



JUNE 2020 MEETING SUMMARY

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

June 25, 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

July 23
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
WebEx

Attendance

Committee Representatives and Alternates*

John McClellan, *Alderwood Water & Wastewater District*
Dan Von Seggern, *Center for Environmental Law and Policy*
Evan Swanson, *Kent*
Denise Di Santo, *King County*
Rick Reinlasoder, *King County Agriculture Program*
Gina Clark, *Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties*
Michele Koehler, *Seattle*
Elisa Dawson, *Snohomish County*

Terri Strandberg, *Snohomish County*
Matt Baerwalde, *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 Mulvihill-Kuntz, *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 Tribe¹

Other Attendees

Gretchen Muller (facilitator), *Cascadia Consulting Group*
Caroline Burney (information manager), *Cascadia Consulting Group*
Bridget August (technical consultant), *GeoEngineers*

John Covert, *Washington State Department of Ecology*
Joe Hovenkotter, *King County*
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.*

¹ Muckleshoot Tribe is unable to send a representative due to COVID-19 related furloughs.

Chair did not receive comments on the meeting summary. The Committee voted to approve the May 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.

- Ecology staff will be furloughed July 2, 10, 17 and 24, then 1 day a month (dates TBD) August through November.
- The Muckleshoot Tribe is still not able to send a representative to WREC or technical workgroup meetings due to staff furloughs.
- [WRIA 1 Rule](#): On May 27 Ecology adopted an amendment to Chapter 173-501 WAC, Instream Resources Protection Program - Nooksack Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 1 to meet the requirements in RCW 90.94.020.
- [WRIA 8 Plan Approval Timeline](#): The facilitation team made some revisions to the plan review timeline based on feedback at the May WREC meeting:
 - Additional week for draft plan review.
 - Earlier deadline for review of final plan to accommodate comments on final plan.
 - The dates in the timeline, including the Feb 1 plan submittal date, are target dates and the chair and facilitation team will adaptively manage the timeline as needed.
 - Send comments on the timeline to Stephanie.
- WRE Plan Status Update:
 - Chair distributed [Chapters 1 -3](#) of the WRE Plan along with a [Comment Tracker](#).
 - The Plan will consist of the following chapters.
 - Chapter 1: Plan Overview
 - Chapter 2: Watershed Overview
 - Chapter 3: Subbasin delineation
 - Chapter 3: New Consumptive Water Use and Impacts
 - Chapter 5: Projects and Actions
 - Chapter 6: Plan Implementation and Adaptive Management
 - Chapter 7: Net Ecological Benefit
 - Consumptive Use Estimate
 - Currently drafting Chapter 4 which discusses growth projections and consumptive use.
 - The Committee will discuss the consumptive use estimate at the July meeting.
 - In the January meeting, the Committee opted to move forward with a range until water offset projects were further developed.
 - Consumptive use based on average lawn size is 425.5 acre-feet/year
 - Consumptive use based on homes using 950 gpd is 698.8 acre-feet/year

Public Comment

No comments.

Water Rights Assessment

Objective: Hear presentation of final report from Washington Water Trust on the Water Rights Acquisition Assessment.

Reference Materials

- Draft [WRIA 8 Cedar-Sammamish Priority Water Right Projects Report](#)

Jason Hatch and Kevin Haydon from Washington Water Trust provided an update on the water rights acquisition assessment.

- WWT identified 12 priority water rights projects.
 - 5 were identified through the irrigation analysis.
 - 7 were water rights identified by Ecology and the WREC (“pre-identified”).
 - A web map is available to view the parcels (contact chair for log in information).
- WWT developed project opportunity profiles for the 12 priority water rights.
 - For information, view the draft [WRIA 8 Cedar-Sammamish Priority Water Right Projects Report](#)
- The report includes resources to reach out to water right holders, if the Committee chooses to do additional outreach.

Discussion:

- The Committee discussed which projects were near-term opportunities. Washington Water Trust listed the following as more likely in the near-term:
 - Pre-identified 2
 - Pre-identified 4
 - Pre-identified 7
 - Pre-identified 8
 - Pre-identified 9

Next steps:

- The technical workgroup will discuss the project opportunities in more detail at the meeting on July 14 and discuss recommendations on which projects to include in the plan and additional outreach tasks.

Identifying Potential Projects

Objectives:

- Recap June 18 Technical Workgroup meeting.
- Share workgroup recommendations for habitat projects and water offset projects.
- Status update on projects included in project inventory.

Reference materials:

- WRIA 8 [project inventory](#)

Technical Workgroup Recap:

- Recommended 15 habitat projects to include in the plan.
- Discussed criteria for tiering the project list.
- Discussed how to address climate change through an overarching statement, adaptive management, and project descriptions.

Habitat Project Selection

- The Technical Workgroup discussed habitat projects at the June workgroup meeting and recommended the 15 habitat projects on the “short list” tab in the [project inventory](#) for inclusion in the plan.

- The workgroup discussed identifying additional habitat projects in Lake Sammamish Creeks and May/Coal subbasins. The workgroup will discuss additional projects at upcoming meetings.
- The Committee discussed the 15 habitat projects recommended by the workgroup and supported including those projects in the WRIA 8 plan.

Next steps:

- GeoEngineers will work with project sponsors to develop habitat project descriptions.
- The chair will share the draft habitat project descriptions for Committee review.
- The workgroup will discuss additional habitat projects in Lake Sammamish Creeks and May/Coal subbasins.

Water offset project development

- Stephanie and Bridget provided updates on water offset project development. See the “conceptual ideas” tab on [project inventory](#) for project information.
- The Committee discussed the lake level modification project concept and did not have ideas for lakes to look at in WRIA 8. The consultants will not continue looking into this project concept unless the Committee provides additional direction.
- The Committee supported including the Overdale water right acquisition as a water offset on the project list.

Next steps:

- The technical workgroup will discuss managed aquifer recharge and stormwater projects at the July 14 meeting.

Project List Organization

- The technical workgroup recommended tiering water offset projects and habitat projects to reflect the likelihood of implementation or contribution to achieving NEB.
- The proposed tiering criteria are:
 - Water offset tiering criteria:
 - Water offset quantity
 - Timing of water offset benefit (in time)
 - Project location relative to new PE wells (in place)
 - Project certainty
 - Resilience and durability
 - Habitat project tiering criteria:
 - Project location: based on expected number of PE wells in subbasins (used to select projects to include in the plan)
 - Project location: based on salmon habitat needs
 - Multi-benefit: potential to provide streamflow benefits, temperature
 - Project certainty
 - Resilience and durability
- The Committee supported the tiering criteria developed by the workgroup.

Next steps:

- Stephanie will draft descriptions for the criteria for the workgroup to review at the July 14 meeting.
- Ecology and consultants will add the readily available criteria information to the project inventory.

- The workgroup will add criteria information and use criteria to sort projects into tiers at an upcoming meeting.

Climate Change

- The technical workgroup recommended addressing climate change through an overarching statement, adaptive management, and the project descriptions. The Committee supported that approach.
- The Committee discussed coordinating across WRIAs on climate change and adaptive management language. The WRIA 8 & 9 policy sub-group will discuss this at the July 8 meeting.
- Denise and Dan volunteered to draft the overarching statement.
 - Jason suggested looking at the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group and the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan for language on predicted climate impacts in WRIA 8.

Next Steps:

- Denis DiSanto and Dan Von Seggern will draft an overarching statement on climate change.
- WRIA 8 & 9 Policy subgroup will discuss adaptive management on July 8.

Policy Recommendations

Objectives:

- Share new policy recommendations.
- Discuss next steps for development of policy recommendations.

Joe Hovenkotter submitted three new policy recommendations for the Committee’s consideration.

- [Enable Ecology to Fully & Comprehensively Administer State Water Laws](#)
- [Revitalize, Enhance, and Expand Programs and Rules that Protect, Preserve, and Maintain Instream Flows](#)
- [Development and Use of Reclaimed Water](#)

Discussion:

- Several entities are supportive of the policy proposals including City of Seattle, Snoqualmie Tribe, CELP
 - Matt Baerwalde added that they would like to see these policies gain traction across multiple WRIAs.
- Alderwood Water has concerns with reclaimed water as there are potential issues with stranded assets, an unpredictable future demand, and competing agencies.
- Committee members added that it would be helpful to have a broader cross-WRIA policy working group and incorporate WRIA 7.

Next Steps:

- The policy subgroup will meet July 8 (jointly with WRIA 7 & 9) to discuss feedback on policy proposals.
- Committee members to provide comments on policy tracker and send to Gretchen by 7/6.

Action Items for Chair/Facilitator/Technical Consultant:

- GeoEngineers will work with project sponsors to develop habitat project descriptions.
- Stephanie will share the draft habitat project descriptions for Committee review.

- Stephanie will draft descriptions for the criteria for the workgroup to review at the July 14 meeting. Ecology and consultants will add the readily available criteria information to the project inventory.
- Facilitation Team will coordinate policy sub-group meeting on July 8 and help coordinate policy recommendations across WRIAs.

Action Items for Committee Members

- Review the [WRIA 8 Plan Approval Timeline](#) and send comments to Stephanie.
- Review [Chapters 1 -3](#) and send feedback to Stephanie by July 8.
- Review the project profiles in the WWT Draft [WRIA 8 Cedar-Sammamish Priority Water Right Projects Report](#).
- Committee members to provide comments on policy proposals and send to Gretchen by 7/6.
- Policy sub-group to meet on July 8 to discuss next steps for policy recommendations and adaptive management.
- Denise and Dan will work on an overarching statement on climate change.
- Review meeting summary and provide comments/corrections by 7/16.

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 23, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- Next Technical Work Group meeting: Tuesday, July 14 from 9:30-12:30pm
 - Discuss additional habitat projects in Lake Sammamish Creeks and May/Coal
 - Discuss water right acquisition project profiles
 - Discuss water offset projects: MAR and stormwater
 - Review tiering criteria