



# JUNE 2019 MEETING SUMMARY

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

June 27, 2019 | 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | [Committee website](#)

### Location

Room 1B, 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

Thursday, August 22, 2019  
All day  
TBD

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates\*

John McClellan, *Alderwood Water & Wastewater District*

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

Allen Quynn, *Issaquah*

Mike Mactutis, *Kent*

Tom Beavers, *King County*

Eric Ferguson (alternate), *King County*

Melissa Borsting, *King County Agriculture Program*

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

Michele Koehler, *Seattle*

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*

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\*

Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

### Other Attendees

Elisa Dawson, *Snohomish County*

Natasha Coumou, *Snohomish County*

Ted Howard, *CELP*

Gretchen Muller (facilitator), *Cascadia Consulting Group*

Angela Pietschmann (information manager), *Cascadia Consulting Group*

Cynthia Carlstad (technical consultant), *NHC*

Kelsey Collins, *Department of Ecology*

\*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 May Joint WRIA 8 and WRIA 9 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.

- Workgroup: the next workgroup meeting is a joint meeting with the WRIA 7 WREC workgroup on Thursday, July 11 from 12:30-2pm at the Brightwater facility (with a WebEx option). The July 11 meeting will be focused on growth projections, data sources and scenarios. The workgroup will also meet on July 25 from 10-12pm. Email Stephanie if you want to be added to the workgroup list.
- No WRIA 8 WREC meeting in July.
- Project site visit: Thursday, August 22. Will plan to have a short meeting and a project site visit. Send Stephanie suggestions for projects or types of projects to visit. Please continue to hold the full day while Stephanie confirms the details.
- Net Ecological Benefit Guidance: The comment period is closed. Thanks to those who submitted comments. Ecology is reviewing comments now and plans to release the final NEB guidance at the end of July.

## Public Comment

*No comments.*

## Water Rights Acquisition Opportunities

Objective: Learn about the Trust Water Rights program and discuss the process for exploring acquisition opportunities in the WRIA.

Kelsey Collins, Ecology Statewide Trust Water Coordinator, gave a presentation on water right acquisitions and the [Ecology Trust Water Rights program](#).

### Reference Materials

- Water right acquisitions presentation
- Water right acquisitions handout

### Discussion

- Kelsey discussed different types of acquisitions, including water right purchases, shortened or shifted season of use, switching sources, switching to reclaimed water, and water storage and release.
- Ecology will sometime use partner organizations to do outreach to landowners around water right acquisitions.
- Water rights are validated before they are put into the Trust Water Rights program.
- Kelsey can work with contractors to do an assessment of water right acquisition opportunities for the WRIA 8 watershed.
- Contact Stephanie with additional ideas or concerns regarding a basin-wide acquisitions assessment for WRIA 8.
- Send Stephanie any existing water rights assessments that could inform a basin-wide assessment e.g. some cities may have completed assessments to identify mitigation water.
- The [Ecology Water Resources Explorer](#) is a tool to search for existing water rights by person, organization, or parcel.
- More information on the [Trust Water Rights program](#) and Ecology's [Guidance for Processing and Managing Trust Water Rights](#) is available on the Ecology website.

# Growth Projections and Consumptive Use

Objective: Update on the timeline and process for growth projections and consumptive use tasks.

## Reference Materials

- Snohomish County Rural Capacity Analysis

## Technical Workgroup Report

- Matt Baerwalde shared a summary of the June 10 WRIA 8 WREC technical workgroup call.
- King and Snohomish counties are doing a developable lands analysis to analyze spatially where homes could be built in the watershed. After this analysis is complete, counties will apply a growth projection to project how many new well connections are likely in the next 20 years.
- The workgroup went through the developable lands assumptions matrix, which details the assumptions that King and Snohomish counties are making and the justification for those assumptions.
- GeoEngineers is spot checking some of the wells that show up within the UGA on the Ecology Well Log database. The workgroup will talk more about how to address potential for wells within cities and unincorporated UGA to capture that it might be a “non-zero” number and document assumptions and uncertainty.
- The workgroup did not have time to discuss consumptive use or subbasins.

## Update on Growth Projections

- Eric Ferguson provided an update on King County growth projections. Tentative timeline is to share growth projections with the technical workgroup in July or August and present to the Committee in September.
- King County is having internal discussions to gather feedback and buy-in on methods and assumptions for growth projections. They plan to use building permit data to determine the number of expected new well connections and a developable lands analysis to figure out where those wells are likely to go. They are looking at potential for new domestic wells in the unincorporated area, inside and outside of water service areas. King County is planning to rely on building permit data because they don't have growth targets for the rural area.
- Terri Strandberg presented preliminary results from the Snohomish County rural capacity analysis and growth projections. Snohomish County did the analysis by HUC 12. In WRIA 8, the analysis showed the potential for 646 possible new dwelling units outside the UGA, under current zoning. Based on past development trends, they estimated 226 (~35%) of those homes will rely on a well. The handout lists the assumptions Snohomish County made for the rural capacity analysis.
- For the growth projections, Snohomish County used population projections from the 2015 Comprehensive Plan for the growth rate and past building trends to allocate the growth by WRIA. They estimated 137 new housing units in “permit-exempt well areas” in WRIA 8 for 2018-2038.
- Snohomish County can estimate growth projections at the HUC level to compare the projection to rural capacity.
- Once the counties have completed the growth projections analysis, GeoEngineers will write up the methods and assumptions.
- The workgroup and Committee will decide whether to assume new wells within cities/UGA.
- King County has reported 10 new domestic permit-exempt wells countywide since ESSB 6091 was enacted in January 2018. Snohomish County has collected fees for 7 new domestic permit-exempt wells in WRIA 8 since ESSB 6091.

- The Committee will start talking about projects while the counties, workgroup and technical consultants keep working on growth projections.

#### Update on Consumptive Use

- Ingria Jones provided an update on the consumptive use analysis.
- Ecology is updating recommendations for estimating consumptive use as part of Appendix A of the Net Ecological Benefit guidance. Appendix A identifies generally accepted and reasonable methods and assumptions. The Committee can use other methods and assumptions, but will need technical justification. Alternate methods and assumptions should be discussed with John Covert, Ecology technical team.
- Ecology expects Committees to estimate outdoor water use based on a WRIA specific analysis of average outdoor watering area (lawn size) by subbasin or groups of subbasins, unless that analysis is not feasible based on available time and resources.
- The Committee can choose to look at additional consumptive use scenarios with local data to justify or with justification for inclusion as a buffer.
- The Committee must estimate consumptive use by subbasin. However, the Committee is not required to include high priority projects (projects in the same basin or tributary as the impact) or offset consumptive use at the subbasin scale.
- The workgroup will talk more about the methods and assumptions for consumptive use at the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, including methods for calculating average lawn size.

## Committee Progress Check-In

Objective: Discuss progress to date and preparation to begin looking at projects within the WRIA.

#### Discussion

- The Committee discussed reviewing projects from salmon recovery and ecosystem recovery plans for inclusion in the watershed restoration and enhancement plan, especially projects that could contribute to water offsets.
- The Committee wants to learn more about opportunities and challenges with using [reclaimed water](#) as an offset project. Ecology will schedule a presentation at a future meeting.
- The Committee would also like to learn more about managed aquifer recharge (MAR) and stormwater projects.

## Action Items for Chair:

- Share Ecology's [Trust Water Rights guidance](#).
- Look for a presenter on reclaimed water.
- Schedule presentation on salmon recovery priorities and projects.
- Work with GeoEngineers to write up methods for lawn size analysis.

## Action Items for Committee Members

- Contact Stephanie if you know of existing water right assessments (e.g. some cities may have completed assessments to identify mitigation water) or acquisition opportunities or if you have concerns related to starting an assessment.
- Contact Kelsey Collins with questions about water rights acquisitions or specific acquisition ideas. Kelsey Collins, Statewide trust water coordinator, [kelsey.collins@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kelsey.collins@ecy.wa.gov), 509-575-2640.
- Watch the [streamflow restoration project type overview webinar](#), if you haven't already.

- Send Stephanie suggestions for projects or types of projects to visit and requests for presentations on specific project types.
- 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 draft June meeting summary and send Stephanie comments by July 24.

## **Next Meeting: Thursday, August 22**

- Short meeting followed by project site visits
- Update on growth projections and consumptive use estimates
- Upcoming technical workgroup meetings
  - Thursday, July 11 from 12:30-2pm: joint meeting with the WRIA 7 WREC workgroup at the Brightwater facility (with a WebEx option). The meeting will be focused on growth projections, data sources and scenarios.
  - Thursday, July 25 from 10-12pm. Tentative agenda includes an update from counties on growth projections, revisit subbasin delineations, and discuss consumptive use assumptions and scenarios.