



# Meeting Summary

## WRIA 7 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee Meeting

May 9, 2019 | 12:30 p.m.-3:30p.m. | [WRIA 7 Committee Webpage](#)

### Location

Brightwater Facility  
22505 State Route 9 SE,  
Woodinville

### Committee Chair

Ingria Jones  
Ingria.Jones@ecy.wa.gov  
(425) 649-4210

### Handouts

Agenda  
April Meeting Summary  
Growth Projections  
Discussion Guide

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Elizabeth Ablow (*City of Seattle*) (*ex officio*)  
Steve Nelson (*City of Snoqualmie*)  
Kirk Lakey (*WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife*)  
Lindsey Desmul (*alternate*) (*WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife*)  
Jaime Bails (*alternate*) (*WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife*)  
Brant Wood (*Snohomish PUD*)  
Keith Binkley (*phone*) (*alternate*) (*Snohomish PUD*)  
Glen Pickus (*City of Snohomish*)  
Jaime Burrell (*City of North Bend*)  
Mike Wolanek (*City of Arlington*)  
Jordan Ottow (*City of Monroe*)  
Richard Norris (*city of Gold Bar*)  
Matt Baerwalde (*Snoqualmie Indian Tribe*)

Julie Lewis (*alternate*) (*Snoqualmie Indian Tribe*)  
Souheil Nasr (*alternate*) (*City of Everett*)  
Perry Falcone (*phone*) (*Snoqualmie Watershed Forum*) (*ex officio*)  
Dylan Sluder (*MBA of King & Snohomish Counties*)  
Daryl Williams (*Tulalip Tribes*)  
Matthew Eyer (*City of Marysville*)  
Leah Everett (*City of Lake Stevens*)  
Janne Kaje (*King County*)  
Michael Remington (*City of Duvall*)  
Erin Ericson (*alternate*) (*Snoqualmie Valley WID*)  
Emily Dick (*alternate*) (*Washington Water Trust*)  
Bobbi Lindemulder (*Snohomish CD*)  
Terri Strandberg (*Snohomish County*)  
Ingria Jones (*WA Dept of Ecology*) (*chair*)

### Committee Representatives and Alternates in Not Attendance\*

Town of Index

City of Carnation

### Other Attendees

Susan O'Neil (*ESA, Facilitator*)  
John Covert (*WA Dept of Ecology*)  
Angela Pietschmann (*Cascadia*) (*info manager*)  
Stephanie Potts (*WA Dept of Ecology*)  
Stacy Vynne McKinstry (*WA Dept of Ecology*)  
Alexa Ramos (*Snohomish County*)  
Yorik Stevens-Wajda (*Snohomish County Council Staff*)

Kevin Lee (*WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife*)  
Bridget August (*GeoEngineers*) (*Tech Consultant*)  
Morgan Ruff (*Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum*)  
Tad Schwager (*Hart Crowser*)  
Chelsea Jefferson (*WA Dept of Ecology*)

\*Attendees list is based on sign-in sheet.

## Welcome

Ingria introduced Bridget August, technical consultant with GeoEngineers. GeoEngineers and NHC are the technical team supporting Ecology for the Snohomish, Cedar-Sammamish, and Duwamish-Green WRECs and Bridget is the point person. Ingria also introduced Susan O'Neil, facilitator with ESA.

## Meeting Agenda and Meeting Summary

Susan reviewed the agenda.

*No revisions to the agenda.*

Ingria received one comment about the meeting summary:

- Alexa Ramos provided clarifications around her public comment.

*No further refinements to the meeting summary recommended.*

## Updates and Announcements

Ingria provided updates from Ecology.

- GeoEngineers is officially under contract. Ingria provided a summary of their work assignment. Dates should generally match the updated committee calendar.
- GeoEngineers created an online mapping tool for Committee members to use to visualize data. This is a work in progress. Ingria provided handout on instructions for using the web map and providing feedback on the data sources.
- Draft Final Guidance for Determining Net Ecological Benefit was released on May 6 with public comment period open through June 7. Ecology will use the final guidance to evaluate the plan.
- Streamflow projects webinar scheduled for May 30. Ecology and DFW staff will talk generically about what projects to consider in this planning process. Ecology will record the webinar and make available to those unable to attend on the scheduled date.
- Mike Remington announced he will be taking Jason Walker's place as delegate on the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum and thanked Jason for his service.

## Ex Officio Consideration: Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum

The committee considered the nomination of the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum as an ex officio (non-voting) member.

### Reference Material

- Letter of interest posted on committee webpage.

### Discussion

- Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum is interested in ex-officio membership on committee to help bring in opportunities, project ideas, and alignment with the salmon recovery plan.
- Tulalip Tribes spoke in favor of the Forum's participation.

*All committee members approved Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum joining the Snohomish WREC as an ex officio member.*

**Decision:** Approved

# Growth Projection Considerations and Recommendations

Purpose of the session was to learn about Ecology's recommended approaches to growth projections and advise the workgroup and technical consultant on next steps.

## Resources

- Growth Projections Discussion Guide
- Growth Projections Overview Presentation

John Covert summarized the three approaches recommended by Ecology and examples of how other WRIAs have approached growth projections.

## Considerations and Discussion

- Most other watersheds have completed an analysis of a random number of building permits to determine average lawn irrigation footprint by subbasin from July or August ortho photos.
- Consumptive water use by household varies across watersheds based on crop irrigation requirements for turf grass, average lawn size, and aquifer production rates.
- Ecology's consumptive use recommendations: indoor use is 10% consumptive (on septic) and outdoor use is 80% consumptive. Committee may use locally specific data, if available.
- RCW 90.94.030 sets an annual average limit of 950 gpd, but daily use may be higher in summer months. Committee may recommend changes to the annual average or daily water use limit.
- Impacts of seasonal pumping on streamflow depend on the distance of the well to the stream. In most aquifers, impacts ½ mile away are mostly annualized (spread out), shallow wells very close to streams may have more immediate effects.
- Concern that many areas of development will be less than ½ mile away from a stream.
- WRIA 1 and WRIA 11 estimated water per household in several different ways. WRIA 11 ended up with a number close to Ecology's and wished they had started with those numbers.
- Snohomish PUD has data on water use based on parcel size and time of year (summer v. winter). Water use ranges from 180 to 240 gallons per day and is higher for larger lots.
- Consumptive use offset is at the WRIA scale, not subbasin scale. Committee must prioritize water offset projects that are in the same time and place as the use.
- Locations of wells based on Ecology's well log database are only mapped to the quarter-quarter and cannot reliably identify whether a well is within or outside a water service area. A water purveyor's current retail service area and water right capacity help determine likelihood wells will be constructed within their service area.
- Size of planned development and timely and reasonable standards influence hookups.
- Larger water purveyors have a surplus in water rights; smaller ones are at or near their limit.
- Seven Lakes water district is at or near the capacity of its water rights.
- Most exempt wells are drilled ¼ mile or more away from current retail water service areas.
- Growth projections based on past development rates and locations assume the future will be similar to the past. King County favors capacity analysis for full development of parcels that are likely to rely on a permit exempt well.
- Potential to offset water use from new permit exempt wells using municipal water rights until water mains extend to those areas.
- Water offset requirement may be small; Plan needs to meet NEB and full Committee approval.
- Concern that PSRC vision 2050 projection is still being developed and is a goal-based target.
- Snohomish County can calculate rural percent of population based on 2040 growth allotments.
- Snohomish County has one year of data for permit exempt wells.
- Vacant lands database is for tax assessment purposes; properties can be double-counted.

## Workgroup Report

Janne Kaje provided a summary of the April 29 workgroup meeting (via WebEx). Notes from workgroup meeting are posted on the committee website.

*No questions or clarifications.*

## Subbasin Considerations and Recommendations

Purpose of discussion was to review the recommendations from the workgroup and provide further direction to the workgroup and consultants.

Ingrid provided background information for subbasin delineations: The Committee must offset the total estimated consumptive water use from new, domestic, permit-exempt wells within the watershed. The legislation does not require offsets to be in the same subbasin or tributary. However, when prioritizing projects, the Committee must include projects that offset consumptive water use within the same basin or tributary as high priority.

### Reference Materials

- GeoEngineers Web Map
- Intro to Subbasins Presentation

### Discussion on General Considerations

- See anticipated rural growth before finalizing subbasins.
- See growth on finer scale to identify specific development hot spots.
- More subbasins increases consultant time spent on outdoor consumptive use analysis.
- May be easier to lump later than to split later.
- Likely difficult to find dozens of water offset projects.

### Additional Considerations and Discussion

- Snohomish Basin Protection Plan (SBPP) Scale 3 Protection Planning Units offer a place to start. The SBPP is an addendum to the Salmon Recovery Plan focused on protecting hydrology. It identifies strategies to protect hydrology that may be good fit for Committee's planning process.
- Areas of interest for subbasin refinement include Puget Sound Drainages, Estuary Drainages, North, Middle, and South Fork Snoqualmie, Pilchuck River, Raging River, and French, Cherry, Harris, Patterson, and Ames Creeks.
- There is less concern for rural development impacts to streamflow in the Sultan River and Tolt River, where hydroelectric projects have flow requirements.
- Portions of the Tulalip Reservation are served by Everett Water, others may have new wells.
- Hydrologic impact of rural development is not limited to streamflow impact, but also includes forest clearing, increases in permeable surfaces, and water quality impacts.
- In areas with little growth where water offset projects are difficult to find, Committee could identify other projects that offset impacts and provide an ecological benefit.
- Concern that small streams may have key habitat and may see disproportionate impacts.
- The Committee may recommend lawn size restrictions to reduce water offset and provide other benefits to instream resources.
- Concern that subbasin delineations may affect project funding opportunities.
- Projects in plans are considered offset projects, not mitigation projects.
- The Committee is not required to offset consumptive use in every subbasin, but directed to prioritize projects that are in time and in the same subbasin as the consumptive use.

- Subbasin delineations are a tool to prioritize projects, however the Committee may have additional tools to prioritize projects, such as priority streams for salmon recovery.
- Several Committee members are interested in starting with larger subbasins then refining later.

There was no decision on initial subbasin delineations. The technical workgroup and Committee will continue subbasin discussions once we have additional input on growth projection data and methods.

## **Public Comment**

*No comments.*

## **Action Items for Committee Members**

- Next meeting: June 13, Brightwater Facility
  - Kelsey Collins, Ecology Acquisitions Manager will present.
  - There is no committee meeting in July.
  - August meeting will be short, followed by project site visits.
- Send project site visit ideas to Ingria.
- Send specific water rights acquisitions questions or project ideas to Ingria.
- Attend streamflow projects webinar scheduled for May 30.
- Work with your entity to determine which decision you can make on behalf of your agency and which decisions you'll need an extensive review process through council or board. Ecology will need to build timeline around decisions to ensure adequate review.

## **Action Items for Ecology:**

- Clarify implications of subbasin delineations on project funding opportunities, consultant resources, and implications for adding or lumping later.
- Request operating principles signature from Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum.
- Plan opportunity for technical workgroup to learn about Snohomish Basin Protection Plan and WRIA 7 Watershed Characterization technical study.