



MAY 2019 MEETING SUMMARY

Cedar-Sammamish (WRIA 8) and Duwamish-Green (WRIA 9) Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committees

Tuesday, May 28, 2019 | 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | [WRIA 8](#) and [WRIA 9](#) websites

Location

Black River Room, Admin Bldg.
King Co. South Treatment Plant
1200 Monster Road S.W.,
Renton, WA

Committee Chair

Stephanie Potts
Stephanie.Potts@ecy.wa.gov
425-649-7138

Handouts

All reference materials are
posted on the Committee
websites.

Attendance

WRIA 8 Committee Representatives and Alternates**

John McClellan, *Alderwood Water & Wastewater District*

Dan Von Seggern, *Center for Environmental Law and Policy*

*Mike Mactutis, *Kent*

Eric Ferguson, *King County*

Melissa Borsting, *King County Agriculture Program*

*Gina Clark, *Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties*

*Carla Carlson, *Muckleshoot Indian Tribe*

Elizabeth Garcia (alternate), *Seattle*

Jacqueline Reid, *Snohomish County*

Matt Baerwalde, *Snoqualmie Indian Tribe*

Julie Lewis (alternate), *Snoqualmie Indian Tribe*

Anne Savery (alternate), *Tulalip Tribes*

*Stewart Reinbold, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

*Stephanie Potts (chair), *Washington State Department of Ecology*

Ingria Jones (alternate), *Washington State Department of Ecology*

Jason Wilkinson (cities caucus rep), *WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council, ex officio*

Cities caucus members: Bellevue, Bothell, Issaquah, Kenmore, Mukilteo, and Sammamish

Committee members not in attendance: Redmond

WRIA 9 Committee Representatives and Alternates**

Trish Rolfe, *Center for Environmental Law and Policy*

Lisa Tobin, *Auburn*

Scott Woodbury, *Enumclaw*

*Mike Mactutis (alternate), *Kent*

Kathy Minsch, *Seattle*

Tom Keown, *Covington Water District*

Josh Kahan, *King County*

Rick Reinlasoder, *King County Agriculture Program*

*Gina Clark (alternate), *Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties*

*Carla Carlson, *Muckleshoot Indian Tribe*

Greg Volkhardt, *Tacoma Water, ex officio*

*Stewart Reinbold, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

*Stephanie Potts (chair), *Washington State Department of Ecology*

Stacy Vynne McKinstry (alternate), *Washington State Department of Ecology*

Matt Goehring (cities caucus rep), *WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum, ex officio*

Cities caucus members: Black Diamond, Normandy Park, and Tukwila

Other Attendees

Ruth Bell (facilitator), *Cascadia Consulting Group*
Caroline Burney (information manager),
Cascadia Consulting Group

Rebecca Brown, *WA Department of Ecology*
John Covert, *WA Department of Ecology*
Ted Howard, CELP

*Representative for both the WRIA 8 and WRIA 9 Committee

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

Standing Business

Facilitator reviewed the agenda. *No revisions to the agenda.*

Chair did not receive comments on the WRIA 8 WREC April meeting summary. The WRIA 8 Committee voted to approve the April meeting summary, with the cities caucus rep abstaining. The final version will be posted on the Committee website.

Chair did not receive comments on the WRIA 9 WREC April meeting summary. The WRIA 9 Committee voted to approve the April meeting summary, with the cities caucus rep abstaining. The final version will be posted on the Committee website.

Updates and Announcements

Chair provided updates from Ecology.

- Technical support: GeoEngineers is officially under contract. See work assignment summary handout for the tasks they will complete for the Committee.
- Web map: GeoEngineers added more information to the web map. Take a look at the [web map](#) and [instructions](#) and send Stephanie feedback on data to change or add.
- NEB comment period: Ecology released the [draft final NEB guidance](#) on May 6, with a 30 day public [comment](#) period closing on June 7. Final guidance is expected by July 31st. We will have a presentation at a Committee meeting after the final guidance is released. Ecology also released a draft [Streamflow Restoration Policy and Interpretive Statement](#), with [comments](#) due June 7. The draft final guidance and policy statement and a link to the public comment forms are posted on the [Ecology Streamflow Restoration webpage](#) (under “NEB-comments requested” and “Policy interpretation-comments requested”). Questions, comments, and concerns must be submitted through the public comment form (online or by mail) by June 7.
- Streamflow restoration projects grant round: Grant Guidance publication anticipated October 2019. Grant Application Period anticipated February –March 2020. See [Streamflow Restoration webpage](#) for more information (under “grants program”).
- Streamflow projects webinar: The recording of the May 30th streamflow restoration project types overview webinar is available at [this link](#).
- Project site visits: Send Stephanie suggestions for specific projects to visit or types of projects you would like to visit. See the webinar for examples of project types.
 - WRIA 8: Thursday, August 22: Short meeting followed by a project site visit. Time and location TBD. Please hold the full day on your calendar.
 - WRIA 9: Tuesday 7/23: Short meeting followed by a project site visit. Time and location TBD. Please hold the full day on your calendar.
- Committee decision calendar: Stephanie updated the “Proposed Timeline and Key Decisions” calendar and posted it to the Committee webpage. Keep in mind that timing of discussions and decisions may shift based on Committee needs. Stephanie will provide advanced notice of upcoming decisions via email, check-in calls, and meeting summaries.

- Follow up from April meetings:
 - County minimum lot requirements: A question came up during April meeting about whether counties have minimum lot size requirements for siting a well. King County and Snohomish County do not have minimum lot sizes required for wells. However King County excluded lots under 1 acre for the water availability study because it is difficult to site a septic system and well on site that small. Well set backs are based on DOH requirements: 100 ft from drain field and 50 ft from septic.

Methods for Rural Growth Projections

Objective: Provide input on assumptions and scenarios to use for rural growth projections.

Reference Materials

- Growth projections discussion guide (distributed at technical workgroup meeting)

Technical workgroup report

Lisa Tobin shared a summary of the May 23rd joint meeting of the WRIA 7, 8, and 9 technical workgroups.

- King County and Snohomish County planning staff and demographers provided information on data availability and limitations for different data sources: population growth projections from the comprehensive plans and regional plans, building permits and assessor data, and developable land analysis. General consensus that Ecology well log data is an unreliable source for location of permit exempt wells, although still some interest in reviewing along urban growth boundary and within water service areas
- The counties also talked about how growth targets impact growth management policies (may trigger certain actions to redirect growth) and how OFM incorporates macroeconomic trends (e.g. nationwide migration to the NW) in its population projections.
- King County reported that they are currently a little lower than Vision 2040 forecasts for rural growth, and Snohomish County stated that they are trending a little higher than Vision 2040 forecasts. King County does not have a target growth rate for the rural area; Snohomish County does (8.5%).
- King County and Snohomish County talked about using historic building permit and as-built county assessors data (respectively) data to get an idea of how many new homes we expect in the next 20 years combined with a developable lands analysis to look at where those new homes might be built and if they are likely to rely on a well. The counties could use the developable lands analysis at full build-out as an upper limit for the potential number of new homes and well connections in the WRIA or subbasin.
- Some key assumptions are around likelihood of a new home connecting to a water purveyor if it is within the water service area; and potential for publicly owned lands to transfer into private ownership (e.g. State DNR lands within residential areas).
- The counties have some data on the location of water lines that could help with assumptions about which parcels within the water service area are more likely to connect to water service. The workgroups will talk more about additional water service information we could gather from water purveyors and Dept. of Health.
- Discussion also occurred around potential increased growth rate scenarios prompted by climate migrants, strong economy, etc. The workgroup talked about having a few different scenarios to compare that include different assumptions.

Discussion

- A major assumption the Committee will need to make is around whether homes in rural areas will connect to water service or rely on a well. GeoEngineers has capacity to reach out to up to 5 water purveyors. The technical workgroup will discuss the assumptions the counties are recommending around connection to water service and provide direction to GeoEngineers on which water purveyors to contact. The water purveyors on the Committees talked about the information available to the Committee, such as water system plans that include information about their system and plans for expansion.
- The growth projections will be based on current zoning because the potential areas for upzoning are in the urban area. Upzoning in rural areas would not align with county growth management planning requirements and growth targets.

Next steps

- The GeoEngineers team will follow up with the counties to develop a work plan that will outline the methods, data sources and assumptions for this task.
- At the WRE Committee level, we will look at high level decisions such as which rural growth scenario or scenarios to move forward with to determine consumptive use offset.
- The technical workgroup will provide input on specific assumptions to make. Let Stephanie know if you want to receive emails about upcoming technical workgroup meetings.
- The technical workgroup will also revisit the subbasin delineations during the next meeting. The growth projections work can move forward concurrently with the subbasin discussion, because most of the growth projections data is spatial.

Introduction to Consumptive Use

Objective: Understand data, assumptions, and method to calculate consumptive water use.

John Covert gave a presentation on methods and considerations for calculating consumptive water use from new permit-exempt domestic well withdrawals.

Reference Materials

- Consumptive use discussion guide
- Presentation on Consumptive Water Use Estimates and Related Considerations for RCW 90.94

Discussion

- The workgroup and Committee will need to decide whether to assume steady-state impacts from well pumping on a stream.
- The Committee is not required to find offset projects in the same subbasin as the impacts. The Committee can focus on identifying projects that will benefit the streams that are critical to fish.
- The Committees discussed incentivizing homes that use wells to connect to water systems as a potential offset project. Possible project for technical consultant: identify homes on wells that are within a close distance to a water main and could easily connect.
- The Committee discussed the following assumptions around household water use: do GIS/aerial photo research to estimate average lawn size per subbasin in order to determine outside watering area? Assume maximum lawn size of ½ acre? Assume households use maximum water allowed from new permit-exempt wells (950 gpd annual average)?
 - The King County Agriculture Program has information about landscaped areas on parcels within agricultural production districts.

- Carla shared information the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe collected from Covington Water District on water use for 6 homes in their service area in WRIA 9 (see Appendix A on last page of meeting summary).

Public Comment

No comments.

Action Items for Chair:

- Send calendar invitations for June technical workgroup meetings.

Action Items for Committee Members

- Let Stephanie know if you will need to get higher level review and approval before making a decision and the time you need for review. Decisions expected in the next few months include: subbasin delineations, growth projection scenarios, consumptive use scenarios.
- Let Stephanie know if you want to be added to the technical workgroup email list.
- Review the [streamflow restoration project type overview webinar](#).
- Send Stephanie suggestions for specific projects to visit or a project type you would like to visit.
 - WRIA 8 site visit: Tuesday, July 23rd
 - WRIA 9 site visit: Thursday, August 22nd

Next Meetings:

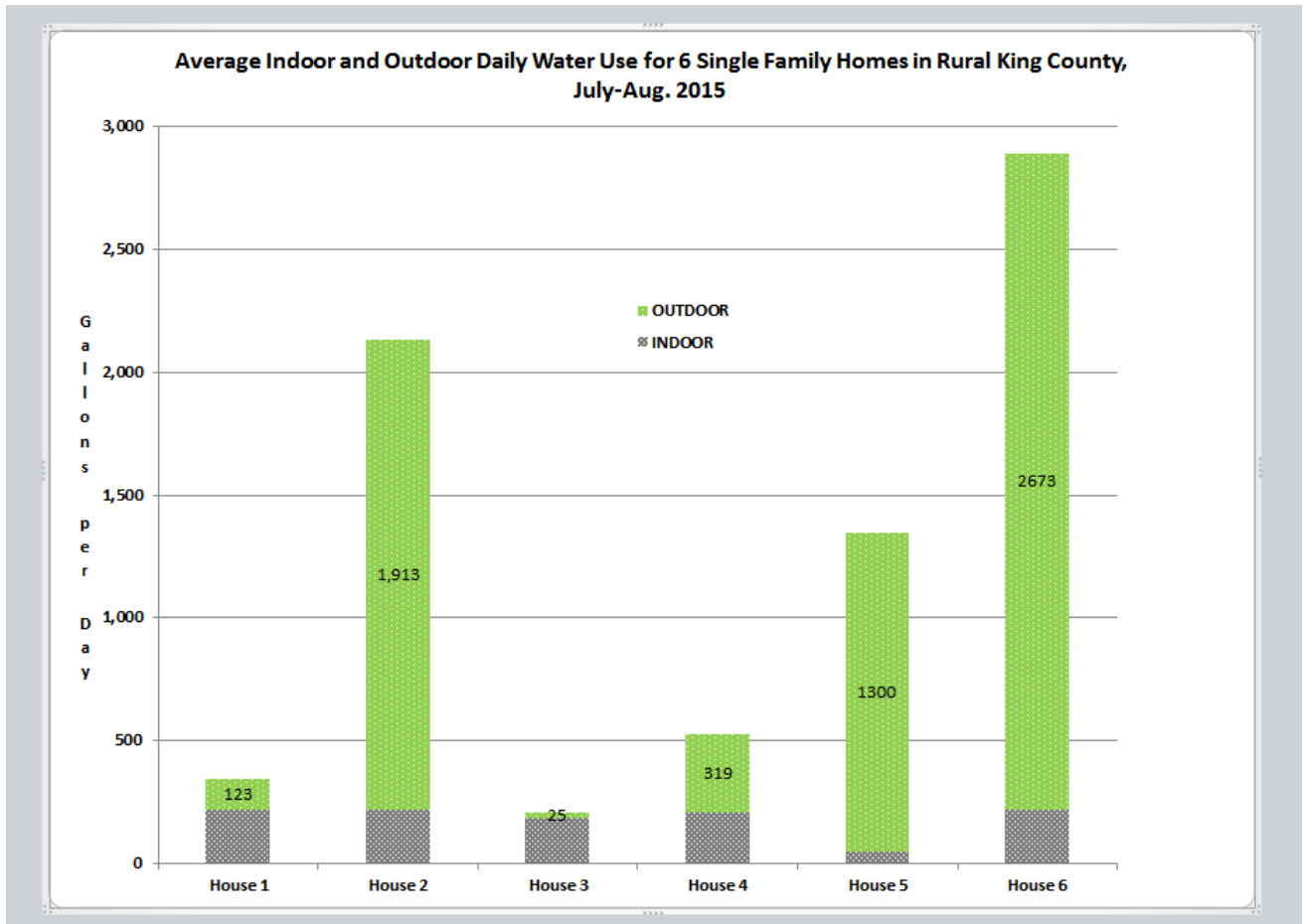
WREC meetings:

- **WRIA 8 WREC:** Thursday, June 27 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Ecology Northwest Regional Office, Bellevue.
 - Ingria will chair the meeting because Stephanie will be on vacation.
- **WRIA 9 WREC:** Tuesday, June 25 from 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Tukwila Community Center.
 - Stacy will chair the meeting because Stephanie will be on vacation.
- Agenda Topics:
 - Continue discussion on growth projections methods and scenarios.
 - Potential decision on subbasin delineations.
 - Continue discussion of consumptive use assumptions.

Technical workgroup meetings (contact Stephanie for more information):

- **WRIA 8 Technical workgroup:** Monday, June 10, 1-2:30 pm
- **WRIA 9 Technical workgroup:** Wednesday, June 12, 10-11:30 am
- Agenda topics:
 - Growth projections work plan and assumptions: Review (forthcoming) work plan that details methods and assumptions for growth projections. Provide input on assumptions.
 - Subbasins: Discuss proposed subbasin delineations and relationship to growth projections and consumptive use estimates. Provide input on how to proceed with subbasin delineations.
 - Data needs: Review data needed for WRE plan, with focus on data needed for growth projections and consumptive use estimates. Identify critical data gaps.

Appendix A: Handout from Carla Carlson, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe



Data from the Covington Water District in a mostly rural area in south King County. CWD used to require outdoor meters for a few years. The green bar is outdoor use only for July and August of 2015. Homes are reported to be between 3700 and 4900 sq. ft. with estimated irrigated lawn sizes between .2 and .4 acres. Interesting the range of use and how much water was used even though they were paying for it. Also brings home what some pricing studies have found that higher income homeowners are not sensitive to pricing signals.

The house using 2,673 gpd outdoor use had an average annual total use of 980 gpd – not much more than the 950 gpd in RCW 90.94.

Carla Carlson, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, May 24, 2019