25% target; these funds were reallocated to the Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action project – see Table 2)

Monitoring – Proposal Descriptions and Discussion Highlights

1. WRIA 8 Chinook Spawning Ground Surveys and Outmigrant Trapping 2013

King County

This monitoring effort continues tracking the number of Chinook salmon on the spawning grounds and trap juvenile Chinook migrating out of the Cedar River to assess the productivity of habitat in WRIA 8 for sustaining Chinook salmon. This project also continues to expand knowledge of the reproductive life history, geographic and temporal distributions, spawning abundance and hatchery stray rates for Chinook salmon in WRIA 8. These data are provided to stakeholders annually to help understand if recovery goals outlined in the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Plan are being met.

Discussion: This project is the continuation of WRIA 8 “fish in / fish out” monitoring that enables the watershed to track adult returns and juvenile numbers. The Subcommittee agreed it is important to continue to gather this information, as it is the data used to assess the status and trends of the WRIA 8 Chinook populations and a gap of a year reduces the usefulness of the data. The proposal reflects significant financial and in-kind contributions from partners, which helped reduce the funding need this grant round. Additionally, as part of this effort, the City of Issaquah will be installing and managing a smolt trap on Issaquah Creek to gather juvenile outmigrant data during the removal of the hatchery intake dam on Issaquah Creek. This project received strong support from the Subcommittee.

Recommend - \$299,141 (100% of request)

2. Reproductive Success of Cedar River Chinook Salmon During Colonization

Seattle Public Utilities

The primary objective of this study is to test the hypothesis that adult Chinook salmon that passed the fish ladder at the Landsburg Dam in 2010 and 2011 represent self-sustaining natural production against the alternative hypothesis that the newly accessible area above Landsburg Dam continues to be populated by fish produced in the lower Cedar River and elsewhere in the basin (i.e., strays).

Discussion: The Subcommittee recognized that better understanding how and which Chinook are using the habitat above Landsburg Dam is an important research proposal, and could have implications on future fish passage management decisions at the Dam. However, the Subcommittee noted that the study may not be able to effectively change the current stock management decisions concerning the passage of Chinook above Landsburg. The Subcommittee also expressed concern about the proposal’s high overhead costs. However, there was significant discussion of the study design, approach, and analysis, and Subcommittee members recommended that study sponsors share this information with the WRIA 8 Technical Committee.

Recommend - \$0 (Request of \$32,829)

Conclusion

Funding recommendations seek to implement the highest priority actions in the WRIA 8 Plan. The Project Subcommittee was challenged to make their funding recommendations given a difficult funding year with over a \$1 million shortfall between project requests and available funds. The Subcommittee recommends a majority of the site-specific project funding for a high priority Cedar River acquisition to capitalize on what is likely a once-in-a-generation opportunity

that enables future restoration of nearly five miles of critical floodplain habitat. As a result, the Subcommittee was unable to recommend funding for several other quality proposals, and developed an alternate project list, which includes projects that should receive funding if a project recommended for funding is unable to be implemented and grant funds are returned. Additionally, the Subcommittee recommends that the alternate projects identified in this grant round be considered for other appropriate future WRIA 8 funding opportunities. The Subcommittee will continue to refine the grant scoring criteria based on the experience of applying them during this grant round.