Meeting Notes

**Snohomish WREC (WRIA 7) Technical Workgroup meeting**

June 5, 2019 | 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## **Location**

WebEx

**Committee Chair**

Ingria Jones (WRIA 7)  
ingria.jones@ecy.wa.gov**Handouts**

Growth Projections Discussion Guide

City well responses table

Draft Data Acquisitions Plan

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Attendance\*

| **Name** | **Representing** |
| --- | --- |
| Ann Savery (phone) | Tulalip Tribes |
| Brant Wood (phone) | Snohomish County PUD |
| Darryl Williams | Tulalip Tribes |
| Colin Wahl | Tulalip Tribes |
| David Hartley (phone) | Snoqualmie Indian Tribe |
| Emily Dick | Washington Water Trust |
| Eric Ferguson | King County |
| Janne Kaje | King County |
| Joe Hovenkotter | King County |
| Julie Lewis | Snoqualmie Indian Tribe |
| Kirk Lakey | Dept. of Fish and Wildlife |
| Matt Baerwalde | Snoqualmie Indian Tribe |
| Mike Wolanek (phone) | City of Arlington |
| Morgan Ruff (phone) | Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum (ex officio) |
| Perry Falcone | Snoqualmie Watershed Member (ex officio) |
| Paul Faulds | City of Seattle (ex officio) |
| Suzanne (phone) | City of Everett |
| Terri Strandberg | Snohomish County |
| Steve Toy | Snohomish County (demographer) |
| Alexa Ramos | Snohomish County |
| Beth Lidell | Snohomish County |
| Keith Binkley | Snohomish PUD |
| Brant Wood | Snohomish PUD |
| Cynthia Krass | Snoqualmie Valley WID |

Other Attendees

| **Name** | **Affiliation** |
| --- | --- |
| Stephanie Potts | WA Department of Ecology |
| Ingria Jones | WA Department of Ecology |
| John Covert | WA Department of Ecology |
| Patty Dillon | Northwest Hydraulic Consultants |
| Bridget August | GeoEngineers |

\*Attendees list is based on sign-in sheet

# Welcome

Ingria reviewed the agenda and meeting objectives. Emily Dick volunteered to report out to the committee on the June 5th technical workgroup meeting in addition to reporting on the May 23rd joint technical workgroup meeting.

# Methods for Rural Growth Projections

Ingria reviewed key takeaways from the May 23 joint technical workgroup meeting. Ingria reviewed the two main growth projections tasks: 1) to identify how many new single-family homes will rely on permit-exempt wells for their water source and 2) to understand where will those homes will go. Bridget provided an overview of King and Snohomish Counties current approach to growth projections and introduced a table summarizing assumptions the counties are making in their GIS analysis of developable lands.

Considerations and Discussion

* King and Snohomish counties both doing a developable lands analysis to analyze spatially at where homes could be built in the watershed. After this analysis is complete, counties will apply a growth projection figure to project how many are likely to be developed in the next 20 years.
* King County is refining the assumptions made in its Water Availability Study. The County is analyzing the likelihood of new permit-exempt wells within water service areas.
* The technical workgroup discussed the assumption that there will be no new domestic permit exempt uses within UGAs. Cities have permitting authority for wells within their city limits, however the counties have permitting authority in unincorporated areas, including unincorporated UGAs. Nine cities in WRIA 7 responded to questions regarding permit-exempt wells within their city limits; Ingria shared their responses in a table with the committee in April. King County only allows wells within a UGA if water cannot be served to a property and not allowing a well would deny use of that property; the residence is required to hook up when water becomes available. Snohomish County stated that the probability of a new well within a UGA is close to zero, but may be allowed in emergency circumstances.
* The technical workgroup discussed the counties assumptions about new domestic permit-exempt uses within water service areas. Snohomish County started its analysis using two assumptions: 1) any portion of a property boundary within 100 feet of a water distribution line will hook up and 2) sub-dividable properties within ¼ mile from a water distribution line will hook up. The county is collecting data on the number of parcels likely to be developed within the 100-foot buffer. Snohomish PUD described its hookup policy: the PUD does not require main extensions for single family customers and instead has interconnection agreements. It is not considered timely and reasonable for a single family customer to hook up ¼ mile away from a distribution line. King County is analyzing historical patterns of domestic permit exempt wells within water service areas and planning to bracket its assumption that new homes within service areas will hook up. Snohomish County is considering a new water code that would require hookups within 100 feet of water lines. King County is considering ways to improve implementation of existing policies to reach its goal of 100% connections to water within water service areas.
* Some water providers are concerned about sharing their distribution line data. King County prefers to bracket its assumptions regarding hook ups within water service areas, instead of using water distribution lines.
* The workgroup discussed King County’s assumptions that there will be no new wells in the Agricultural Production District (APD) or the Forest Production District. Zoning in the APD is mostly 35-acre minimum lot size and many areas are within the Snoqualmie River floodplain. In the Forest Production District minimum lot size is 40 acres or 80 acres and King County has purchased most of the development rights.
* The workgroup discussed the likelihood that some number of permit exempt wells will be drilled in water service provider areas, small grandfathered/nonconforming parcels, forest areas, and APD areas, and requested sensitivity analysis on these assumptions.

# Data Needs for Plan Development

Bridget August introduced the draft Data Acquisition Work Plan that GeoEngineers developed.

Ingria explained the process for providing feedback on the draft Work Plan. Ecology will review work plans for each WRIA to identify whether there are any critical data gaps that are necessary for completing the minimum requirements of the planning process.

# Next Steps and Action Items

* Next Thursday, June 13th from 12:30-3:45 at Brightwater Facility, Woodinville
* Emily Dick will report to the Snohomish WREC at the June 13th Committee meeting.
* Next Snohomish WREC Technical Workgroup Meeting TBD.
* Technical workgroup members email Ingria feedback on the draft Data Acquisitions Work Plan by June 18th.
  + Please be as specific as possible about the additional data sources you are recommending.
  + If you identify a data gap, be as specific as possible in describing the anticipated data need, how it is necessary to complete the minimum requirements for the Plan.
  + Consider the timeline for development of the plan and the time to fill the data gap.
* Entities that are anticipated data holders, please carefully review the draft work plan and consider what available data you have to support development of the Plan.
* GeoEngineers will work with counties to expand on the growth projections assumptions matrix to include reasoning behind assumptions and potential approach for a sensitivity analysis.
* GeoEngineers will complete a sensitivity analysis for domestic permit-exempt wells within UGAs.
* King County will confirm what water distribution line data they have.