



2022 WRIA 8 Budget and Work Plan Memo

Management Committee Recommendation

July 15, 2021

Background

The WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement (ILA) partner cost share was recalculated for 2022 per the ILA (see ILA cost share table), which calls for recalculating the partner cost share every three years to keep the three components of the cost share formula current (jurisdiction population, assessed value, and area). The WRIA 8 ILA and memorandum of understanding also call for increasing the WRIA 8 partner cost share annually to keep pace with staffing and operating cost increases, using the Consumer Price Index for Wages (CPI-W) as an estimate for annual cost share increases. Last year, recognizing the challenging financial conditions and uncertain revenue forecasts related to the pandemic and considering projected expenditures could be covered without increasing the ILA cost share, the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) chose not to increase the cost share in the 2021 budget.

The Salmon Recovery Council discussed the following two proposed options draft for the 2022 budget at their May 20 meeting:

- Proposed option A: Increase ILA cost share based on estimated 2.5% CPI-W rate, which would increase the total cost share approximately \$16,138
- Proposed option B: No ILA cost share increase

The Management Committee met on June 7 to develop a 2022 budget and work plan recommendation for Salmon Recovery Council consideration. Recognizing current financial conditions are more stable and the importance of maintaining the commitment to the principle of keeping the ILA cost share on pace with staffing and operating cost increases, the Management Committee recommends increasing the 2022 ILA cost share by the 2.5% estimated CPI-W rate.

Management Committee Recommendation

The Salmon Recovery Council should approve proposed 2022 budget option A, increasing the ILA cost share 2.5% based on the CPI-W estimate, and the corresponding proposed WRIA 8 staff work plan.

Draft 2022 Budget Notes

- Projected 2022 WRIA 8 staffing and operating costs (base expenditures) can be covered by estimated base revenues without increasing the ILA cost share (see budget option – 2022 Proposed B). ILA cost share revenues beyond what is needed to cover base expenditures under Proposal A (increasing the budget by the 2.5% CPI-W rate) would be available to support priority work advancing salmon recovery priorities.
- Not increasing the budget annually, as called for in the ILA, could risk needing to consider a greater budget increase in the future as staffing and operating costs increase.
- For 2022, King County has shifted to billing visual communications and GIS mapping and data services based on actual usage rather than as an averaged per staff overhead cost. In the 2022 budget these service costs are included as a line item under “Supplies and Services” rather than as part of “Overhead.” The estimated cost reflects an average of \$1,000 per month.
- “Supplies and Services” includes the following changes from 2021:
 - Increased “Consultant/professional/technical services” costs are included, anticipating a need for these services to support work in 2022, including support for priority issues such as Ship Canal temperatures and dissolved oxygen and predation, grant review, and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee.
 - Increased “Training & misc. supplies” costs anticipating an increase in trainings related to permanent telework, County Environmental and Social Justice training requirements, etc.
 - Reduced “Printing” costs (approximately half 2021 amount) anticipating substantially less need for printing.
- Under “Additional Expenditures,” the balance of available Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration project development funds (~\$167,928) are proposed to be allocated through a new project development small grants round.
- Additional funding priorities will be developed and brought to the SRC for consideration to spend down a portion of the carry forward fund balance.

Draft 2022 Work Plan Notes

The draft 2022 work plan reflects the following changes from the 2021 work plan:

- Reflects WRIA 8 engagement in the 10-year update to the regional Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan, to which the WRIA 8 Plan is a watershed chapter.
- Adds a section to support the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee work.
- Adjusts the staff time commitment between management of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Cooperative Watershed Management grant rounds to reflect the significant increase in workload for the CWM grant program with the doubling of funding and associated increase in proposals.
- Recognizing the need to review and overhaul the CWM grant round process and review criteria to account for additional funding, increased proposals, and new priorities, such as supporting DEI principles.