



WSPER Executive Committee  
1:00 PM – 3:00 pm | Wednesday, December 13, 2023

WSPER is the lead entity for salmon recovery in eastern WRIA 15 and the Local Integrating Organization for Puget Sound ecosystem recovery in the North Central Action Area.

Location: Zoom or Port Blakely Meeting Room  
Kitsap County Admin Building  
619 Division Street, Port Orchard, WA 98366

Join [Zoom Meeting](#)

**Meeting Purpose:**

- Make decisions and recommendations: 2024 workplan, officers, grant round schedule, meeting schedule.
- Hear guest presentation on beavers in our watersheds (communications, policy, benefits, challenges).
- Receive local and regional recovery updates.
- Hear and share 2023 successes.

Time	Topic	Lead	Materials
1:00	<b>Welcome, Housekeeping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome</li> <li>- Establish Quorum</li> <li>- Public comment before making decisions</li> <li>- <i>Approve consent agenda (December Agenda and June summary)</i></li> </ul>	Chairman Forsman	Dec Agenda (p. 1-2) June summary (pp.3-6)
1:10	<b>WSPER Business/Decisions &amp; Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Workplan</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Review/approve workplan</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><u>Officers</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Nominate/confirm 2024 Ex Com officers</i></li> <li>- <i>Confirm 2024 Salmon Recovery Council representatives</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><u>Leadership Council Forum</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Make a decision regarding forum timing and participation</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><u>Salmon Recovery Grant Round</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Approve WSPER's 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Round Schedule (allocate ~\$1.8M to projects in WSPER geography)</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><u>Recommendations/Discussion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Number of in-person/virtual/field trips in 2024</i></li> <li>- <i>WSPER fiscal agent (presently Kitsap County)</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Chairman Forsman  Renee Johnson	Memos: 2024 Workplan (pp. 7-9)  2024 Officers (p.10) 2024 SRC Reps (p. 11)  Leadership Council Forum (pp. 12-13)  2024 Grant Round Schedule (pp. 14-16)

1:30	<b>Strategic Funding Team – Puget Sound Partnership</b>	Jenn Grimm Sadie Normoyle	
1:40	<b>Presentation &amp; Discussion – Beavers</b>  Beavers and habitat restoration (beavers moving into restoration sites, conflict management, living with beavers, climate resilience)	Brittany Gordon All	
2:10	<b>Break</b>		
2:15	<b>Select WSPER Updates &amp; Successes</b> Mobile Pump out, salmon habitat projects	Renee Johnson	
2:25	<b>Regional Updates</b>  - Ecosystem Coordination Board - Salmon Recovery Council - Legislative Updates	Commissioner Garrido Brittany Gordon Don Gourlie	
2:40	<b>Optional round table sharing from each jurisdiction</b>	EC members or their staff	
3:00	<b>Wrap-up, Public Comment, Adjourn</b>	Chairman Forsman	

**2024 Meetings**

- February/March
- July/August
- November/December



**Executive Committee Web Meeting**  
 June 23, 2023, | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
 Meeting Summary DRAFT 7.31.2023

Action Item	Responsible Party
Renee Johnson to share the Sound Choices Checklist with the WSPER Executive Committee and staff once it is available.	Renee Johnson
Renee Johnson to convene a subgroup to work on the joint LIO letter.	Renee Johnson
Renee Johnson to invite Jenn Grimm, Puget Sound Partnership’s Strategic Funding Team Manager, to a future WSPER meeting.	Renee Johnson
Decisions/Recommendations	
Approved consent agenda (March meeting summary and June agenda).	
The Executive Committee requests the LIO collective letter be returned to a subcommittee for more work.	

**Executive Committee Members in Attendance**

Alison O’Sullivan, Suquamish Tribe, Alternate for Chairman Forsman  
 Charlotte Garrido, Kitsap County, Commissioner  
 Greg Wheeler, City of Bremerton, Mayor  
 Robyn Denson, Pierce County, Councilmember  
 Roger Henderson, City of Gig Harbor, Councilmember

**Executive Committee Members Not in Attendance**

Becky Erickson, City of Poulsbo, Mayor  
 Joe Deets, City of Bainbridge Island, Councilmember  
 Chris Hammer, City of Port Orchard, City Engineer  
 Leonard Forsman, Suquamish Tribe, Chairman

**Staff in Attendance**

Alex Sweetser, Triangle Associates  
 Barbara Ann Smolko, Pierce County  
 Jennifer Haro, Gig Harbor  
 Marty Ereth, Pierce County  
 Michael Abboud, City of Gig Harbor  
 Renee Johnson, WSPER Coordinator  
 Steve Todd, Suquamish Tribe  
 Rachel Bowen, City of Poulsbo

## Welcome and Introduction

---

Executive Committee Vice Chair, Commissioner Garrido, opened the meeting and led a round of introductions.

Renee Johnson, Kitsap County/WSPER Coordinator, reviewed the agenda and meeting purpose.

There were no public comments.

The group established a quorum and approved the consent agenda via a motion by Roger Henderson which was seconded by Greg Wheeler. There were no objections or discussion.

**Decision:** Accept consent agenda (March meeting summary and June agenda).

## Decisions and Recommendations

---

### 2023 Salmon Habitat Project List:

The Executive Committee reviewed the 2023 Salmon Habitat Project List as recommended by the Technical Advisory and Working Group committees. Renee Johnson explained the approach will be to give the entire allocation (\$340,000) to the Crabapple/Carpenter Creek Estuary Protection project since it has not yet received the match it needs from other sources. Councilmember Henderson, City of Gig Harbor, and Steve Todd, Suquamish Tribe, discussed what will happen to those funds if the project receives match from other funding sources. If this happens, the money will flow down the list in order. The Executive Committee discussed the decision to fund down the large 2022 Salmon Habitat List. The list is large because sponsors correctly anticipated more money would be added to this program through the governor's budget. Barbara Ann Smolko, Pierce County, commented that the funding down approach is an elegant solution.

Councilmember Denson, Pierce County, asked about the overall approach for the competitive grant round, which includes the call for projects, letters of intent, field visits, scoring and ranking, and the state review panel. She recommended WSPER warn sponsors if a 2-year cycle approach would be used in the future.

Marty Ereth, Pierce County, noted there is no shortage of projects, and it is hard to bring costly projects to WSPER that could take all the funding. However, phasing projects can help address this issue.

Commissioner Garrido called for a motion to approve the 2023 Salmon Habitat List. Councilmember Henderson made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Denson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Decision:** Approve 2023 salmon Recovery Grant Round project list as recommended by the TAG and Working Group.

### Collective Lead Integrating Organizations (LIOs) Letter:

Renee gave a primer on the history behind why the Puget Sound LIOs want to write a letter to the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP). There is growing concern over the diminished role of local partners in Puget Sound recovery planning and funding. These concerns escalated after the PSP and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decided to stop funding Near Term Actions and instead, used nearly \$5 million intended for local capacity to build a temporary Strategic Funding Team at the PSP. The premise is that the PSP's team will help local communities access larger Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds. After a

year, PSP only hired its manager. No additional team members have been hired yet, and PSP promises that the rest of the team will come on board in November or December of 2023.

The Executive Committee discussed the need for the letter and what amendments they would like to make to it. They requested more information about the team's deliverables and the team's job descriptions as the Executive Committee is concerned about a perceived overlap between the position titles and uncertainty over the need for the team. They also expressed concern about the decision-making process to reallocate the funds since LIOs, and elected officials on LIOs, were not consulted. Lastly, they would like the PSP to provide a report demonstrating the return on investment from this funding reallocation so all can transparently understand how these funds were leveraged.

**Decision/recommendation:** The Executive Committee made two recommendations: 1) The letter go to a WSPER subcommittee for revisions to add specific information requests and suggested actions from LIOs on how they would like PSP to respond to the letter, and 2) to invite Jen Grimm to visit WSPER, starting with the Working Group.

Barbara Ann and Alison O'Sullivan, Suquamish Tribe, volunteered to be on a subcommittee to review the letter. Commissioner Garrido offered to review it.

## Regional Updates

---

### **Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) and Local Forum:**

Renee gave a primer on PSP's different boards and panels, including the ECB. She noted an ECB local forum was held in Friday Harbor by the San Juan LIO. Topics at the forum included oil spill prevention, towing, timely response to stranded vessels, and concern about recreation vehicles.

### **ECB Land Use Subcommittee:**

The land use subcommittee shared they have made progress on Sound Choices Checklist. Once the checklist is drafted and available, it will be distributed to WSPER.

**Action Item:** Renee to share the Sound Choices Checklist with the WSPER Executive Committee and staff once it is available.

## Local Updates

---

### **Ecosystem Recovery Plan (ERP):**

Alex Sweetser, Triangle Associates, gave a primer on the ERP update, which is currently in progress. The intent of the updated ERP is for it to help local planners and recovery practitioners with decision-making and aligning their work with science-based priorities in WSPER's area. It will be a web-based mapping tool to show priority areas for protection and restoration while simultaneously helping officials and the public understand ecosystem health. The written plan will include a summary document with language that can be copied into grant applications to make applying for grants easier.

### **Mobile Marine Pump-Out Pilot Project**

Renee gave a primer on the pilot project, which is a free pumpout service to help boaters responsibly dispose of sanitary waste. She shared the maiden voyage on June 17 was highly successful with 19

pump-outs totaling 430 gals., which is 12.8% of the 3360-gal. season target. Then, she reviewed additional data from the June 17 voyage. Mobile pumpouts will continue through September 30 and pilot project data will be reviewed by WA Sea Grant.

The Executive Committee discussed continued funding for the program in future years. Renee noted the data can be analyzed to assess the program's continued need and explore who might host the program and apply for Clean Vessel Act funds to meet needs identified by the pilot program.

Marty suggested outreach be conducted with boaters to increase their awareness of this program and general rules around sanitary waste disposal in WA, especially for those who may not be local. Renee noted there is one-on-one information exchange between boaters and the mobile pump-out vessel's operator. Additionally, the operator is getting detailed information on the boats served in addition to the data in the presented graphs. These are available in quick reports.

Barbara Ann noted that while this program may be successful, it is noted intended to replace stationary shoreline pump-outs, which are also important for responsible disposal of sanitary waste.

#### **Letter to Nisqually Regarding Soundview Camp:**

Renee gave a primer on Washington's salmon recovery regions and the Nisqually lead entity (LE)'s investment in the 93-acre Sound View Camp Conservation Easement. She explained that while the conservation easement is within the WSPER area, the Nisqually LE's Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) allocation is modestly larger than WSPER's. This additional funding enabled the Nisqually LE to allocate \$621,963.86 of their Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds into protecting this property and its 93 acres of tideland, feeder bluff, bluff backed beach, barrier embayment, barrier lagoon, salt marsh, freshwater wetland, and forested upland habitat.

The Executive Committee was supportive of sending WSPER's letter of appreciation to the Nisqually LE.

#### **Project Highlight: Field Trip Donkey Creek *tx<sup>w</sup>aalqəł* Conservation Area**

---

##### **Donkey Creek *tx<sup>w</sup>aalqəł* Conservation Area:**

Councilmember Henderson and Jennifer Haro, Gig Harbor, provided an introductory primer for the conservation area and the four phases of land acquisition (see handout). Then, the Executive Committee went on a field trip to the site.

#### **Wrap-Up**

---

The Thursday August 24 meeting will be held on Bainbridge Island followed by a field trip.

The Thursday December 7, 2023, meeting will focus on approving officers and the annual workplan, adopting the ERP, and reviewing the status of projects and initiatives.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.



## Memo for Executive Committee

December 13, 2023

### Agenda Topic: Approve 2024 WSPER Work Plan

#### Executive Committee Action Request

**Decision**                       None – information and discussion                       None – written briefing only

#### Background

The West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery (WSPER) serves as:

- (1) The Lead Entity for salmon recovery in East Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 15, where we work to develop local salmon recovery strategies and recruit organizations to implement habitat protection and restoration projects.
- (2) The Local Integrating Organization in the North Central Action Area, where we coordinate and collaborate across cities, counties, and tribes to develop and implement science-based priorities and actions to recover the health of Puget Sound.

Every year, a WSPER Workplan is developed based on tasks, deliverables, and local priorities identified in the contracts that fund the Lead Entity and Local Integrating Organization work. The WSPER Working Group and Technical Advisory Group have reviewed and approved the 2024 WSPER Workplan.

With support and oversight of WSPER member jurisdictions and tribes, Kitsap County serves as the fiscal agent that hires a third-party consultant (Triangle Associates) to support the facilitation and administration of WSPER.

#### Question for Consideration

Does the Executive Committee approve the WSPER 2024 Work Plan?

#### Memo Contacts

Renee Johnson, WSPER Coordinator, [rjohnso@kitsap.gov](mailto:rjohnso@kitsap.gov)

<b>Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery</b>
<p><b>Task 1: Project Development</b> Identify, review, and submit salmon habitat project list for 2023 Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Funds. This task includes the whole grant round process and committee involvement.</p>
<p><b>Task 2: Salmon Recovery Portal</b> Add and track projects in Salmon Recovery Portal, participate in SRP Action Team, establish goals for umbrella projects (NEW).</p>
<p><b>Task 3: Outreach</b> Build community support Through education, committee member outreach, and landowner recruitment, and project sponsor recruitment (includes social media, website, events).</p>
<p><b>Task 4: Update the Salmon Strategy, 4 Year Workplan, Planned Project Forecast List, and Implement the E. Kitsap Steelhead Plan</b> Updating the salmon strategy in 2024 with ~\$90,000 in funds to support a contractor and facilitator</p>
<b>Local Integrating Organization (LIO)</b>
<p><b>Task 1: Organize, Support, Administer, Facilitate, and Coordinate the LIO</b> Arrange meetings, maintain website, participate in regional meetings, coordinate with the Lead Entity, host local forums, engage Ecosystem Board representative, coordinate with the Strategic Funding Teams, support opportunities for members to understand tribal treaty rights.</p>
<p><b>Task 2: Advance Implementation of the Action Agenda</b> Educate committees on the Action Agenda, coordinate local contributions, support progress indicator development, 2026 Action Agenda development.</p>
<p><b>Task 3: Performance Management</b> Submit progress reports, billing summaries, and manage contract with PSP.</p>
<p><b>Task 4: Support Adaptive Management and Communication of LIO Ecosystem Recovery Plans</b> Complete and adopting the Ecosystem Recovery Plan.</p>
<p><b>Task 5: Tailor LIO Coordination to Implement the Action Agenda and Support Unique Goals and Vision of the LIO</b> See Task 5 table of options on the next page.</p>



**WSPER Task 5 2024 Workplan**

**Task 5.01: Regional Planning and Coordinating Group Participation** – Mostly handled internally. WSPER to host Leadership Council June 2024.

**Task 5.02 Inform Local Decision-Makers on the work of the LIO** – Handled through EC committee.

**Task 5.03 Support priority public engagement, awareness raising, behavior change, incentive, or compliance project or program.** We focused on this in 2023 with mobile pump-out pilot.

**Task 5.04 Contribute to Barriers Removal** - further define barriers, develop solutions, and implement. WSPER can allocate capacity funds to investigate and develop solutions to the barrier.

**Task 5.05 Pursue funding for 2022-2026 Action Agenda Implementation** – Use capacity funds for staff or consultant. Developing a sequenced list of projects for funding. Work in coordination with the Strategic Funding Team (BIL funding team at PSP).

**Subtask 5.06 Incorporate Partnership supported planning tools to improve and refine local planning (e.g., Structured Decision Making)**

**Subtask 5.07 Pursue EEJ in LIO context** – these are incorporated into all tasks. Still on waitlist for Government-to-Government training.

Priority Topic	Action/Benefit/Info	Related Task
Better critical areas and fish stream data	Use capacity funds to support a GIS analyst to work on the wetland intrinsic potential model.	5.04: Contribute to barriers removal
Better critical areas and fish stream data	Use capacity funds to support GIS work on beaver intrinsic potential model.	5.04: Contribute to barriers removal
Integrate salmon and ecosystem recovery into local planning	Use capacity funds to send a representative to Puget Sound Regional Council for one year (4 hours a month) (large-scale transportation decisions and planning).	5.04 Contribute to barriers removal
Create a sequenced list of projects and/or bundles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use meeting time/subgroup/or contractor to create prioritized project list.</li> <li>- Leverage opportunities/resources within the Strategic Funding Team.</li> <li>- Leverage Structured Decision-Making resources offered by PSP and OSU.</li> <li>- Develop bundles of projects across jurisdictions to prepare larger federal funding.</li> </ul>	5.04: Contribute to barriers removal 5.05: Pursue funding to Implement 5.06: use planning tools like SDM
Create a prioritized fish passage list (wait for WDFW guidance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve coordination with local TIP.</li> <li>- WDFW guidance how to create a prioritization scheme anticipated in next 6 mo.</li> </ul>	5.04: Contribute to barriers removal
Stream flow and septic system issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WSPER Coordination Team to Continue regional work.</li> <li>- Recruit members from KPHD and KPUD.</li> </ul>	5.04: Contribute to barriers removal



## Memo for Executive Committee

December 13, 2023

### Agenda Topic: Nominate and Confirm Executive Committee Officers

#### Executive Committee Action Request

Decision

None – information and discussion

None – written briefing only

#### Background

Each year, the Executive Committee nominates a Chair and Vice chair who are confirmed through consensus or a vote of the committee. Chairman Forsman of Suquamish Tribe and Commissioner Garrido of Kitsap County served as the Chair and Vice Chair respectively for 2023.

**Duties of the Chair:** The Chair shall exercise general oversight of the affairs of the Lead Entity and Local Integrating Organization, in consultation with the other members of the Executive Committee. The Chair shall approve the dates, times, and locations of all regular Executive Committee meetings. The Chair shall approve regular Executive Committee meeting agendas. The Chair shall call Executive Committee meetings to order, preside over them, and adjourn them when business is deemed finished. The Chair may cancel or reschedule regular Executive Committee meetings. If deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee, the Chair shall sign official correspondence on behalf of the Executive Committee and WSPER. The Chair shall also perform such other duties as the Executive Committee may prescribe.

**Duties of the Vice Chair:** The Vice Chair shall perform all duties incumbent upon the Chair, during the absence or disability of the Chair, with all the powers of, and subject to all restrictions upon, the Chair. The Vice Chair shall also perform such other duties as the Executive Committee may prescribe.

#### Question for Consideration

**Who does the Executive Committee nominate for Chair and Vice Chair for 2024?**

#### Memo Contacts

Renee Johnson, WSPER Coordinator, [rjohnso@kitsap.gov](mailto:rjohnso@kitsap.gov)



## Memo for Executive Committee

December 13, 2023

**Agenda Topic:** Nominate and Confirm 2024 Salmon Recovery Council Representatives

### Executive Committee Action Request

**Decision**                       None – information and discussion                       None – written briefing only

### Background

The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council advises the Puget Sound Partnership’s Leadership Council on decisions relating to salmon recovery and the implementation of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan. The Salmon Recovery Council’s recommendations help set priorities for the types of recovery work to conduct, determine what issues to focus on, and provide recommendations for future projects and funding.

The Salmon Recovery Council includes representatives from the diverse constituents working on salmon recovery throughout the Sound, including representatives from federal agencies, state agencies, local jurisdictions, all Puget Sound tribes, all Puget Sound watersheds, business and agriculture entities, and environmental entities. To create lasting and durable outcomes, operating procedures specify that decisions strive for consensus. The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council recommendations allow the Leadership Council to:

- Set policy direction for implementing the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan.
- Develop and direct strategic approaches to near-term issues and actions.
- Establish allocation policies for capital and capacity funding.
- Hold others and itself accountable for the implementation of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan.

The Executive Committee is asked to approve the following nominees to represent the West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery Lead Entity at the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council in 2024.

- Representative: Brittany Gordon, Natural Resource Analyst, Kitsap County
- Alternate: Renee Johnson, Natural Resource Planner, Kitsap County

### Question for Consideration

**Does the Executive committee approve Brittany Gordon as the WSPER representative and Renee Johnson as alternate representative to the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council?**

### Memo Contacts

Renee Johnson, WSPER Coordinator, [rjohnso@kitsap.gov](mailto:rjohnso@kitsap.gov)



## Memo for Executive Committee

December 13, 2023

### Agenda Topic: 2024 Local Forum with Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council

#### Executive Committee Action Request

**Decision**

None – information and discussion

None – written briefing only

#### Background

The Leadership Council is the governing body of the Puget Sound Partnership. It is comprised of seven leading citizen members from around the Sound. Members are appointed by the Governor and serve four-year terms.

Leadership Council responsibilities:

- Promotion of public awareness, education, and participation in Puget Sound protection and recovery initiatives.
- Close collaboration with existing organizations and government to ensure that the Action Agenda and its execution are scientifically grounded, efficient, and capable of achieving the necessary outcomes for Puget Sound's recovery.
- Support, engagement, and fostering of collaboration among watershed groups to aid in Puget Sound's recovery efforts.

Since 2020, the Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council has reserved space in their meetings to collaborate with lead entities and local integrating organizations to align local and regional recovery priorities. West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery has the opportunity to host a Leadership Council local forum in June 2024.

Local Forum Objectives: Engage local decision-makers with the broader Puget Sound recovery community, discuss local priorities and how the Leadership Council and region can offer support, and strategize how local partners can advance regional priorities.

Engagement formats: Various engagement formats can be used, such as panel discussions that bring together stakeholders to explore topics and concerns, activities paired with discussion, and facilitated discussions led by WSPER partners or in collaboration with the Puget Sound Partnership.

Topic selection: Prioritize topics that align with West Sound salmon strategy, Ecosystem Recovery Plans, and the Action Agenda.

## Options for Consideration

Host Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council local forum in June 2024.

Request to postpone hosting Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council local forum.

## Staff Recommendation

West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery (WSPER) is currently updating the West Sound Ecosystem Recovery Plan and will begin to update salmon recovery strategies in January 2024. Resources and time will be dedicated to completing these important planning tasks to ensure accurate understanding of ecosystem baseline conditions and that limited resources are allocated strategically to the highest priority needs.

The WSPER coordination team recommends postponing hosting the local forum until 2025. The additional time will allow the WSPER coordination team and members to focus resources on the LIO Ecosystem Recovery Plan and salmon strategy update in 2024. We will need active participation from our members to ensure the best products are created in our watershed planning updates. We will also need active participation from our members to share the great work being done in West Sound with the Leadership Council. We are concerned that asking our partners for capacity to participate actively in both the watershed planning updates (LIO Ecosystem Recovery Plan and Salmon Strategy update) and in hosting and providing content for the Leadership Council meeting will strain those actively engaged members and create concern about capacity for future work. If we postpone hosting the Leadership Council local forum, we will avoid overlapping with large scale watershed planning updates currently planned for 2024.

## Memo Contacts

Renee Johnson, WSPER Coordinator, [rjohnso@kitsap.gov](mailto:rjohnso@kitsap.gov)



## Memo for Executive Committee

December 13, 2023

**Agenda Topic:** 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Round Draft Schedule (to allocate ~\$1.8 million dollars to salmon habitat projects in WSPER geography)

### Executive Committee Action Request

**Decision**                       None – information and discussion       None – written briefing only

### Background

As a lead entity for salmon recovery, WSPER coordinates a solicitation and ranking of salmon habitat projects in east Water Resource Inventory Area 15. WSPER is calling for sponsors to submit projects for review by our Technical Advisory Group and ultimately the state’s Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). The first step is for sponsors to submit a Letter of Intent to the WSPER coordinator by **January 3, 2024**. [Submit your Letter of Intent here.](#)

### ***Funding Information***

Funding for this grant round is available from the State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) program, and through a special allocation of riparian funding through the Climate Commitment Act. Projects must align with WSPER’s [Recovery Plans and Strategies](#) for salmon and steelhead populations. SRFB funding for approved projects will be available after the September 2024 SRFB meeting. PSAR funding for approved projects will be available in July of 2024. SRFB funds are anticipated to be between ~\$358,078 and \$412,825 available September 2024. PSAR funds are anticipated to be ~\$990,000 in available in July 2025, riparian funds are expected to be ~\$470,000.

### ***Eligible Applicants***

- ***Cities***
- ***Counties***
- ***Native American Tribes***
- ***Conservation districts***
- ***Non-profit organizations***
- ***Regional fisheries enhancement groups***
- ***Special purpose districts***
- ***Private landowners***
- ***State agencies (with local partner)***

### **Eligible Projects**

- Acquisition
- Planning (Designs, Assessments, and Inventories)
- Restoration
- Combination projects (Acquisition and Restoration, Acquisition and Planning)

### **Submission Information**

The [Letter of Intent form](#) is due **January 3, 2024**. The WSPER Technical Advisory Group will screen all Letters of Intent to determine consistency with local [Recovery Plans and Strategies](#) and priorities. The WSPER coordinator will notify project sponsors of the TAG's decision of whether a project is consistent with local priorities and should continue into the 2024 grant round by January 31, 2024. A site visit will be required in February or March 2024 for projects continuing in the grant round. The competitive grant round will span through August 4, 2024, when the final ranked list is submitted.

***Find the WSPER Grant Round Schedule on the following page.***

### **Memo Contacts**

Renee Johnson, WSPER Coordinator, [rjohnso@kitsap.gov](mailto:rjohnso@kitsap.gov)



### WSPER Lead Entity 2024 Salmon Habitat Project Grant Round Schedule

Phase	Date	Description
Planning	October 3	Call for projects, scoring criteria, & Letter of Intent are distributed
	November 28	Discuss projects, letter of intent, call for projects as needed
	January 3	Letter of intent due
	January 9	Sponsors present their projects and get feedback
	January 30	Preliminary project applications due in PRISM (do not hit submit)
	Jan 30 – Feb 19	Application technical review period
	Feb 20 TBD	Site visit w/SRFB review panel; First choice: Mar 12 & 13; Second choice: Mar 5 & 6; Third choice: Feb 20 & 21
	March 28	SRFB Review Panel comment form released identifying projects as “Clear,” “Conditioned,” “Needs More Information,” or “Project of Concern.” Monitoring Panel will provide comments for monitoring projects.
	April 8 & 9	1-hr call w/SRFB Panel for project sponsors to discuss “Need More Information,” “Project of Concern,” or “Conditioned” projects
LE Develops Habitat List	April 17	Sponsors submit final responses to Review Panel comments
	May 7	TAG submits scores to WSPER Coordinator for processing
	May 14	TAG meeting: discuss scores and produce ranked list
	May 28	WG meeting: TAG chair provides recommendations and requests feedback and approval
	June TBD	EC meeting: WG chair provides recommendation and requests feedback and approval
	June 21	Final applications due in PRISM
Funding Decision	July 26	Review Panel comments distribute to sponsors
	August 12	Applications with conditioned projects must accept conditions or withdraw project
	August 13	Coordinator submits ranked list
	Sept 24-25	Salmon Recovery Funding Board awards grants