

**Snohomish (WRIA 7)
Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee
DRAFT February Meeting Summary**

Committee webpage:

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37310/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_7.aspx

Next Meeting:

March 14th, 12:30-4:00 pm, Duvall Public Library | 15508 Main Street NE, Duvall

Meeting Information:

Thursday, February 14, 12:30-2:20 pm

Remote Meeting via WebEx

Agenda¹

	Topic	Time	Action	Handouts	Lead
1.	Welcome and Introductions	12:30	- None	- Agenda	- Chair
2.	Approval of agenda and January meeting summary	12:35	- Decision	- Agenda - January summary	- Facilitator
3.	Updates and Announcements <i>-Updates from Ecology -Roundtable announcements from committee members.</i>	12:45	-	-	- Chair and All
4.	Operating Principles- <i>finalize for approval</i>	12:55	- Discussion and Decision	- Final Draft Operating Principles	- Facilitator
5.	Initial Subbasin Discussion	1:20	- Presentation and Discussion	-	- Chair, John Covert
6.	Ex Officio Member Requests and Decision on Approval	1:40	Discussion and Decision	-Memos from proposed ex officio members	- Facilitator
7.	Action Items and Next Steps	2:10	-	-	- Facilitator and Chair
8.	Public comment- <i>limit to 3 minutes per person</i>	2:15	-	-	- Facilitator
9.	Close	2:20	-	-	- Chair

*All handouts are available on the Committee website

¹ Agenda reflects adjustments made due to weather. The original agenda sent to Committee members, alternates, and interested parties is available on the [Committee webpage](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37310/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_7.aspx):

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37310/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_7.aspx

Handouts:

1. Agenda
2. Final draft operating principles
3. Memos from proposed ex officio members

SCHEDULED 2019 MEETINGS

Thursday, March 14, 2019: Duvall Public Library

Thursday, April 11, 2019: Willis Tucker Community Park

Thursday, May 9, 2019: Brightwater Center

Summer 2019: We will likely meet one or two times and have a project site visit

Committee Representatives in Attendance*

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Kirk Lakey	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Jim Miller	City of Everett
Susan Adams	Washington Water Trust	Mike Remington	City of Duvall
Ingria Jones	Department of Ecology	Daryl Williams	Tulalip Tribes
Mike Pattison	Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties	Matt Baerwalde	Snoqualmie Tribe
Cynthia Krass	Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District	Mike Wolanek	City of Arlington
Janne Kaje	King County	Brant Wood	Snohomish Public Utility District #1
Brooke Eidem (alternate)	City of Snohomish	Terri Strandberg	Snohomish County
Matt Eyer	City of Marysville	Jamie Burrell	City of North Bend
Steve Nelson	City of Snoqualmie	Ben Swanson	City of Monroe
Bobbi Lindemulder	Snohomish Conservation District	Lindsey Desmul (alternate)	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Emily Dick (alternate)	Washington Water Trust	Stacy Vynne (facilitator)	Department of Ecology

Committee Representatives not in Attendance

Representing	Representing
Town of Index	City of Carnation

Other Attendees

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
John Covert	Department of Ecology	Stephanie Potts	Department of Ecology
Nicole Denovio	East County Regional Water Association	Paul Faulds	City of Seattle (Seattle Public Utilities)
Liz Ablow	City of Seattle (Seattle City Light)	Perry Falcone	Snoqualmie Watershed Forum

*Attendees based on roll call.

Approval of Agenda and Meeting Summary

There were no additions to the agenda. Ingria identified two corrections in the attendance records for the January meeting summary: Snohomish Conservation District and City of Monroe were listed as not in attendance, however both entities attended the meeting. The Committee voted to approve the January meeting summary. The final version is posted on the Committee webpage.

Updates from Ecology

Ingria provided announcements on ex officio members, workgroup formation, facilitation support, technical support, funding rule, streamflow restoration grants, and the Nooksack and Nisqually plans.

Ex officio interest

The chair received letters of interest from two potential ex officio members: the City of Seattle and the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum. There have been no other requests for ex officio membership.

Workgroup Formation

Ingria received feedback from several Committee members regarding potential technical workgroup members. She will be discussing coordination opportunities with the Snohomish Forum Technical Committee on March 5th. Committee will discuss further at the March meeting. Objective is to form a technical work group in March and identify a plan to move forward over the next few months.

Facilitation support

In early December, Ecology requested bids for facilitation support for our Committees. Ecology received 5 bids from Aspect, Triangle, Ross, Cascadia, and ICF for facilitation support. Apparent successful bidder notices went out February 7th. The successful bidder for the NW region was Cascadia Consulting, and we anticipate working with Abby Hook in our watershed.

Technical support

Ecology announced a Work Assignment Job Proposal Watershed Plan Tech Support on February 5. Bids went to the Ecology's short list of pre-approved contractors. Ingria will share Ecology's successful bidder for the Committee to weigh in with any serious concerns.

Funding Rule Update

On January 17, Ecology issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (CR 102) for the Streamflow Restoration Funding Rule (Chapter 173-566 WAC). You can find links to the proposed rule language and information on the scheduled hearing (available through webinar) as well as public comment on Ecology's [rulemaking webpage](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Laws-rules-rulemaking/Rulemaking/WAC-173-566):

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Laws-rules-rulemaking/Rulemaking/WAC-173-566>

The public comment period closes at 5:00pm on March 15th.

Streamflow Restoration Grants Update

Ecology received 46 applications seeking more than \$76 million in grant funding. Ecology is offering funding for 15 projects totaling \$20 million in requests. In the Snohomish Basin, the Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District (SVWID) was offered funding for its Snoqualmie Natural Storage Enhancement and Comprehensive Storage Study and the Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) was offered funding for its Community-based water storage restoration project.

Nooksack and Nisqually Plan Updates

RCW 90.94.020 required Ecology to review and adopt the Nisqually and Nooksack watershed plans by Feb. 1, 2019. Despite hard work and commitment, the Nooksack watershed planning group did not approve a plan for Ecology to evaluate and adopt by the deadline. The law requires Ecology to complete rulemaking for the Nooksack by August 1, 2020. The Nisqually watershed plan earned the state's first approval under the streamflow restoration law. Examples of projects in the plan include connecting new and existing homes to the city water system and decommissioning existing wells, transferring water rights to the state's water rights trust to benefit streamflow, restoring wetlands to better retain water for more steady release throughout the year, and storing water in underground aquifers for release to augment stream flows in the late summer and early fall.

The Nisqually Plan is available on Ecology's [Streamflow Restoration Planning webpage](https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Streamflow-restoration/Streamflow-restoration-planning):

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Streamflow-restoration/Streamflow-restoration-planning>

Information on the Nooksack rulemaking is available on [Ecology's rulemaking webpage - WAC-173-501](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Laws-rules-rulemaking/Rulemaking/WAC-173-501):

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Laws-rules-rulemaking/Rulemaking/WAC-173-501>

Operating Principles – Revisions and Discussion

Revisions since January:

- Version distributed Jan 17th.
- Formatted differently for accessibility standards.
- Clarified expectations for alternates and communication with the chair.
- Removed language about forfeiting seat due to non-participation because of ECY policy decision.
- Added remote participation in the case of emergency.
- Removed redundancy on participation expectations for the chair's alternate.
- Edited latecomers provision so that it clarifies that the Committee would like entities to join no later than March 14th.
- Changed language regarding quorum, people must be in attendance, not "present."
- Clarified that ex officio members do not count when establishing a quorum.
- Changed language around financial interest: "personal vested financial interest."
- Added time for review of materials, including letters of support.
- Added option for written public comment. Provided to chair 3 days in advance of Committee meeting. Committee member can ask chair to read public comments.
- Clarified process for input on the meeting summary.

No one asked to see tracked changes.

- Only changes to version posted on calendar invite: title and signature page text.
- Ingria has not received feedback since sending out the final draft.

Stacy asked for any final revisions. There were no comments on the final draft operating principles. There were no concerns with moving forward with approval of the operating principles at the meeting.

Question regarding how the Nooksack Watershed Planning Unit's operating principles played a role in their plan approval, since their Planning Unit was not able to pass their plan. John Covert emphasized at WRIA 15 meeting that it is very important for everyone to come to agreement on and uphold operating principles. WRIA 1 voting procedure had a more complex voting procedure and a different process from ours. Ecology pulled some relevant aspects of that planning group's operating principles. Ingria added that the structure of the WRIA 1 group was very different and had a number of caucuses. This Committee was established per the legislation, whereas the WRIA 1 and other basins identified in RCW 90.94.020 had existing structures in place from watershed planning efforts.

Stacy noted that Ecology-led Committees are coming up with two main types of operating principles. Some are deciding to go forward with consensus on all decisions where as some (like WRIA 7) allow moving forward with 2/3 approval.

Decision on Operating Principles

A quorum was established with 19/21 Committee members in attendance. All Committee members in attendance approved the operating principles. The Committee has tentatively approved operating principles. All members of the Committee must approve the operating principles, and the Town of Index and City of Carnation were not in attendance. Additionally, the City of Snoqualmie's approval was preliminary and the City will send written approval.

Ingria will seek formal approval from the Town of Index, the City of Carnation, and the City of Snoqualmie. Ingria has already spoken with representatives from Index and Carnation and they did not have any concerns about the operating principles.

Signatures for Operating Principles

Ingria reviewed next steps for the operating principles: the final operating principles will state the date of approval as well as the date effective on the title page. They will become effective the date all members have signed. Ingria changed language on the signature page to read "representative for [entity name]" hoping that it will add flexibility for representatives to sign for their organization/government.

Update on Latecomers

Invitation letters were sent via email on February 8th to the following cities who have not sent Ecology formal responses: Gold Bar, Granite Falls, Lake Stevens, Mill Creek, Mukilteo, Sammamish, and Skykomish. Letters requested formal written response that those entities are forfeiting their seats. If we do not get a response, they are still allowed to join. Ingria will be following up with these entities. Committee members are encouraged to reach out.

The City of Sultan has already sent formal written response with their intent not to participate.

Ex Officio member requests

Letters of interest from City of Seattle (Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle City Light) and the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum for ex officio, non-voting membership on the Committee were sent to Committee members one week in advance of the meeting.

Adding an ex officio member requires a 2/3 majority vote. A quorum was established with 19/21 Committee members in attendance.

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum (SWF)

Perry Falcone (SWF) introduced their interest in membership on the Committee. Main interest is to provide a connection to the watershed and to make sure there is overlap and coordination with the initial 2005 Salmon Recovery Plan as well as SWF efforts.

All members present approve the addition of Snoqualmie Watershed Forum as an ex officio member, with the exception of the City of Snoqualmie and Snohomish County. City of Snoqualmie abstained from voting and provided no further comment. Snohomish County did not approve and noted that most of the members of the SWF are already members of the Committee. Ingria will check in with Index and Carnation to see if they have an objection to the decision to add SWF.

City of Seattle (Seattle)

Paul Faulds (Seattle Public Utilities) and Liz Ablow (Seattle City Light) were in attendance to represent the City of Seattle. Paul Faulds introduced Seattle's interest in the watershed. Seattle is a large landowner in the watershed. The Tolt Reservoir supplies about 1/3 of water needed for Seattle Public Utility's customers. The City has experience and history in the basin and can support the work of the Committee. They think it would be more productive to be part of the Committee and be able to answer questions and provide their expertise throughout the meetings.

City of Everett supported the inclusion of Seattle, noting that they have been a participant in the watershed for decades and demonstrated interest in water supply, fish habitat, and salmon recovery.

All Committee members in attendance approved the addition of Seattle as an ex officio Committee member. The Committee has added Seattle as an ex officio Committee member. Ingria will check in with Index and Carnation to see if they have an objection to the decision to add Seattle.

Other Comments

Comment thanking Seattle and SWF for asking to be part of Committee.

Comment that the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum (Snohomish Forum) should be an ex officio member of the Committee. Comment that many Committee members are also part of the Snohomish Forum, but they are on the Committee representing their own interest. Better to have a member of the Committee representing the interests of the Snohomish Forum at large. Need to have communication between these groups. Ingria is in communication Gretchen Glaub, the Forum's coordinator. The Snohomish Forum has interest in coordinating with the Committee, but has not made a formal decision on whether they are interested in ex officio membership on the Committee and has some concerns regarding capacity.

Question regarding how WRIA 7 Committee is thinking about tapping into existing groups that might not come to all the meetings (e.g. Snohomish Forum Technical Committee). Committee members have

noted that they would like to have at least one member of the Snohomish Forum Technical Committee on the WRIA 7 Committee's technical workgroup. Ingria is in communication with members of the Snohomish Forum Technical Committee. Still figuring out what the relationship between the two Committees will look like. They are hesitant to take on all the technical work of the WRIA 7 Committee and the scope of work for the two planning efforts is different. Ingria will attend the Snohomish Forum Technical Committee March meeting to discuss more.

Committee members can recommend ex officio invitations to the chair. Ingria will bring new ex officio requests before Committee and can add to agenda for future meetings.

Subbasins

Ingria provided a brief overview of the requirement for Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plans to include subbasin delineations and the anticipated timeline for subbasin discussions and decisions. The law states that the Committee must prioritize offsets in the same subbasin. One implication of dividing the watershed into fewer subbasins is that the Plan is likely to have more high priority projects. .

John Covert (Ecology) provided a brief overview of considerations and options for delineating WRIA 7 into subbasins. He presented a straw-dog subbasin delineation with 13 subbasins. John noted that too few subbasins will make it hard to see how wells will intersect with projects. If have too many, will be hard to evaluate offsets. 10-20 subbasins may be a manageable number. Snohomish Forum (Snohomish Forum) delineated the watershed into 17 subbasins for their planning purposes. Forecast of where new domestic permit-exempt wells are likely to be located should affect subbasin delineation choices. Highly unlikely to have new wells on federal or state owned lands so might be able to group those areas of the watershed into larger subbasins. Same with timber lands. The Committee should also look at hydrogeology considerations, although bedrock geology may not influence subbasin delineations in WRIA 7. Another approach is to look at fish distribution. The Committee ultimately decides which subbasins to use. Ecology will bring a consultant team on board and that can also assist with subbasin delineations.

Committee will continue subbasin discussion at March meeting. Goal to form technical workgroup at March meeting. Many of these discussions are likely to occur in technical workgroup.

Discussion on subbasin presentations

Question regarding how the Nisqually Planning Group chose their 8 subbasins. John Covert commented that they left entire upper watershed as one subbasin, since it was owned by the federal government. Their delineations may have come from their previous watershed planning process.

Question regarding the use of control points for existing instream flow rule as basis for delineations and whether Plan will be integrated into WRIA 7 Instream Flow Rule. Ingria noted that our Plan may not trigger any changes to the Instream Flow Rule. For example, since Nisqually plan was approved and met NEB and did not include triggers for rulemaking, it will not trigger an update to the WRIA 11 Instream Flow Rule. Triggers for rule making: plan not approved; plan approved but includes change to water use restriction or building permit fee or recommended changes to the instream flow rule. Although control points are established in the Instream Flow Rule, Ecology has not officially delineated subbasins in WRIA 7, based on those control points. Committee may use delineations that are not based on the control points.

John clarified that existing control points are to regulate water rights. This planning process is not regulating water rights. Ecology is planning a lessons learned presentation from WRIAs 1 and 11. Will be an opportunity to learn about how they came up with their subbasins.

Comment that having subbasins be the same or similar to the Snohomish Forum Technical Committee could help maintain some consistency between salmon recovery plans and Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan and help us better coordinate the two processes.

Comment that the Snohomish Forum's map was from the Snohomish Basin Protection Plan (SBPP), which looked at hydrology as it related to salmon habitat needs. Suggest checking in with Colin Hume to understand why they decided on those subbasins. There is also a watershed characterization. Ingria has been in communication with Colin about these subbasins and the characterization study.

The Snohomish Forum's subbasin delineations are shown in the 2015 [Snohomish Basin Protection Plan](https://snohomishcountywa.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/4402): <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/4402>

The supporting analysis for the SBPP is described in the [Watershed Characterization for WRIA 7](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1506009.pdf): <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1506009.pdf>

Next Steps

- Next meeting is March 14th at the Duvall Public Library.
- Subbasin presentation will be posted on the Committee webpage as soon as possible.
- Ingria will follow up with Town of Index, City of Carnation, and City of Snoqualmie regarding decisions made during the meeting about operating principles approval.
- Ingria will follow up with Town of Index and City of Carnation regarding decision made on ex officio members.
- Next meeting topics: Presentations on planning from Snohomish County and King County; presentation on hydrogeology from Ecology hydrogeologist John Covert; continue discussion on sub-basins; discussion on formation of technical work group.
- Webinars will be scheduled on best practices from the WRIA 1 & 11 plan development.

Committee Member Action Items

- Committee members contact chair if they have any serious concerns regarding Abby Hook serving as a facilitator for the Committee.
- Committee members **acquire a signature on the final operating principles by March 14th**.
- Committee members should send Ingria any follow-up questions and comments from the subbasin delineation presentation.

Public Comment

There was no formal public comment.

Close

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:20 pm.