



Meeting Summary

Snohomish (WRIA 7)

Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee meeting

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

Location

Webex

Committee Chair

Ingria Jones
Ingria.Jones@ecy.wa.gov
(425) 466-6005

Handouts

Draft June Meeting
Summary
Project Development Tracking
Draft policy chapter template
Comments on WRE Plan
Chapter 1-3

Attendance

Committee Representatives and Alternates *

Ingria Jones (*WA Dept. of Ecology*)

Daryl Williams (*Tulalip Tribes*)

Matt Baerwalde (*Snoqualmie Indian Tribe*)

Denise Di Santo (*King County*)

Cynthia Krass (*Snoqualmie Valley WID*)

Kirk Lakey (*WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife*)

Emily Dick (*Washington Water Trust*)

Mike Wolanek (*City of Arlington*)

Michael Remington (*City of Duvall*)

Jim Miller (*City of Everett*)

Matthew Eyer (*City of Marysville*)

Liz Ablow (*City of Seattle ex-officio*)

Steve Nelson (*City of Snoqualmie*)

Terri Strandberg (*Snohomish County*)

Brooke Eidem (*alternate - City of Snohomish*)

Ann Bylin (*alternate - Snohomish County*)

David Levitan (*City of Lake Stevens*)

Stacy Vynne McKinstry (*alternate-WA Dept. of Ecology*)

Lindsey Desmul (*alternate - WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife*)

William Stelle (*alternate - Washington Water Trust*)

Bobbi Lindemulder (*Snohomish Conservation District*)

Dylan Sluder (*MBA of King and Snohomish Counties*)

Elissa Ostergaard (*Snoqualmie Watershed Forum ex-officio*)

Megan Darrow (*City of Monroe*)

Committee Representatives and Alternates Not in Attendance

Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum (*ex-officio*)

City of Carnation

Town of Index

City of Gold Bar

City of North Bend

Snohomish PUD

Other Attendees

Susan O'Neil (*ESA (facilitator)*)

Angela Pietschmann (*Cascadia (info manager)*)

John Covert (*WA Dept. of Ecology*)

Kevin Lee (*WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife*)

Bridget August (*GeoEngineers*)

David Hartley (*NHC*)

Introductions and standing business

Susan welcomed the group, began introductions, and reviewed the agenda. *No revisions to the agenda. The June meeting summary was approved without further changes.*

Ecology updates

- The **City of Lake Stevens** has designated two new representatives: David Levitan and John Stevens.
- Ecology's upcoming **furlough** dates are: 8/31, 9/25, 10/30, and 11/30.
- Ecology is on schedule to award **2020 Streamflow Restoration Grants** in fall 2020. Ingria will share the list when it's ready.
- The committee expressed interest in updating the WRIA 7 **operating principles** to (1) address remote approval of WRE plan and (2) outline a process for entities withdrawing from the committee.

Projects

The Project Subgroup has met several times this summer (June 24, July 9, July 22, and August 5) and proposed projects to include in the WRE plan, including: (1) water right acquisition projects; (2) water offset projects; and (3) habitat projects. The group also discussed stormwater projects and managed aquifer recharge (MAR) projects. In addition, a series of "Coffee Klatch" meetings were held (June 17, June 22, July 15, July 16, and July 29) to recommend priority habitat projects to include in the WRE plan.

GeoEngineers has developed a work plan to gather information on 10-30 projects and develop more detailed analysis of 10 for water offset projects: **Phase 1:** Initial identification and project development; **Phase 2:** Project Workgroup identifies and recommends to the Committee priority projects for further analysis; **Phase 3:** Committee selects projects for WRE Plan. GeoEngineers has developed preliminary project descriptions for 12 projects and gathered information about several other potential project sites and project concepts. GeoEngineers will finalize project descriptions once the committee agrees to include them in the plan (i.e., filling critical gaps in project descriptions and adding rough order of magnitude cost estimates). The water right acquisitions profiles developed by Washington Water Trust (WWT) are sufficient to include as project descriptions in the plan. GeoEngineers also has capacity to develop up to 15 habitat project descriptions but looking for project sponsor help when possible.

Projects in the Plan are expected to have varying levels of information: some will be fully developed and ready to build and some will be project concepts without a project sponsor identified yet. Our goal to create a robust project list to address those uncertainties. We can also address project uncertainties through adaptive management process and plan implementation recommendations. The plan must offset the impacts of new consumptive permit-exempt well water use and achieve a net ecological benefit to the watershed.

Resources

- [Project Development Tracking Document](#)
- [Project Information & Project Descriptions folder](#)

Discussion

- **David Hartley** asked whether the Committee had agreed to an offset target.
- The WRIA 7 Committee's approved consumptive use offset estimate is 797.4 acre-feet per year (AFY). The Committee has not agreed to add a safety factor/offset target, however some committee members have expressed interest in striving for additional offset if possible.
- **Tulalip Tribes** noted that the Committee can consider a project-level safety factor and aim for a higher acre-foot total offset for the Plan.
- **Next Step:** The Project Subgroup will discuss tiering project list according to certainty and final water offset recommendations for recommended projects.

The Project Subgroup recommended eight water offset projects to the Committee for inclusion in the WRE Plan, and is continuing discussions on several additional water offset projects. GeoEngineers and Ecology provided an overview of the eight recommended projects and the Committee discussed each project. The total estimated water offset from the eight projects recommended at the meeting is ~822 acre-feet per year.

Lake Stevens Outlet Modification

- **City of Arlington:** supports project but observed its estimated offset is over 60% of the total needed to offset estimated Consumptive Use for the WRIA. Consider diversifying portfolio to reduce risk.
- GeoEngineers noted that there are more projects under consideration.
- Ecology reiterated that it was coincidental that these 8 projects are close to the 800 AF/Y CU estimate and additional water offset projects are still being discussed by the Project Subgroup.
- **Next Step:** Finalize project description for inclusion in the Plan.

Lake Shoecraft Outlet Modification

- **Tulalip Tribes:** have not compared Lake Shoecraft's elevation to Lake Goodwin but believe they are at the same (Lake Goodwin could potentially be added to water storage total).
- **Ecology:** estimated 62.5 AFY would result from modifying the weir, not increasing level of lake itself.
- **Next Step:** Meeting with WDFW, Tulalip, GeoEngineers Team & Ecology to fill any critical gaps in project description and consider additional offset potential with Lake Goodwin storage.

Lochaven Source Switch

- **WWT:** supports developing an offset estimate based on consumptive portion of use.
- **Next Step:** Finalize project description for inclusion in the Plan. Project Subgroup recommend offset estimate to include in the Plan.

Lower Pilchuck 1 and Lower Pilchuck 11

- **City of Everett:** recommends removing this water right from project list due to low offset potential. Everett considers Pilchuck subbasin is lowest priority for identifying projects based on the City's interest in considering out of subbasin water.
- **Snoqualmie Valley WID:** confirm these rights are not interruptible if junior to instream flow rule.
- **King County:** rights may be substantially higher than conservative estimate included in plan (consumptive portion only).
- **Tulalip Tribes:** although a small project, would like to keep at a lower priority given potential for salmon production improvements, especially Chinook. Pilchuck has a TMDL for temperature. Adding more water could potentially reduce temperatures.
- **Snoqualmie Tribe:** criteria for ranking projects by subbasin extends beyond offsetting PE well impacts (NEB).

Raging River 1

- **King County:** doing a preliminary prospectus on a water right at one of the parcels; interested in long-term irrigation possibilities for the property and water rights.
- **Next Step:** Include in the Plan.

Patterson 1

- **City of Arlington:** fish propagation is a significant component of water right; recommend Committee consider any NEB concerns.
- **Next Step:** Snoqualmie Valley WID to make initial contact and facilitate outreach. Include in the Plan.

Patterson 4

- **Next Step:** Snoqualmie Valley WID to make initial contact and facilitate outreach. Project Subgroup recommend offset estimate to include in the Plan.

GeoEngineers and Ecology provided an update on water offset projects still *under discussion* by the Project Subgroup. The total estimated water offset from the eight projects recommended at the meeting *and* the projects that are still under discussion is ~3,000 acre-feet per year. The Project Subgroup will continue to discuss and provide recommendations to the Committee on September 10.

Managed Aquifer Recharge

- GeoEngineers developed project descriptions and offset estimates for five MAR sites based on local geologic mapping and estimated infiltration rates. Could have large offset benefit. MAR facility could be constructed as a buried infiltration gallery or an above-ground infiltration basin. GeoEngineers used a USGS analytical tool to estimate the timing of the benefits to streamflow.
- **Tulalip Tribes:** believe MAR offsets are overestimated and would like to take a closer look.
- **Next Steps:** Project Subgroup will discuss timing of benefits. WWT has expressed interest in serving as a project sponsor for MAR sites in WRIA 7. GeoEngineers has started outreach to some landowners and WWT is able to help with additional outreach.

May Creek-Startup-Gold Bar Source Switch

- Rich Norris (City of Gold Bar) is sharing proposal with City Council. Cost and effort for extending pipe is high; difficult to determine how this project would pencil out without increase to ratepayers.

Sultan Source Switch

- Sultan – Rich Norris reaching out to Nate at Sultan to discuss. Snohomish PUD and Everett are not comfortable being potential project sponsors at this time – no sponsor identified. May not be a viable project given cost. However, infrastructure is already in place.

Little Bear Stormwater Project & Quilceda Stormwater Project

- **Next step:** Project Subgroup to discuss how to determine offset benefit; will report out at September Committee meeting.

Arlington Water Right Acquisition

- The City of Arlington expressed interest in selling their airport water rights to the Trust Water Rights Program to provide offset for the Plan and permanent streamflow benefit. GeoEngineers reviewed existing groundwater studies and conducted a desktop analysis to identify whether ceasing use of the City's airport wells would provide an offset benefit to WRIA 7. Their analysis found that a water right acquisition would primarily benefit WRIA 5 (Stillaguamish). The City

may still consider selling their water rights, however there is not an anticipated offset benefit for the WRIA 7 WRE Plan.

- **Next Step:** remove project from list of water offset options.

SVWID Comprehensive Storage Study

- SVWID completed their initial identification and ranking of potential storage sites in the Snoqualmie Watershed. A subset of Project Subgroup members met to discuss the results of the study.
- **Next Step:** Project Subgroup will continue discussions to identify whether to include water storage projects in the Plan.

Ingria provided an overview of the habitat projects recommended by the Project Subgroup (see [Project Development Tracking Document](#)). The Committee reviewed the Project Subgroup's recommendations for habitat projects to include in Draft WRE Plan. The list presented to the Committee includes projects that were identified as priority by the Subgroup *and* have a project sponsor or GeoEngineers dedicated to developing a project description for the Plan. The Subgroup is still discussing other habitat projects, and will bring a final recommendation to the Committee this fall.

Adaptive Management

The Committee identified the process for writing the adaptive management chapter of the Plan. The Facilitation Team will draft an Adaptive Management Chapter for review by a subset of Committee members, including Denise Di Santo (King County), Daryl Williams (Tulalip Tribes), Matt Baerwalde (Snoqualmie Tribe), Liz Ablow (City of Seattle) and Mike Wolanek (City of Arlington) volunteered to review and refine the draft. Ecology will include an outline of this chapter in the Draft WRE Plan. The Committee will discuss the draft chapter during the September meeting.

Resources

- [Adaptive Management folder](#) on box (includes WDFW tracking proposal and common proposal)

Discussion

- **King County** will share the overriding climate change statement developed for WRIA 8's Adaptive Management Chapter with WRIA 7 Committee for consideration.
- **Snoqualmie Indian Tribe:** consider impacts of COVID-19 on housing migration patterns and PE well projections (i.e., increased teleworking options increase pressure in rural areas as people move out of cities). King County and Snohomish CD agree.
- **Ecology:** planning groups cannot add projects to WRE Plan after adoption (but can move projects around within the project list). Ecology has no statutory authority to reopen the plans after they have been approved. If a group decides to meet and adaptively manage their plan by bringing in new projects, there is nothing holding them back from doing that, but those projects cannot be considered part of an "adopted" plan.
- **Tulalip Tribes:** Suggested that if the committee is recommending an approach and process for Adaptive Management, perhaps a request to be able to add to the plans in the future should be part of the recommendation to the legislature.
- **Snohomish CD:** Interested in other projects that contribute to the goals of the plan but aren't specifically mentioned in the plan or formally tracked and how those should be considered in the future.

Policy Recommendations

A joint WRIA 7-8-9 Policy Workgroup meeting was held to discuss proposals put forward by committee members. The group discussed potential consolidation of policy proposals and noted it is up to policy leads to achieve consensus with other committee members. A cross-WRIA subgroup also developed (1) an outreach and education proposal and (2) statewide proposal policy (see links under Resources below). The Facilitation Team is drafting a Policy Chapter (to be included in Draft WRE Plan) based on the policy proposal write-ups that the policy leads have drafted.

The WRIA 7 Committee will review proposals as part of overall Draft WRE Plan review and highlight concerns and red flags, propose revisions, etc. The Committee can decide whether to include an appendix with detailed proposals. We will caveat this portion of the plan so that it is clear that these are still under review and consideration rather than formal recommendations from the Committee.

Committee members should thoroughly review the proposed policy recommendations and flag any serious concerns. Policy proposals that are not supported by the full Committee will not be included in the final plan.

Resources

- [Cross-WRIA Water Conservation Policy - Education and Incentives](#)
- [Cross-WRIA Water Conservation Policy - Statewide mandatory water conservation measures in unincorporated areas of the state during drought](#)
- [WRIA 7 Policy Tracker](#) (updated)

WRE Plan

Seven entities submitted comments on Draft WRE Plan Chapters 1-3. Ecology’s Streamflow Restoration Management team reviewed comments on Chapter 1 and incorporated suggested revisions into revised draft distributed on August 6. The Committee reviewed comments requiring further discussion.

Resources

- [WRE Plan Comment Tracker Ch 1-3 - Compiled Comments](#)
- [WRE Plan Draft Ch 1-3](#)

Discussion

The Committee discussed the following comments to draft Chapter 1-3 of the WRIA 7 WRE Plan and identified next steps to address the comments.

Comment	Next steps
Snohomish County: New homes within water retail service areas are not currently required to hook-up to water provider systems, and Group A systems are not always consulted before a new well is drilled. Group A systems do not "allow" a well to be drilled.	Terri Strandberg (Snohomish County) will draft updated language. Mike Wolanek (City of Arlington), Brant Wood (Snohomish PUD), and Eric Ferguson (King County) will review.
Snohomish County: Is there going to be any discussion about the relative impact from residential consumptive use on stream flow?	Terri Strandberg (Snohomish County) will draft updated language.

<p>Snoqualmie Indian Tribe: It is not clear how the plan provides a path forward for future planning. The text should state in broad terms how the plan provides a path forward for future water resource planning. Without more to back up the claim, this statement lacks credibility.</p> <p>Snoqualmie Valley WID: As a member of the out-of-stream user group, I would like more clarity on what is meant by "sets the stage for improved coordination of water resources." SVWID interprets "water resources" to mean for all purposes, with instream health being of paramount concern, but not the only purpose in the definition. SVWID would strongly support this plan setting the stage for successful improved coordination of water resources.</p>	<p>Drafted language: "While this watershed plan is narrow in scope and not intended to address all water uses or related issues within the watershed, by completing this plan, the WRIA 7 committee has achieved a success that it hopes could set the stage for improved coordination of water resources and overall health in the WRIA."</p> <p>Cynthia Krass (Snoqualmie Valley WID), Matt Baerwalde (Snoqualmie Indian Tribe), and Mike Wolanek (City of Arlington) to wordsmith/revise together.</p>
<p>Snoqualmie Indian Tribe: The section "Coordination with Existing Plans" needs to be more transparent and specific. Coordination is more than communication. This section would be enhanced by discussing which policies, activities, and projects of the WRE Plan are concurrent, which are supplemental, and which are unique to the WRE Plan. This may not be able to be addressed in detail, but at least at a high level, this section should better describe how the WRIA 7 WRE plan "fits in" with the other planning efforts.</p> <p>Tulalip Tribes (comment at meeting): This planning process is designed to deal with issues related to permit-exempt wells/individual homes, but there are a lot of other out of stream uses including municipal, industrial, agricultural, and firefighting – the WRIA doesn't have any overall plan for all those users within basin. Recommend pointing out the need for creating a new overall plan covering all uses in the basin: tie everything together and look at how to support needs for future growth, leave water in streams for fish & wildlife, and a way to fund projects that have multiple benefits - besides just mitigating PE wells.</p>	<p>Approved changes to section 2.2.1 Coordination with Existing Plans: Throughout the planning process, the WRIA 7 Committee has coordinated closely with the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum and the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum. Staff from both entities actively participated in developing the plan, as including inviting both entities join the WRIA 7 Committee ex-officio members. and identifying opportunities to align the Committee's project list with the Snohomish Basin Salmon Conservation Plan and the Snohomish Basin Protection Plan.</p>

Public comment

There was no public comment.

Action Items for Committee Members

- **All Committee members:** clarify your entity's process for reviewing the draft plan. Set aside sufficient time to review draft plan from August 28 – September 28.
- Terri Strandberg (Snohomish County) will draft updated language to address comments on WRE Plan Chapters 1-3. Mike Wolanek (City of Arlington), Brant Wood (Snohomish PUD), and Eric Ferguson (King County) will review:

- “New homes within water retail service areas are not currently required to hook-up to water provider systems, and Group A systems are not always consulted before a new well is drilled. Group A systems do not "allow" a well to be drilled.”
- “Is there going to be any discussion about the relative impact from residential consumptive use on stream flow?”
- Cynthia Krass (Snoqualmie Valley WID), Matt Baerwalde (Snoqualmie Indian Tribe), and Mike Wolanek (City of Arlington) will draft updated language to address comments on WRE Plan Chapters 1-3:
 - “It is not clear how the plan provides a path forward for future planning. The text should state in broad terms how the plan provides a path forward for future water resource planning. Without more to back up the claim, this statement lacks credibility.”
 - “As a member of the out-of-stream user group, I would like more clarity on what is meant by "sets the stage for improved coordination of water resources." SVWID interprets "water resources" to mean for all purposes, with instream health being of paramount concern, but not the only purpose in the definition. SVWID would strongly support this plan setting the stage for successful improved coordination of water resources.”
- Project Subgroup discuss tiering project list, & finalize remaining water offset and habitat project recommendations for the Committee.

Action Items for Consultants and Ecology

- Ecology will draft updates to the WRIA 7 [operating principles](#) to (1) address remote approval of WRE plan and (2) outline a process for entities withdrawing from the committee.
- Ecology incorporate revisions to Chapter 1-3 and distribute draft plan & comment tracker.
 - The draft Policy Chapter will be prepared for inclusion in draft plan.
- GeoEngineers Team develop habitat project descriptions.
- Ecology finalize June meeting summary and send draft August meeting summary to Committee.
- GeoEngineers finalize project descriptions for water offset projects approved by Committee.
- The Adaptive Management draft will be sent to volunteers who offered to review and revise, and a meeting will be set up to discuss what to bring to the Committee in September.

Next Steps

- Next Project Subgroup Meeting: Wednesday, August 26, 2:00 – 4:00 pm.
- Next Committee meeting: Thursday, September 10, 12:30 – 3:30 pm.