



SEPTEMBER MEETING SUMMARY

**Cedar-Sammamish (WRIA 8)
Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee**

September 26, 2019 | 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | [Committee website](#)

Location

Room 1AB, WA Dept. of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Ave SE, Bellevue

Committee Chair

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

Next Meeting

October 24, 2019
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Ecology Northwest Regional
Office

Attendance

Committee Representatives and Alternates*

John McClellan, *Alderwood Water & Wastewater District*

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

Evan Swanson (alternate), *Kent*

Eric Ferguson, *King County*

Denise Di Santo, *King County*

Rick Reinlasoder, *King County Agriculture Program*

Carla Carlson, *Muckleshoot Indian Tribe*

Terri Strandberg, *Snohomish County*

Matt Baerwalde, *Snoqualmie Indian Tribe*

Julie Lewis (alternate), *Snoqualmie Indian Tribe*

Kurt Nelson, *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, Redmond, and Sammamish

Committee Members Not in Attendance*

City of Seattle

Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties

Other Attendees

Elisa Dawson, *Snohomish County*

Ria Berns, *Department of Ecology*

Paulina Levy, *Department of Ecology*

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, *Department of Ecology*

Gretchen Muller (facilitator), *Cascadia Consulting Group*

Caroline Burney (information manager), *Cascadia Consulting Group*

Bridget August (technical consultant), *GeoEngineers*

*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 meeting summary. The Committee voted to approve the August WRIA 8 WREC 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.

- Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grants Guidance: Expect to publish final grant guidance in October. Stephanie will send an email update once it's out.
- File sharing: Ecology is in the process of getting Box for sharing files with the Committee and workgroup. Hope to have it set up before the next Committee meeting.
- Technical Workgroup: The workgroup met September 18 and discussed growth projections and the consumptive use work plan. Contact Stephanie for workgroup meeting notes or to be added to the technical workgroup email list.

Committee membership updates

- Rick Reinlasoder is taking over as the primary representative for the King County Agriculture program. Melissa Borsting will be the alternate.
- Denise Di Santo is taking over as the primary representative for King County.

Public Comment

No comments.

Growth Projections and Consumptive Use

Objective: Review and discuss 20 year permit-exempt well growth projection for WRIA 8.

- Presentation and discussion of King County permit-exempt well potential assessment
- Status update on consumptive use estimate
- Report out from September 18 Technical Workgroup Meeting

Reference Materials

- [WRIA 8 Growth Projections spreadsheet](#) (new version 10/2/19 includes the assumptions tabs)
 1. Summary tab includes the 20 year permit-exempt well growth projection for WRIA 8
 2. King Co Data tab includes the King County unincorporated area 20 year projection (shaded green) and PE well potential assessment (in the red box)
 3. Snohomish Co Data tab includes the Snohomish County unincorporated area 20 year projection (shaded yellow) and rural capacity analysis (shaded orange)
 4. UGA Spot Check tab includes well log spot check results and 20 year permit-exempt well growth projection for the incorporated area
 5. Assumptions tab lists the assumptions used in the King County permit-exempt well potential assessment and Snohomish County rural capacity analysis
 6. King Co Over and Under Count tab lists assumptions used in the growth projections and permit-exempt well potential assessment that have the potential to over count or under count the number of new wells
 7. Sno Co County Over and Under Count tab lists assumptions used in the growth projections and rural capacity analysis that have the potential to over county or under count the number of new wells
- [Growth projections methods summary](#)

- Growth projections maps
 - [WRIA 8 Distribution of Projected Permit-Exempt Wells 2018-2038](#)
 - [WRIA 8 Estimated New, Domestic Permit-Exempt Well Potential](#)
 - [Web Map](#) – under “Draft Growth Forecasts” layer

Growth Projections – Overview

- At prior meetings, the WRIA 8 WREC discussed scenarios and methods used for the Snohomish County growth projections, methods used for the King County growth projections, and creating a growth projection for the urban growth area (UGA) based on information from the well log database. See the “growth projections methods summary” for more information on the growth projection methods.
- The 20 year permit-exempt well growth projection has the potential to over count the number of new wells for reasons including: rural growth rates are based on past trends; water service connection rates do not factor in the expansion of water lines or county policies to require or encourage connecting to water service (e.g. the proposed Snohomish County water code); King County’s growth projection includes an additional 6% to account for parcels with unclear water sources in the historic data; King County analysis does not account for connections to small group A or group B water systems; new wells in the UGA are unlikely; etc.
 - See the “over count and under count” tabs in the WRIA 8 Growth Projections spreadsheet
- Since January 2018, when RCW 90.94 required reporting on new domestic wells from counties in WRIA 8: King County had 22 new wells (for the entire county) and the WRIA 8 portion of Snohomish County had 7 new wells.

Growth Projections – King County Permit-Exempt Well Potential Assessment

- Eric Ferguson presented the King County Permit-Exempt Well Potential Assessment. This assessment looks at the potential parcels for future growth to occur in unincorporated King County. King County’s purpose for the PE well potential assessment is to see if there are enough parcels to accommodate the 20 year growth projection.
- Short description of PE well potential assessment methods:
 - Assessment of potential parcels for future growth: used assumptions and screening criteria to identify parcels with potential for future growth by subbasin (see assumptions tab in WRIA 8 Growth Projections spreadsheet)
 - Water district boundaries: The centroids of the parcels were determined to be ‘inside’ or ‘outside’ water district boundaries.
 - Water Use projection:
 - Public connection: Within the water district – public water connections were calculated based on historic rates of connection to public water by subbasin (WRIA 8 Growth Projections, King Co data tab, column H, rows 52-63).
 - Remaining number of parcels were assigned to be PE sourced
 - PE Sourced parcels were calculated based on the number of parcels “outside” district boundaries plus the remaining parcels from “inside” water district boundaries (see preceding bullet)
 - Further parcel analysis included the DU (dwelling unit), which represents the potential for subdivision.
 - Dwelling Units is a rough estimate of subdivision potential based on parcel size and zoning (e.g. a 22 acre parcel zoned RA-5 is assumed to have 4 dwelling units)
- This method of using historic rates of connecting to water service is different from Snohomish County’s rural capacity analysis, which is based on parcel location and proximity of the parcel to a

water line. King County did not use the Snohomish County method because King County does not have county-wide information on water lines.

- Eric suggested comparing the water use projection for PE sourced dwelling units to the 20 year well projection as a way to assess whether the subbasin has capacity for the number of wells in our 20 year projection (WRIA 8 Growth Projections spreadsheet, King Co data tab, columns AF-AH in PE Well Potential Assessment). The PE Well Potential Assessment shows a capacity shortfall of 1 well in the Upper Cedar subbasin, which is mostly protected from development. That 1 well is reallocated to the adjacent Lower Cedar subbasin (shown in blue in column AH).
- The summary tab of the WRIA 8 growth projection spreadsheet shows 967 projected new permit-exempt domestic wells and the distribution of those wells by subbasin.

Growth Projections – Discussion

- The Committee discussed growth patterns and whether we are likely to see more or less rural well growth than in the past. Stephanie shared that in the WRIA 9 WREC meeting, cities and water purveyors reported very few wells within city or water service area boundaries in the past 5 years.
- Some Committee members expressed interest in policies or incentives for homeowners currently using wells to connect to water service, if available.

Growth Projections – Next Steps

- **The Committee agreed to move forward with 967 as the 20 year permit-exempt well growth projection without holding a formal vote. The Committee can revisit the growth projections later in the planning process, if needed.**
- GeoEngineers will develop a growth projections technical memo to document the methods used for the 20 year permit-exempt well growth projections, rural capacity analysis, permit-exempt well potential assessment, and well log spot check.

Update on Consumptive Use Estimate

- GeoEngineers is working on the irrigated footprint analysis to estimate an average lawn size to use to estimate outdoor water use.
- GeoEngineers will develop a consumptive use calculator that Committee members can use to see how different assumptions impact the consumptive use estimate.
- GeoEngineers will present the irrigated footprint analysis, draft consumptive use estimate, and consumptive use calculator at the October WREC meeting.
- The Committee will discuss a safety factor and other considerations for developing an offset target at the October and November/December meetings.

Subbasins

Objective: Decide on initial subbasin recommendation

Reference Materials

- [Subbasin proposal memo and map](#)

Decision: Approved. All Committee members voted to approve the subbasin proposal. The cities caucus representative voted on behalf of cities caucus members. Seattle and Master Builders of King and Snohomish Counties voted their approval by email.

The Committee can decide to revise the subbasin delineations before approval of the final watershed restoration and enhancement plan. Committee members can make a request to discuss revised subbasin delineations at future Committee meetings or technical workgroup meetings.

NEB Guidance Overview and WRE Plan Outline

Objective: Review Final Guidance for Determining Net Ecological Benefit, the draft outline of the Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan, and discuss plan components.

Reference Materials

- NEB overview presentation

Stephanie presented on the components of the Final Guidance for Determining Net Ecological Benefit and provided an overview of the required, recommended, and optional items to include in the watershed restoration and enhancement plan. The Committee will review a template outline for the WRE plan in the coming months and provide feedback on the plan components.

Salmon Recovery Priorities

Objective: Discuss salmon habitat recovery priorities in WRIA 8 and learn about some of the existing salmon recovery efforts.

Reference materials

- Presentation on salmon habitat restoration in WRIA 8
- [Lead Entity page](#) on Recreation and Conservation Office website
- [Washington State Lead Entity Directory](#): This document describes what lead entities are and how they function. A two-page fact sheet on the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Lead Entity is on pages 18-19.
- [WRIA 8 watershed website](#)

Jason Wilkinson, Projects and Funding Coordinator for the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council, provided an overview of the Lead Entity planning process and the priorities for salmon habitat recovery in WRIA 8.

Kurt Nelson discussed the Tulalip Tribes' priorities for salmon recovery and examples of projects they have completed or are pursuing in WRIA 7. Carla Carlson discussed some of the work undertaken by the Muckleshoot Tribe.

Discussion

- The Committee discussed the limiting factors for Chinook in WRIA 8. A number of stressors are present and interrelated, including temperature, predation, disease, shoreline armoring, etc.
- In the Cedar, WDFW tracking of juvenile fish indicates a need for more rearing habitat. Floodplain reconnection projects provide more habitat for juvenile fish. If juvenile fish stay in the rivers longer, their likelihood of survival increases.
- In other parts of the watershed without flood control infrastructure, projects are focused on increasing habitat complexity.

Action Items for Chair:

- Send a projects handout for Committee members to use to solicit project ideas.

- Send a Committee status overview handout for Committee members to use to inform colleagues and partners about our work and upcoming decisions.
- Reschedule November and December Committee meetings to one meeting in late November or early December.

Action Items for Committee Members

- Talk with colleagues and partners about projects ideas to bring to the Committee for consideration.
- Let Stephanie know if you would like to be added to the technical workgroup list. The next technical workgroup call is October 21.
- Send Stephanie corrections to draft September meeting summary by October 14.
- Stephanie proposed holding WREC meetings every other month in 2020, with the workgroup continuing to meet monthly. Let Stephanie know if you have concerns with that meeting schedule.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 24

Next meeting: Thursday, October 24 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Ecology Northwest Regional Office

- Review and discuss consumptive use estimate
- Discuss climate change considerations
- Discuss project identification and selection process
- Update on Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grants Guidance