



MAY 2020 MEETING SUMMARY

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

Thursday, May 28, 2020 | 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | [Committee website](#)

Location

WebEx

Committee Chair

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

Next Meeting

Thursday, June 25
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
WebEx

Attendance

Committee Representatives and Alternates*

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

Evan Swanson, *Kent*

Denise DiSanto, *King County*

Rick Reinlasoder, *King County Agriculture Program*

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

Michele Koehler, *Seattle*

Elisa Dawson (alternate), *Snohomish County*

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*

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

Committee Members Not in Attendance*

Carla Carlson, *Muckleshoot Indian Tribe*

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (cities caucus rep), *WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council, ex officio*

John McClellan, *Alderwood Water & Wastewater District*

Other Attendees

Gretchen Muller (facilitator), *Cascadia Consulting Group*

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

Bridget August (technical consultant), *GeoEngineers*

Joe Hovenkotter, *King County*

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, *Department of Ecology*

Mugdha Flores, *Department of Ecology*

Bennett Weinstein, *Department of Ecology*

Ingria Jones, *Department of Ecology*

John Covert, *Department of Ecology*

Jason Hatch, *Washington Water Trust*

Kevin Haydon, *Washington Water Trust*

*Attendees list is based on roll call and participants signed into WebEx.

Standing Business

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

Facilitator provided a recap of the March meeting.

Chair did not receive comments on the meeting summary. The Committee voted to approve the March WRIA 8 WREC meeting summary. The final version will be posted on the Committee website.

Updates and Announcements

Chair provided updates from Ecology.

- COVID-19: At this time, Ecology does not anticipate any extension to our plan adoption deadline. Planning deadlines were set by the legislature and Ecology is not planning to put forward agency request legislation to request an extension. Chairs and program managers are tracking Committee member participation. **Committee members should let Stephanie know of any changes to your capacity to participate.**
- The Muckleshoot Tribe is currently not able to send a representative to WREC or technical workgroup meetings due to staff furloughs.
- 2020 Streamflow restoration grant round: application period closed April 30. Applications are under review, expect to announce awards in the fall.
 - Received [63 applications](#) from across the state.
 - 3 applications in WRIA 8, 2 are habitat projects.
- New resources: As a follow-up from WREC members, Ecology staff developed the following resources:
 - [Foster pilot program overview](#)
 - [Overview of existing PE well metering programs](#)
 - [Well decommissioning FAQ](#)
 - [Summary of climate resources for WRIAs 8 & 9](#)
- Meeting schedule: Planning to go back to monthly meetings starting in June.
- WRE plan development: Ecology is starting to draft sections of the plan and will distribute them to Committee for review as they are completed.
- WRE plan review timeline: Caroline Burney, Cascadia Consulting shared a [draft plan review timeline](#), based on Committee members' local approval processes.
 - Committee members expressed concern that the plan development work is ramping up as staff capacities are limited due to COVID-19.
 - Several committee members recommended time after the review of the final plan to make and edits.
 - Some entities indicated they could need an additional month to get another round of approval if there are substantial edits after the review of the final plan.
 - Snohomish County shared concern that the plan review timeline does not give enough time for the County Council to review and falls during Snohomish County's budget process.
 - The facilitation team will revise the plan review timeline based on Committee feedback.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adaptive Management

Objectives:

- Review and discuss WDFW adaptive management proposal
- Share and discuss adaptive management ideas and determine initial next steps

Reference Materials:

- [WDFW Proposed Project Tracking Language](#)
- [WREC Adaptive Management Proposal](#)

WDFW Project Tracking Proposal discussion

- Tristan Weiss shared a project tracking proposal from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (see [WDFW Proposed Project Tracking Language](#)).
- A Committee member asked whether WDFW has connected with Lead Entity Coordinators. WDFW has connected with the Lead Entity Coordinators but does not want to place any additional burden on them. They have contracted with UW Data Stewards to do the data entry work while consulting with the Lead Entity Coordinators to get as much feedback as possible.
- How is the streamflow tracking different than other project tracking? Projects through the streamflow grant program and the WRE Plan will be incorporated into the database so they can be tracked. There may be projects that are funded through SRF Board but are being credited through the streamflow program. Need to figure out the details with how to track these.
- Committee members expressed support for the WDFW proposal and a common benchmark to measure projects. Some entities shared that they are supportive of the concept but unsure of the level of effort required.
- Committee members can explore the [Salmon Recovery Portal](#) to understand the interface and how to navigate.
- Next Steps: Review the proposal documents and send feedback to Tristan at Tristan.weiss@dfw.wa.gov by 6/25.

Adaptive Management Proposal discussion

- After multiple WRIAs expressed interest in a cross-WRIA adaptive management recommendation, the facilitation team developed an adaptive management discussion guide that included a high-level recommendation to the legislature to address plan implementation and adaptive management across WRIAs, as well as WRIA 8 specific language.
- Committee members expressed support for the high-level recommendations but suggested editing the language to clarify that Ecology and WDFW should provide the structure for Adaptive Management and that funding should be ongoing.
- Dan shared his [policy recommendation on implementation on streamflow restoration plans](#).
- Next Steps: Dan Von Seggern, Gina Clark, and Elisa Dawson volunteered to help draft the Adaptive Management chapter of the Plan. Joe Hovenkotter will support if he is able to. Gretchen will help coordinate.

Policy Recommendations

Objectives:

- Status update on policy recommendations

Reference Materials:

- [Draft policy recommendation proposals](#)

Discussion:

- Policy leads shared updates and next steps on the policy recommendations they drafted.
- **Metering permit-exempt wells** (Denise)
 - Tracking how much water is being used by PE Wells would ideally build more certainty around water use to inform Plan, adaptively manage, and meet goals.
 - Could do metering in certain sub-basins with higher projected PE Wells or environmentally sensitive areas.
 - MBAKS has some concerns with this policy recommendation due to additional government regulation and costs. MBAKS will speak members to get feedback on this policy idea.
- **Increase water service connection** (Matt)
 - Endorse a statement that ‘encourages connections to public water.’
 - Idea is to keep this policy general and leave it up to individual jurisdictions to consider requirements.
- **Improve Ecology well tracking** (Matt)
 - Update the well tracking database to:
 - Include latitude and longitude of wells on well report forms
 - Identify permit-exempt wells
 - Provide Well ID Tag numbers to older wells, so that decommissioning, replacement, or other well activities can be tracked in the context of tracking plan implementation.
 - Ecology is working to make improvements to well log database
 - The proposed Committee recommendation is intended to support the improvements.
- **Education/outreach/incentives for water conservation** (Matt)
 - Matt is participating in a cross-WRIA working group to develop a common policy recommendation. Will share an update at the June meeting.
- **Reduce Lawn Size Limit** (Allen Quynn, Issaquah)
 - Require owners of permit exempt wells to limit their domestic water use for outdoor watering to 1/12 acre
 - Master Builders is supportive of the idea but concerned with how this policy will be enforced.
 - Allen does not have capacity to continue working on this policy recommendation.
- Next steps: Committee members volunteered to participate in a policy subgroup to develop a suite of policy recommendations to bring to the Committee: Denise DiSanto, Matt Baerwalde, Dan Von Seggern, Joe Hovenkotter, Gina Clark, and Rick Reinlasoder. Gretchen Muller will help coordinate the policy subgroup.

Identifying Potential Projects

Objectives:

- Recap of April and May Technical Workgroup meeting
- Status update on projects included in project inventory
- Share and discuss the WWT final report

Reference materials:

- [Water Offset Project Development Tracking](#)
- [Water Offset Project Description Template](#)

- Non-Acquisition [Water Offset Project Development Workplan](#)
- [Washington Water Trust Draft Water Rights Due Diligence Memo](#)
- [Overdale water right draft project profile](#)

Technical Workgroup Recap from April and May meetings

- Stephanie provided a recap of the April and May technical workgroup meeting. The [meeting notes](#) are posted on box.
- The workgroup discussed Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and WDFW concerns with estimating water offset from habitat projects and tabled the discussion until Muckleshoot Indian Tribe is able to send a representative. GeoEngineers can conduct the water offset analysis at a later date if workgroup and Committee members agree to use habitat projects to offset consumptive use. Workgroup members agreed that projects like floodplain restoration and levee setbacks are good projects and have important streamflow and habitat benefits, and we should include qualitative descriptions of those benefits in the plan.
- The workgroup discussed water offset projects and project list organization (tiers).
- The workgroup discussed the Overdale water right acquisition opportunity.

Water Offset Project Development

- Bridget August provided an overview of the [Water Offset Project Description Template](#)
- Bridget August reviewed the GeoEngineers Non-Acquisition [Water Offset Project Development Workplan](#)
 - Project development will occur through a phased approach:
 - Phase 1: Initial identification
 - Identify contacts with key knowledge of a project type or area.
 - Conduct a desktop screening for candidate project sites/areas.
 - Work with key contacts to develop a list of preliminary concepts for water offset projects, including the following project types:
 - Water storage and retiming
 - Stormwater projects
 - Modification of reservoir operations
 - Conservation and efficiency projects
 - Streamflow augmentation projects
 - Source switches
 - Track project development.
 - Phase 2: Prioritization and further analysis
 - Work with Technical Workgroup and Committee to identify priority projects.
 - Conduct further analysis.
 - Start developing the project summary sheet.
 - Phase 3: Selection of projects for inclusion in the plan
 - Finish developing the project summary for each project or action the Committee selects for inclusion in the Plan.
- Stephanie and Bridget provided updates on the water offset project concepts in development (see [Water Offset Project Development Tracking](#) and “conceptual” tab on [project inventory](#)).
- Committee members expressed support for the project list. They shared that the more projects that are evaluated before drafting the plan, the more likely it would be that the plan meets its goals.
- A committee member asked what offset is represented by the projects-in development? The only project we have an offset quantity for right now is the Overdale water right (~27.6 AFY)
- A committee member asked where the potential source switch from surface water to groundwater on county owned farmland falls on the project list. Source switches to groundwater are not able to

be permitted under current regulations. These can be included in the plan for potential funding in the future, but will not be able to count as an offset now.

Status update on Washington Water Trust assessment

- Washington Water Trust provided an update on the water rights acquisition assessment and [Draft Water Rights Due Diligence Memo](#).
- The water rights projects in Sammamish River Valley include have the potential to be served by recycled water. Properties across the river from the purple pipe would be much more expensive to serve.
- Next steps: provide feedback on the project opportunities recommended for further due diligence by 5/28.
- Washington Water Trust will develop project profiles and a final report to present at the June Committee meeting.

Overdale water right acquisition opportunities

- The Committee discussed the [Overdale water right acquisition opportunity \(see draft project profile\)](#). The water right is currently in temporary trust and the water right holder expressed interest in selling the water right.
- The consumptive portion of the water right is ~27.6 afy (18.3 afy is associated with outdoor irrigation and the remaining 9.3 afy is associated with indoor use).
- The Committee expressed interest in including the Overdale water right acquisition on the project list. Action Items for Chair:

Action Items for Chair/Facilitator/GeoEngineers

- The facilitation team will revise the plan review timeline based on Committee feedback.
- The facilitation team will help organize a meeting of the Adaptive Management subgroup.
- The facilitation team will help organize a meeting of the Policy subgroup.

Action Items for Committee Members

- Review the WDFW project tracking proposal and send feedback to Tristan at Tristan.weiss@dfw.wa.gov by 6/25.
- Adaptive management subgroup will meet to develop that chapter of the plan: Dan Von Seggern, Gina Clark, and Elisa Dawson. Joe Hovenkotter will support if he is able to.
- Policy subgroup will meet to develop the policy recommendations section of the plan: Denise DiSanto, Matt Baerwalde, Dan Von Seggern, Joe Hovenkotter, Gina Clark, and Rick Reinlasoder
- Please review the list of habitat projects (on the “short list” tab in the project inventory) and send Stephanie the following information by COB 6/11:
 - habitat projects you would like the workgroup to discuss that are not already on the short list; and
 - any additional information you would like the technical workgroup to consider for your projects on the short list. Provide comments on habitat projects.
- Review meeting summary and send Stephanie comments by 6/18.

Next Meeting: June 25, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- Next technical workgroup meeting: Thursday, June 18 from 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Next WREC meeting: Thursday, June 25 from 9:30-12:30 pm
 - Expect to continue virtual meetings.

- If you have any recommendations for how to structure the remote meetings to increase engagement, please send to Stephanie and Gretchen.