



NOVEMBER 2020 MEETING SUMMARY

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

November 18, 2020 | 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | [Committee website](#)

Location

WebEx

Committee Chair

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

Next Meeting

February 25
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
WebEx

Attendance

Committee Representatives and Alternates*

John McClellan, *Alderwood Water & Wastewater District*
Shawn Gilbertson, *Kent*
Dan Von Seggern, *Center for Environmental Law and Policy*
Denise Di Santo, *King County*
Joe Hovenkotter, *King County*
Rick Reinlasoder, *King County Agriculture Program*
Jennifer Anderson (alternate), *Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties*
Carla Carlson, *Muckleshoot Indian Tribe*
Michele Koehler, *Seattle*
Terri Strandberg, *Snohomish County*
Elisa Dawson, *Snohomish County*
Matt Baerwalde, *Snoqualmie Indian Tribe*

Kelsey Taylor, *Snoqualmie Indian Tribe*
Ann House, *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 (alternate), *WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council, ex officio*
Janet Geer, *Bothell*
Allen Quynn, *Issaquah*
Richard Sawyer, *Kenmore*
Beth Mountsier, *Bellevue*

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

Committee Members Not in Attendance*

City of Sammamish

Other Attendees

Gretchen Muller (facilitator), *Cascadia Consulting Group*
Caroline Burney (information manager), *Cascadia Consulting Group*

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, *Washington State Department of Ecology*

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

Standing Business

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

Chair received no comments on the October meeting summary. The Committee voted to approve the October WRIA 8 WREC meeting summary, with MBAKS and the cities caucus rep abstaining. The final version will be posted on the Committee website.

Updates and Announcements

Chair provided updates from Ecology.

- Committee membership:
 - Redmond withdrew from the Committee.
 - Expect Sammamish to withdraw. Waiting for confirmation. Sammamish gave interim approval by email.
- Committee members voted for their [favorite plan cover photo](#) via an interactive slide. Thanks to Committee members and partners who submitted photos for the cover of the plan.

Public Comment

No comments.

Comments on WRE Plan

Objective: Review and discuss any final comments from Committee members on the draft plan.

Reference Materials:

- [WRE Draft Plan \(version 11/12\)](#)
- [new revisions to draft \(dated 11/17\)](#)
- Proposed [Adaptive management language](#)

Overview of plan versions:

- The chair distributed a revised draft plan on 11/4, which incorporated comments discussed at the 10/29 WREC meeting, and also added an executive summary.
 - Executive summary pulls language from other chapters that the Committee previously reviewed.
- The chair received additional comments after distributing the 11/4 draft plan and incorporated those into a draft dated 11/12.
- After distributing the 11/12 draft, the chair received comments from MBAKS related to adaptive management. The chair circulated the comments from MBAKS and a proposed revision to “6.1.2 Oversight and Adaptation” to address comments from various Committee members.

Discussion: Revisions to Draft

- Changed offset target from 698.8 to 698.9
 - When proofing the plan, realized it should be rounded up: 698.85.
- Section 4.5 Summary of Uncertainties and Scenarios (from Dan, CELP)
 - Proposed language was incorporated into the revised plan.
 - Committee had no concerns with the edit.
- Sammamish River Floodplain Restoration Project Description (from Carla, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe)
 - Carla shared her suggested edits to the project description.
 - The Committee discussed the project and the benefits to identifying a target area for restoration.
 - The Committee decided to keep the language as included in the 11/4 and 11/12 draft.

- **Action Item:** Stephanie to incorporate edits discussed by the Committee into the final draft plan.

Discussion: Adaptive Management

- Kurt Nelson added that he is concerned that Ecology will have the capacity to implement the adaptive management recommendations described in the plan.
 - Stephanie clarified that Ecology is already committed to two aspects of plan implementation:
 - Report to the legislature in 2026.
 - Implementation of streamflow restoration grant program (15-years program).
 - Once plans are approved by the Committee, Ecology will review them for NEB and have discussions with management about the recommendations included in the plan.
 - These concerns are shared across WRIAs and are being communicated to Ecology management.
- Ecology management suggested adding a few words to section 6.1 to address how the Committee is using the safety factor to address the uncertainties as well.
 - Committee supported that change.
- Section 6.1.1 Tracking and Monitoring: Snoqualmie Indian Tribe suggested adding language to the adaptive management chapter to: continue monitoring of streamflow and groundwater levels; and continue studies that improve understanding of WRIA 8 hydrology.
 - Committee members supported adding that language.
- 6.1.2 Oversight and Adaptation
 - Matt shared that he is concerned that the ball is in Ecology’s court to make a call on whether the plan is on track. He shared that he’d like to see a feedback loop for Committee members to provide input on that.
 - Jennifer shared Master Builders concerns with equity issues in terms of who is able to be at the table if the Committee reconvenes.
 - The Committee discussed that a subgroup of Committee members could meet at any time. However, that group should represent the same interests that are on the Committee today in order to call the group the “WRIA 8 WREC.”
 - Committee members discussed specific text edits to address these concerns and came to agreement on language to include in section 6.1.2.
- **Action Item:** Stephanie to incorporate edits discussed by the Committee into the final draft plan.

Interim Approval of WRE Plan

Objectives:

- Review local review process and timeline.
- Interim approval of the draft WRE plan by representatives on the Committee, before initiating local review.

Reference Materials:

- [Plan Approval Timeline](#)

Local Review Process and Timeline

Stephanie reviewed the local review process and timeline:

- Chair send out the final draft along with updated PowerPoint slides and a cover memo later this week or early next week.
- Will include links to supporting materials including:

- Committee overview handout
- NEB guidance
- Policy and interpretive statement
- Have a February 16 review due date so we can identify any red flag comments that come up during local review and inform the Committee before we meet on February 25.
- The next meeting is February 25 via WebEx. The meeting's objective is to vote on approval of the plan.
- After plan approval, Chair will finalize the plan, including updating placeholder language around number of meetings, etc. (see blue text in final draft plan), and submit it to Ecology for review.

Interim Approval of Plan

Gretchen provided an overview of interim approval:

- **What does interim approval mean?** Interim approval is committee member approval of the draft plan in advance of committee members sharing the draft plan with their local decision makers.
- **Why are we soliciting interim approval?** This is a consensus-based process and full committee approval is needed for final plan approval. We want to make sure committee members support the draft plan before it gets shared more broadly. If a committee member does not support the draft plan, it's important that we address committee member concerns first.
- **If we don't have interim approval, how will this impact our overall review timeline?** We don't know yet. It will be dependent on the committee member(s) needed change(s) and the extent and timing of those changes. We will discuss this as a full committee.

Interim Approval: Round Robin

- Janet Geer, Bothell: approved.
- Beth Mountsier, Bellevue: approved.
- Allen Quynn, Issaquah: approved.
- Richard Sawyer, Kenmore: approved.
- Michele Koehler, Seattle: approved.
- Shawn Gilbertson, Kent: approved.
- Denise Di Santo, King County: approved.
- Terri Strandberg, Snohomish County: approved.
- Carla Carlson, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe: approved.
- Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe: approved.
- Kurt Nelson, Tulalip Tribes: approved.
- John McClellan, Alderwood: approved.
- Stewart Reinbold, WDFW: approved.
- Jennifer Anderson, MBACKS: approved.
- Dan von Seggern, CELP: approved.
- Rick Reinlasoder, King County Agriculture Program: approved.
- Stephanie Potts, Ecology: approved.
- Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8: approved.
- Danika Globokar, Sammamish: gave interim approval over email.

Letters

- Stephanie shared that some Committee members have mentioned they plan to send a letter to go along with plan approval. This is optional for Committee members. However, chair wants to make sure that letters don't call into question the vote on final plan.

- Letters can be shared publicly and posted on Ecology website, but will not be considered part of the plan.
- Please let Stephanie know if you are planning to send a letter and if you'd like the letter to be shared publicly.

Action Items for Chair:

- Revise draft plan to incorporate edits discussed at meeting.
- Circulate final draft plan and supporting materials.

Action Items for Committee Members

- Initiate local review process.
 - Review period from November 23 – February 16.
 - Committee members should complete the internal review process and notify Stephanie of any red flag comments that come up during local review by February 16.
 - Vote on final plan: February 25.
- Let Stephanie know if you are planning to send a letter to go along with final plan approval.

Next Meeting: February 25 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.