



WRIA 8 Updates and Committee Reports

March 17, 2022

- **Puget Sound Regional Update** – The **Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC)** last met on January 27. The meeting focused on:
 - Presentation of the draft 2022-2026 Puget Sound Action Agenda, which guides Puget Sound recovery.
 - Legislative update, including status of priorities and relevant policy proposals.
 - Presentation on Chinook Salmon “Bold Actions,” progress in implementation, and opportunities for engagement in 2022.
 - Presentation from Public Lands Commissioner, Hillary Franz, on State Department of Natural Resources’ Watershed Resilience Action Plan in the Snohomish Watershed (WRIA 7).
 - Chinook salmon recovery target setting and recommendations.
 - 2022 work plan review and decision.

The PS SRC is scheduled to meet next on March 24. 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 March 3. The LIO is reviewing the draft strategies for the 2022-2026 Action Agenda, planning to convene a meeting to present priority content from the draft Action Agenda for community partner feedback, and discussing how to plan for allocating federal funding to advance LIO priorities. Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz represents WRIA 8 on the LIO.

- **City of Everett approved as newest WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement (ILA) partner** – The City of Everett is seeking to join the WRIA 8 ILA as a cost share partner, which requires approval of an ILA addendum from all existing ILA partners. WRIA 8 staff have worked with partners since November to secure approval and signature. As of March 3, all WRIA 8 ILA partner signatures were received and the fully executed ILA addendum was distributed to partners. City of Everett is officially the 29th local government ILA cost share partner!
- **2022 WRIA 8 Grant Round** – The 2022 WRIA 8 grant round is now underway. In the 2022 funding cycle, WRIA 8 will consider proposals for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR), and King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grants. Approximately \$5.3 million will be available across the three programs. More information is available on the WRIA 8 funding webpage: <https://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/funding/default.aspx>.

On March 17th, WRIA 8 will host virtual site visits with the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee and SRFB Technical Review Panel members to hear more about the four projects applying for funding. On March 18th, WRIA 8 will host our ranking and scoring meeting to determine how to recommend distributing our SRFB and PSAR allocations for WRIA 8 Council approval.

On March 23rd, applications are due for CWM grants. We received a record number of Notices of Intent to apply including:

- 15 projects (restoration, riparian-specific restoration, acquisition)
- 12 Education and Outreach
- 17 Monitoring and Assessment

Site visits will be held in late April/early May and scoring meetings will occur in early May.

- **Four-Year Work Plan update** – 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. A call for updates and additions to the Four-Year Work Plan was issued earlier this year, and for projects proposed as additions, staff confirmed the connection between those activities and WRIA 8 recovery strategies. Additions and updates to the Four-Year Work Plan are shown in an attachment in the meeting packet.
- **Legislative update** – The 2022 legislative session ended on March 10. It was a very active session for a “short” 60-day session, including numerous policy bills and significant proposed funding for salmon recovery. Please see the memo in the meeting packet summarizing the status of WRIA 8 legislative and budget priorities in the state compromise budget. Note the budget is not final until it is signed by the Governor.
- **Lake Washington Ship Canal temperature and dissolved oxygen roundtable process** – WRIA 8 and Long Live the Kings (LLTK) continue to convene partners in the Lake Washington Ship Canal Salmon Roundtable process. The goal of the Roundtable is to act urgently to improve juvenile and adult salmon health and survival in the Lake Washington Ship Canal by lowering water temperatures, increasing dissolved oxygen, and reducing abrupt transitions in those conditions. In March, we convened the Technical Workgroup to finalize prioritization of alternatives identified during the January workshop and identify near-term needs to advance solutions or fill-data gaps.
- **WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council meetings survey** – WRIA 8 is taking every precaution to ensure the health and safety of our partners as restrictions on in-person gatherings are lifting. We invite you to share your feedback through a [brief survey](#) as we consider the possibility of the Salmon Recovery Council meeting in-person in 2022. We would like to make an informed decision that includes your direct input. The survey is fully confidential. Thank you for your participation!
- **WRIA 8 E-News** – The [February edition](#) of the WRIA 8 E-news included the following topics and updates: A video history of Bear Creek, an update on the Upper Royal Arch Reach project on the Cedar River, kokanee recovery efforts featured on King 5 News, the community led Be'er Sheva park and shoreline restoration project, various volunteer restoration efforts, Trout Unlimited project updates, and Whale Scout's work with the City of Bothell and the Sky Valley Education Center's teens at the former Wayne Golf Course project site. The next edition is scheduled for April. Please submit proposed topics 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 continues to focus on implementation of actions outlined in the Strategic Plan Action Framework. Strategies include revising grant round materials based on our strengthened DEI emphasis last year, incorporating DEI principals into WRIA 8 communications and outreach, and strengthening connections with community-based organizations with a focus on environmental equity. In February, the WRIA 8 Team presented on this work to the Puget Sound Watershed Leads and engaged in discussion of ongoing actions at the intersection between salmon recovery and DEI throughout Puget Sound. We are also interested in meeting with community partners working on DEI to learn and collaborate to advance this work. To suggest a point of contact for an organization or individual for WRIA 8 staff to reach out to, please complete this [short form](#). Anyone interested in learning more or joining the WRIA 8 DEI Subcommittee should contact Carla Nelson (carnelson@kingcounty.gov).

WRIA 8 Technical Committee – The WRIA 8 Technical Committee met in February and March. The February meeting included updates from Roger Tabor (USFWS) and Aaron Bosworth (WDFW) on WRIA 8 and CWM supported piscivore monitoring studies in the Lake Washington Ship Canal and Lake Sammamish. The February meeting also included updates on juvenile outmigrant monitoring in WRIA 8 and throughout Puget Sound from Peter Lisi (WDFW). The March meeting spotlighted work of King County, Trout Unlimited, and the Kokanee Workgroup to recover kokanee populations and improve Lake Sammamish habitat for both kokanee and Chinook. Jim Bower (King County) and Dave Kyle (Trout Unlimited) shared the latest science underpinning kokanee supplementation efforts and ongoing studies to identify key limiting factors and develop targeted actions to recover Lake Sammamish salmon habitats.

WRIA 8 Implementation Committee – The Implementation Committee met on March 1. Meeting topics included updates on the 2022 WRIA 8 grant round, legislative priorities, Ship Canal Roundtable effort, status of the WRIA 8 ILA Addendum to add the City of Everett as a cost share partner, and timing for public review of the draft 2022-2026 Puget Sound Action Agenda. The Committee also heard a presentation from King County and NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service about the Restoration and Permitting Program for Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish, which promotes shoreline habitat restoration, environmentally friendly pier and shoreline designs, and streamlined environmental permitting. The Committee also discussed priority 2022 themes and topics for WRIA 8 and reviewed the March 17 Salmon Recovery Council meeting topics.