

WRIA 8 Updates and Committee Reports

March 18, 2021

- **Puget Sound Regional Update** – The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) last met on January 28. The meeting focused on:
 - Approving new appointments to the Puget Sound Partnership’s Salmon Science Advisory Group;
 - Discussing 2021 work plan topics;
 - Presentation on tire leachate and coho salmon pre-spawn mortality;
 - Legislative priorities;
 - Presentation on 2022-2026 Action Agenda proposed priority outcomes and recommendations;
 - Status of update to the regional Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan;
 - Presentation on white paper discussing factors limiting progress in salmon recovery.

The PS SRC is scheduled to meet next on March 25 and have a virtual retreat on March 26 to review and discuss how watersheds prioritize and select projects for grant funding each year, and whether, from a regional Puget Sound perspective, the right projects are being done in the right places to inform consideration of whether the PS SRC should adjust the regional investment strategy. Diane Buckshnis, Edmonds City Councilmember, and Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz represent WRIA 8.

The **South Central Action Area Caucus** (Local Integrating Organization (LIO)) last met on February 23. The meeting focused on presentations and discussion on innovative approaches to integrating stormwater management and salmon recovery. Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz represents WRIA 8 on the LIO.

- **New WRIA 8 Logo** – The WRIA 8 logo has been updated to improve the graphic image and illustrate the context of the WRIA 8 partnership’s effort to restore habitat and recover salmon in a relatively urban and populated watershed.
- **Status of legislative priorities** – The letters the Salmon Recovery Council approved in January to convey WRIA 8’s 2021 state and federal legislative priorities to state legislators and members of the state’s Congressional delegation, respectively, were sent on January 23. WRIA 8 staff are tracking state legislative priorities, including salmon recovery related legislation (see summary in meeting packet). The state Senate and House fiscal committee budgets are expected after the March 20 state revenue forecast. Additionally, WRIA 8 staff are reaching out to district offices of members of the Congressional delegation to schedule and provide briefings on WRIA 8’s federal priorities.
- **Four-Year Work Plan additions** – The WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan outlines the habitat projects and programs anticipated to begin or be implemented in the near-term. To be listed on the Work Plan, an action must have a connection to one or more of the recovery strategies outlined in the 2017 WRIA 8 Plan Update. Being on the Work Plan is also a prerequisite for receiving a WRIA 8 grant award. In the lead-up to the 2021 grant round, a

few sponsors came forward and offered proposed additions to the Work Plan. Staff confirmed the connection between the activities and WRIA 8 recovery strategies, and these additions to the Four-Year Work Plan are shown in an attachment.

- **2021 Grant Round Update** – The 2021 WRIA 8 grant round opened on January 5. In the 2021 funding cycle, WRIA 8 is considering proposals for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grants. Approximately \$4 million will be available across the two programs.

The proposal deadline for SRFB was February 24, and virtual site visits took place on March 15. Funding recommendations will be presented to the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council at the July meeting. Applications for CWM grants are due on March 24, and funding recommendations will be brought to the SRC's May meeting.

- **Lake Washington Ship Canal synthesis report on elevated water temperature and low dissolved oxygen and next steps** – WRIA 8 finalized the report “Synthesis of Best Available Science: Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen Conditions in the Lake Washington Ship Canal and Impacts on Salmon”. The purpose of this report is to:
 - Bring together distributed information and data in a single resource.
 - Support a common understanding of the problem.
 - Inform decision-making to identify specific management goals and priorities.
 - Ultimately, help guide recruitment of innovative solutions.

Next steps are to convene a roundtable discussion with representatives from organizations that have management jurisdiction over the Lake Washington Ship Canal (LWSC) area or are responsible for its ecological condition/function. The outcomes of these initial meetings will guide a series of workshops to vet action alternatives. WRIA 8 is partnering with Long Live the Kings on next steps.

- **Coastal Watershed grant awarded to Snohomish County's Meadowdale project** – Snohomish County was awarded a Coastal Watershed grant for the Meadowdale Beach and Estuary Restoration project from Restore America's Estuaries. This was one of only two Coastal Watershed grants to projects in Puget Sound (out of eight total nation-wide). The grant funding helps support this important nearshore restoration project that will achieve half of the WRIA 8 Plan's 10-year nearshore pocket estuary restoration goal.
- **WRIA 8 E-News** – The February edition of the WRIA 8 E-news included the following topics and updates: Transient orcas and the dwindling Southern Resident Orca population; Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust's online salmon education program; vitamin B1 deficiency in baby salmon; articles and photos submitted by Larry Franks, Friends of Issaquah Salmon Hatchery Board member, on large wood in Issaquah Creek and wildlife living around the Issaquah Hatchery; salmon in news topics related to a video on the tire-derived chemical 6PPD-quinone and two Seattle Times Op-Ed articles in response to Lake Washington's declining sockeye population; and funding and conference announcements. The next edition is scheduled for release on Friday, April 23. Please submit topics by Friday, April 9, to Carla Nelson (carnelson@kingcounty.gov).

WRIA 8 Committee Reports

WRIA 8 SRC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee meeting – The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee completed the first iteration of WRIA 8’s DEI Strategic Plan for Salmon Recovery Council review and adoption at the March meeting. The Subcommittee incorporated stronger DEI language into 2021 WRIA 8 grant materials and review criteria ahead of the 2021 grant round. Subcommittee Co-Chairs, Carla Nelson and Lauren Urgenson, are working with the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee and King County’s Equity and Social Justice Team to incorporate DEI subject matter expertise in grant proposal review, scoring and feedback. Additionally, the Subcommittee’s abstract was accepted for the 2021 Washington State Salmon Recovery Conference on Thursday, 4/29, from 1p to 2p. The presentation is titled, “Salmon and People Living Together – Cities Working to Build Diversity, Equity, Inclusion in Salmon Recovery”. Anyone interested in supporting the Subcommittee are asked to join the virtual conference or, contact Carla Nelson (carnelson@kingcounty.gov).

WRIA 8 Technical Committee – The WRIA 8 Technical Committee met on February 10 to hear a presentation from WDFW and discuss 2020 juvenile salmon production estimates for the watershed; review and provide feedback on salmon population and habitat recovery data for the 2020 progress report; hear a brief update on Ship Canal science synthesis and next steps; and, review the updated design for the Be’er Sheva Park Lake Washington Shoreline Restoration Project.

WRIA 8 Implementation Committee – The Implementation Committee met on February 2 and March 2. Meeting topics included general WRIA 8 updates, legislative updates and review of legislation related to salmon recovery, review and feedback on draft 2020 WRIA 8 Progress Report, presentation on the Lake Washington Ship Canal synthesis report on elevated water temperature and low dissolved oxygen, presentation from King County Bear Creek Basin Steward and Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group on integrating green stormwater infrastructure and habitat restoration in Bear Creek, and review of the March 18 Salmon Recovery Council meeting topics.