



# Meeting Summary

**Snohomish (WRIA 7)**

**Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee meeting**

February 13, 2020 | 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. [WRIA 7 Committee Webpage](#)

## Location

Everett Public Library  
2702 Hoyt Ave  
Everett, WA 98201

## Committee Chair

Ingria Jones  
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(425) 649-4210

## Handouts

Agenda  
Draft December Meeting  
Summary (electronic)  
Technical Memos (electronic)  
Technical Progress To-Date  
Project Inventory Snapshot

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Brant Wood (*Snohomish PUD*)  
Josh Grandlienard (*City of Arlington*) (*alternate*)  
Kim Peterson (*Town of Index*)  
Matt Baerwalde (*Snoqualmie Indian Tribe*)  
Julie Lewis (*Snoqualmie Indian Tribe*) (*alternate*)  
Denise Di Santo (*King County*)  
Dylan Sluder (*MBA of King & Snohomish Counties*)  
Jim Miller (*City of Everett*)  
Elissa Ostergaard (*Snoqualmie Watershed Forum*) (*ex officio*)  
Cory Zyla (*Snoqualmie Watershed Forum*) (*ex officio*) (*phone*)  
Jaime Burrell (*City of North Bend*)  
Andy Dunn (*City of Snoqualmie*) (*alternate*)

Rich Norris (*City of Gold Bar*)  
Paul Faulds (*City of Seattle*) (*ex officio*)  
Elizabeth Ablow (*City of Seattle*) (*ex officio*)  
(*phone*)  
Kirk Lakey (*WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*)  
Daryl Williams (*Tulalip Tribes*)  
Matthew Eyer (*City of Marysville*)  
Michael Remington (*City of Duvall*) (*phone*)  
Cynthia Krass (*Snoqualmie Valley WID*)  
Bobbi Lindemulder (*Snohomish CD*)  
Terri Strandberg (*Snohomish County*)  
Glen Pickus (*City of Snohomish*)  
Emily Dick (*WA Water Trust*)  
Jordan Ottow (*City of Monroe*)  
Ingria Jones (*WA Dept. of Ecology*) (*chair*)

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

City of Carnation

City of Lake Stevens

### Other Attendees

Susan O'Neil (*ESA*) (*facilitator*)  
Angela Pietschmann (*Cascadia*) (*info manager*)  
Stacy Vynne McKinstry (*WA Dept. of Ecology*)  
John Covert (*WA Dept. of Ecology*)

Joe Hovenkotter (*King County*)  
Kristin Marshall (*Snohomish CD*)  
Bridget August (*GeoEngineers*)

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

## Welcome, Introductions, and Standing Business

Susan welcomed the group, began introductions, and reviewed the agenda.

*No revisions to the agenda. One correction was made to the December 2019 meeting summary. The meeting summary was approved without further changes.*

### Ecology updates:

- Ecology postponed Washington Water Trust's water rights assessment and will provide an update by the next meeting.
- The 2020 Streamflow Restoration Grant application period is open (closes at 5PM on March 31, 2020). See the [2020 Guidance for Project Applicants](#) for more information. In WRIA 7, the following entities are planning to apply this grant round:
  - King County: multiple projects
  - City of North Bend: South Fork Snoqualmie River Levee Setback
  - City of Snohomish: Snohomish Water Right Acquisition
  - City of Marysville/Adopt A Stream: Jones Creek Relocation and Wetland Enhancement
  - City of Snoqualmie: Snoqualmie ASR Feasibility Project
- Ecology has extended the deadline for completing the [Plan Approval Process Form](#) to February 20, 2020. The committee will discuss review process and timelines during the March 2020 meeting.
- Section 7 of the [Streamflow Restoration Policy and Interpretive Statement](#) discusses plan implementation. As articulated in the [Final Guidance for Determining Net Ecological Benefit](#), watershed plans are to be prepared with implementation in mind. However, RCW 90.94.020 and 90.94.030 do not create an obligation on any party to ensure that plans, or projects and actions in those plans or associated with rulemaking, are implemented. Further, the law does not predicate the issuance of building permits on the implementation of watershed plans or any projects and actions in those plans.
- GeoEngineers has developed several **technical memos** (i.e., [subbasins](#), [growth projections](#), and [consumptive use](#)). Ingria distributed the latest versions by email and posted them to Box in the [Technical Memos Folder](#). These memos will be included in the appendices of the plan. Ecology is not seeking feedback on memos but **contact Ingria ASAP with any red flags or major concerns by Feb. 28, 2020**.
- Paulina (Ecology) may reach out to committee members for information to be included in the plan's SEPA analysis.
- Ingria is in the process of cleaning up/organizing documents on Box. If anyone has trouble accessing [Box](#), contact Ingria.

No additional updates from committee members.

## Planning Horizon Consumptive Use Estimate

GeoEngineers and HDR (southwest WRIAs) compared the results of their respective irrigated area analyses for consumptive use estimates. In January, Ingria shared the **Irrigation Area Compatibility Study memo**, which details their methods, results, and conclusions:

- Subjectivity and variability are inherent in interpreting manual aerial photos to estimate irrigated areas.
- Estimates vary on a continuum between slightly watered and heavily water areas. As such, there is a range of "correct" answers to the question of 'which outdoor watering areas should be

counted?'. While it can be relatively straight-forward to delineate the irrigated footprints for parcels on the extreme (e.g., brown lawns vs. lush, golf-course green lawns) it can be much harder to make delineations among the rest of the parcels.

- The outdoor irrigation method is conservative because it assigns outdoor watering rates equivalent to those for crops described in the [Washington Irrigation Guide](#) such as to produce commercial pasture/turf grass.
- GeoEngineers and HDR have confidence in their completed work—and each other's work for their respective WRIAs. The technical consulting teams recommend that Ecology and the committee accept GeoEngineers' and HDR's irrigated area results.

In January, the Technical Workgroup discussed the planning horizon consumptive use estimate (i.e., the estimate of water consumptively used for indoor and outdoor household use over the next 20 years, based on 20-year growth projections for new permit-exempt wells).

- The Technical Workgroup recommended that the committee use the **estimate of 797.4 acre-feet**.
- The committee discussed the recommendation and had the following comments:
  - Daryl was initially concerned that the random parcel selection and average might not address the trend towards large parcels being developed in Tulalip Creek; however, he pointed out that the project they are developing with WDFW in Tulalip subbasin would still offset any consumptive use estimate if irrigation practices change in the future.
  - Matt was initially concerned with including zeros in the calculation of the average irrigated lawn size, but the workgroup discussed that small adjustments to replace zero values in the irrigated footprint size do not result in a considerable change the overall offset estimate.
  - Bobbi asked about HOAs or developments that put pressure on homeowners to irrigate their lawns a lot; Bridget noted that the calculation assumes that the irrigated area assumes the crop irrigation requirements for commercial turf-lawn, which assumes a high level of watering.
- The full committee will make a formal decision at the March meeting.
- **Levels of consensus:** "I can say an unqualified "yes;" "I can accept the decision;" "I can live with the decision;" "I do not fully agree with the decision; however, I will not block it."
- While it is important for committee members to review the (1) subbasin delineation, (2) PE Well growth projections, and (3) consumptive use estimates memos in detail, Ecology has summarized **key takeaways and progress in Technical Work to Date**.
- Ecology developed a [Consumptive Use Estimate Decision Memo](#) with a concise technical work summary to help prepare the committee for the formal consumptive use decision in March.

#### Reference Materials

- Irrigation Area Compatibility [memo](#)
- Technical Progress to Date [document](#)
- Consumptive use estimate [decision memo](#)

## Estimating Water Offset from Habitat Projects

GeoEngineers conducted a literature review to collect information on estimating water offset quantities for habitat projects (e.g. floodplain restoration). GeoEngineers has developed a plan to (1) begin identifying a subset of projects that may provide water offset benefit and then (2) analyze a small subset of those projects for water offset benefit. **The Project Subgroup will review GeoEngineers' Work Plan so that the technical team can begin their work.**

#### Reference materials

- Estimating Water Offset from Habitat Projects [presentation](#)
- Estimating Water Offset from Habitat Projects [work plan](#)

### Discussion and considerations

- Limitations: all the examples GeoEngineers found in their literature review were in high desert or predominantly snow-fed watersheds; GeoEngineers' analysis does not account for potential increases in evapotranspiration (ET) in restored riparian areas, due to changes in vegetation.
- Considerations:
  - Habitat projects do more than offset the minimum consumptive use estimate; the committee should not expect each project to check every box.
  - Ben Dittbrenner's research investigates surface water storage and groundwater recharge from Beaver ponds. [Link to dissertation.](#)
  - Ensure these projects add resiliency to expected impacts of a changing climate.
  - Consider ways to tie habitat projects to retrofits of existing agricultural drain tiles (MAR site, incidental recharge in summer during critical low flows).
  - In some areas in the watershed, water table may be at or near land surface for a large portion of the year.
  - Consider timing of benefits to streamflow e.g. how long does water stored in saturated substrate in the floodplain take to reach the stream?

## Workgroup/Project Subgroup Progress

The **Technical Workgroup** will meet in February (via WebEx) to work on safety factors, scenarios, and targets to bring to the March committee meeting. The **Project Subgroup** will also meet in February to (1) identify habitat projects for GeoEngineers to estimate water offset, (2) develop guiding principles for project selection for committee review and discussion (including timing of project benefits), (3) consider salmon recovery priorities for habitat projects that Snoqualmie Watershed Forum has been reviewing, and (4) continue to grow the project inventory list where needed, and consider how to bring projects to the full committee for consideration.

### Reference materials

- Policy & Regulatory Actions: Committee Action Items [handout](#)
- (Updated) Project Inventory Snapshot [handout](#)

### Discussion and Considerations

- The **Technical Workgroup will pause after the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting**. Interested workgroup members are encouraged to join the Projects Subgroup.
- Ecology will not be taking the lead on **policy and regulatory action work**.
  - The facilitation team can help coordinate logistics and offer meeting support.
  - The committee could form "Disappearing Task Forces" as need arises to address specific issues (e.g., policy and regulatory actions; adaptive management; climate change; and/or other elements of the plan not focused on capital projects).

## Public Comment

*There was no public comment.*

## Action Items for Committee Members

- The Project Subgroup will review GeoEngineers' [Estimating Water Offset from Habitat Projects Work Plan](#).
- In advance of the March meeting, review the [Policy & Regulator Actions: Committee Action Items](#) [handout](#).

- Which actions are you willing to support/champion?
- Which actions would you not approve?
- Complete the [Plan Approval Process Form](#) by Feb. 20.
- Contact Ingria ASAP with any **red flags or major concerns on technical memos** (i.e., [subbasins](#), [growth projections](#), and [consumptive use](#)).
- Continue to **add new project ideas to the inventory** via the [Project Inventory Additions](#) template.

## Action Items for Technical Consultants and Ecology

- Ingria will send GeoEngineers' [Estimating Water Offset from Habitat Projects Work Plan](#) out before the next project subgroup meeting (Feb 28<sup>th</sup>).
- Ecology will provide more information on water rights assessment next steps when available.
- Ecology will provide a decision memo and technical work summary to help prepare the committee for the formal consumptive use decision in March.
- Technical consultants will review the work plan at the project subgroup meeting and begin work with direction from the project subgroup.

## Next Steps

- Next WRIA 7 **Committee** meeting: Thursday, March 12, Duvall Fire Department
- Next WRIA 7 **Technical Workgroup** meeting: Tuesday, February 25, WebEx
  - Members with safety factor and target ideas/concerns should join meeting or send to Ingria in advance if not part of Technical Workgroup.
- Next WRIA 7 **Project Subgroup** meeting: Friday, February 28, Department of Ecology, Bellevue.