



FEBRUARY 2020 MEETING SUMMARY

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

Thursday, February 27, 2020 | 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | [Committee website](#)

Location

Ecology NW Regional Office
3190 160th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98008

Committee Chair

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

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 26
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Ecology NW Regional Office

Attendance

Committee Representatives and Alternates*

John McClellan, *Alderwood Water & Wastewater District*

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

Denise DiSanto, *King County*

Rick Reinlasoder, *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, *Snoqualmie Indian Tribe*

David Hartley (consultant), *Snoqualmie Indian Tribe*

Kurt Nelson, *Tulalip Tribes*

Stewart Reinbold, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

Stephanie Potts (chair), *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*

Kent

Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

Other Attendees

Gretchen Muller (facilitator), *Cascadia Consulting Group*

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

John Covert, *Washington State Department of Ecology*

Ingria Jones, *Washington State Department of Ecology*

Paulina Levy, *Washington State Department of Ecology*

Bridget August, *GeoEngineers*

*Attendees list is based on sign-in sheet.

Standing Business

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

Chair received some comments and corrections to the meeting summary and circulated the revised meeting summary by email. The Committee voted to approve the January revised meeting summary, with the cities caucus reps abstaining. The final version will be posted on the Committee website.

Updates and Announcements

Chair provided updates from Ecology.

- Streamflow restoration grant applications are open until 5pm on March 31.
- Meeting schedule update: meeting schedule going to every other month to give workgroup, chair and technical consultants more time between meetings to prepare materials for Committee input and decision. Will schedule additional meetings as needed.
 - Technical workgroup will meet 1-2 times per month on 3rd Thursday mornings.
 - Technical workgroup meetings are open to all Committee members.
 - Technical workgroup will focus on identifying and reviewing projects to recommend to the Committee for inclusion in the plan.
- Technical Workgroup: Stephanie distributed [technical work summary](#) document and the latest versions of subbasin, growth projection and consumptive use memos.
 - The technical work summary provides a short summary of the methods, results, Committee decision, and the status of the technical memos for each component of the plan.
 - The technical memos summarize the technical work completed to support components of the plan and will be included in the plan appendices. All memos are final draft. Please review by March 20 and contact the chair with errors or major concerns.
- Plan review process and timeline: Ecology set a target date of August 14, 2020 for distribution of the draft plan for Committee review and a target date of February 1, 2021 for submittal of the final approved plan (see the [memo from the chair](#)). The chair and facilitator will develop a schedule to accommodate thorough review and vetting by all entities before a vote on the final plan. Committee members should prepare to report out on their local approval process at the March meeting.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Identifying Potential Projects

Objectives:

- Review of workgroup priorities for project identification.
- Status update on water offset project identification.
- Discuss project types, project ideas, and project list organization.
- Identify approach for project identification and selection.

Reference materials

- [Presentation on water offset project examples](#)

Technical workgroup update

- Stephanie provided a report out on the February 18th WRIA 8 & WRIA 9 joint technical workgroup meeting. The meeting notes are posted on Box in the [technical workgroup folder](#). The workgroup discussed consumptive use impacts, managed aquifer recharge opportunities, and estimating water offset benefits of habitat projects.

Water Rights Assessment Update

- Stephanie provided an update on the water rights acquisition assessment that Washington Water Trust (WWT) is working on for WRIA 8.

- WWT is reviewing some specific water rights, including temporary trust donations, as potential opportunities.
- WWT is also conducting a GIS analysis to scan for water rights in use in priority subbasins.
- WWT will provide an update on the ongoing work at the March 26 WREC meeting.

Projects Status Update

- Stephanie provided an update on the project list status.
- The WRIA 8 project inventory is a master list of projects from various existing lists, like the salmon recovery 4-year work plans, as well as new project ideas generated by Committee members. Not all projects on the inventory will be included in the plan. The Committee will need to decide which water offset and habitat projects to include in the plan to offset consumptive use and achieve a net ecological benefit.
- Project list status:
 - 500+ projects in the project inventory
 - 0 water offset projects (all habitat projects, some with potential offset benefit)
 - 9 identified as priorities by Committee members (from Snohomish County, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, and Seattle)
- Stephanie has not received any responses so far to the Call for Projects, which has a deadline of March 31. Stephanie asked Committee members to recirculate the Call for Projects.
- Stephanie asked Committee members to let her know if your entity has priority projects to include in the plan. Stephanie will use Committee member priorities as an initial way to filter the project list to a more manageable size and schedule time on workgroup and Committee agendas to discuss priority projects.

Water Offset Project Brainstorm

- John Covert provided a presentation on examples of water offset projects from the WRIA 1 proposed rule and applications for the pilot round of streamflow restoration grants, including water rights acquisitions, storage and re-timing projects, streamflow augmentation, conservation and efficiency projects, and reclaimed and reused water.

Discussion

- The Committee discussed the challenges related to permitting source switches from seasonal surface water withdrawals to ground water withdrawals, because groundwater withdrawals have year-round impacts to the stream (see this website about the [Foster decision](#) for more information). Some of the projects in the presentation are permitted under the “Foster” mitigation pilot program established in [RCW 90.94.090](#).
 - Stephanie will ask for an update on the Foster pilot program and task force to share with the Committee.
- The Committee discussed stormwater management and was interested in exploring ways to use upgrades to stormwater infrastructure for streamflow restoration.
- Denise provided information on using King County land for managed aquifer recharge projects. King County parks land are possible sites for MAR projects. King County natural areas are likely not feasible for MAR because they often have restrictions that come with the funding source used to acquire the land.

Committee members divided into small groups and discussed ideas for water offset projects in WRIA 8 and assignments for exploring those ideas.

Project idea	Point Person
MAR feasibility on King County parks properties	Denise DiSanto
Acquisitions in floodplain areas, especially with associated water rights	Michele Koehler
Stormwater projects	Denise DiSanto
Lower Cedar: opportunities to get PE well users to hookup to local water districts (Covington Water District, Cedar River Water & Sewer)	John McClellan Stephanie – Covington Water District
Research gravel pits for potential MAR	Gina Clark - Redmond Bridget August - Cadman
Recycled water opportunities: Chateau Ste Michele winery, JB Instant Lawn, King County Parks	Rick Reinlasoder
Stormwater facilities improvement and retrofits	Bridget August - Monticello Creek Gina Clark - Chateau Ste Michele
Wetland restoration at Bonomi Farm	Rick Reinlasoder
Surface water to groundwater transfer at King County owned Sammamish River farm	Rick Reinlasoder
Recycled water for MAR/off-channel storage at Carousel Ranch	Dan von Seggern Terri Strandberg
Mirror Pond near Brightwater- potential infiltration of groundwater to address temp issues in Little Bear	Stewart Reinbold
Discuss stormwater infrastructure updates with cities with older infrastructure, e.g. Sammamish, Bellevue, Issaquah (Jason W can connect Matt with cities caucus members)	Matt Baerwalde
Research stormwater retrofit projects in Little Bear stormwater plan	Terri Strandberg
Research small MAR	Dan von Seggern
Re-share Call for Projects	Jason Wilkinson & All

Next Steps for Project Ideas

- Follow-up on project brainstorm tasks (listed in table above) and prepare to report out at the March 26 Committee meeting.
- Let Stephanie know if your entity has priority projects to include in the plan.
- Re-share the Call for Projects.
- Stephanie will get an update on the Foster mitigation pilot projects and task force to share with the Committee.

Policy and Regulatory Actions – Next Steps

Objective: Identify priority policy and regulatory recommendations to develop for inclusion in the WRE Plan.

Reference Materials

- WREC Policy and Regulatory Ideas List

The facilitator provided the following context for the discussion:

- The Committee can decide to include policy and regulatory recommendations in the plan, including recommending changes to state laws, agency regulations and local codes, and education and outreach programs.
- Committee members are expected to take the lead on developing policy recommendations to bring forward for consideration. This is outside the technical consultant scope of work. Ecology can provide technical assistance, as needed.
- Committee members may choose to work individually or form work groups to further develop policy recommendations. Ecology does not have capacity to staff the work groups.
- The final plan requires all Committee members to approve it, so policy and regulatory recommendations need to be supported by everyone on the Committee.
- Committee members should flag the ideas that raise concerns, so we don't spend time working on a recommendation that won't be approved by the full committee.
- There are a few options for moving the policy development forward, that the Committee will discuss at the next meeting:
 - Individual Committee members can develop policy recommendations for discussion at technical workgroup and Committee meetings.
 - Create a separate policy workgroup to develop and review policy recommendations before bringing them to the Committee

Committee members wrote down their top policy and regulatory recommendations (up to 5) on sticky notes (see table on last page).

Next Steps for Policy and Regulatory Actions

- Stephanie to compile the sticky notes and distribute the list of top policy and regulatory recommendations by email (see table on last page).
- Committee members should review the list of top policy recommendations and respond to Stephanie by 3/24 regarding the following questions:
 - Are there policies your entity would oppose or has concerns about?
 - Are there policies you are willing to take the lead to develop?
 - Are there policies you would like to help develop?
- At the next meeting, the Committee will discuss how to move forward with developing the policy recommendations that Committee members support.

Action Items for Chair:

- Gather information on the Foster mitigation pilot projects and task force to share with the Committee.
- Compile the sticky notes and distribute the list of top policy and regulatory recommendations by email (see table on last page).

- Contact Committee members to set up a time to talk about your entity's priorities for the plan and discuss project ideas.

Action Items for Committee Members

- Follow-up on project brainstorm tasks and prepare to report out at the March 26 Committee meeting.
- Bring completed [Local Approval Process forms](#) to the March meeting and prepare to report out.
- Review the list of top policy recommendations (see last page) and respond to Stephanie by 3/24 regarding the following questions:
 - Are there policies your entity would oppose or has concerns about?
 - Are there policies you are willing to take the lead to develop?
 - Are there policies you would like to help develop?
- Let Stephanie know if your entity has priority projects to include in the plan. Stephanie will use Committee member priorities as an initial way to filter the project list to a more manageable size and schedule time on workgroup and Committee agendas to discuss priority projects.
- Re-share the [Call for Projects](#) with your colleagues and partners
- Review subbasin, growth projection, and consumptive use [technical memos](#) for errors or major concerns by 3/20.
- Send Stephanie comments or corrections to the draft February meeting summary by March 18.

Next Meeting: March 26, 2020

- Next WREC meeting: Thursday, March 26 at Ecology Northwest Regional Office and WebEx
- Next Technical Workgroup meeting: Thursday, March 19, 9:30-11:30am via WebEx

WRIA 8 WREC: Policy Recommendations from 2/27 meeting

Policy/Regulatory Action Recommendation	Level of Interest (# of times on sticky note)
Increase water service connection: strengthen requirements for new homes to connect to water service (timely & reasonable language), require/incentives for homes that connect to decommission wells, incentives for homes to connect. Example: CWD's code language	12
Education/outreach/incentives for water conservation: native/drought-tolerant plants, rainwater storage for irrigation, etc. Funded through NRCS?	5
Metering permit-exempt wells: policy could include just new wells or also existing wells; could be voluntary or mandatory.	4
Expand water service infrastructure: funding to expand Group A water system infrastructure to connect existing PE well users and new development. Could come from PE well fees.	4
Improve Ecology well tracking: Improve the Ecology well log database to include GPS coordinates, link records for new and decommissioned wells, identify permit-exempt wells.	4
Increase enforcement of existing state regs: Funding for Ecology to increase enforcement of existing water use requirements. Includes enforcement of reduced water use during drought.	3
Plan implementation: Funding/legislative authority for Ecology to implement the WRE plan	2
Stormwater management: requirements tied to stream enhancement.	1
Disallow grandfathered development permit applications. Require all development meet current standards.	1
Encourage water reuse/recycling	1
Water conservation impact fees against developers who cause expansion of water district/purveyor	1
Require hookups within 200 ft of waterbody.	1
Increased enforcement of county requirements related to water service connection.	1
Well consolidation: reduce amount of water purveyors can add to water right when decommissioning a PE well (currently 850 gpd)	1
Reduce lawn size limit	1
Connect to counties planning policies & comp plans.	1
Fund a study to prioritize areas for acquisition and land use/density considerations.	1
Adaptive management -- provide trigger/stick if offsets not met.	1
coordinate with federal agencies to normalize hydrograph from dams & reservoirs	1
create a water bank	1
Incentivize efficient irrigation transition -- residential and agricultural.	1
stream gauging	1
tree retention	1