

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

Please send corrections to Stephanie Potts (Stephanie.Potts@ecy.wa.gov) by March 15, 2019.

[Committee website:](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37321/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_8.aspx)

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Next Meeting: Thursday, March 28, 2019 from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm at the Mercer Island Community Center.

Meeting Information

Thursday, February 28, 2019

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Mercer Island Community Center, Groveland Meeting Room | 8236 SE 24th St, Mercer Island, WA

Agenda

	Topic	Time	Action	Handouts	Lead
1.	Welcome and introductions	9:30 am			Chair
2.	Public Comment	9:35			Facilitator
3.	Approval of agenda and January meeting summary	9:45	Vote	- Agenda - Jan. mtg summary	Facilitator
4.	Updates and Announcements <i>-Updates from Ecology</i> <i>-Roundtable announcements from committee members</i>	9:50			Chair and all
5.	Operating Principles decision	10:05	Vote	- Operating Principles	Facilitator
6.	Ex officio membership decision	10:25	Discussion and vote		Facilitator
7.	Break	10:40			
8.	Hydrogeology Overview	10:50	Presentation & discussion		John Covert, Ecology
9.	Initial Subbasin Discussion	11:50	Presentation & discussion		Chair and John Covert
10.	Next steps	12:20 pm			Chair and facilitator
11.	Adjourn	12:30			Chair

**all handouts are available on the Committee website*

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Attendance*

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Brian Landau (alternate)	Bellevue	Janet Geer	Bothell
Allen Quynn (alternate)	Issaquah	Richard Sawyer	Kenmore
Mike Mactutis	Kent	Jennifer Adams	Mukilteo
Andy Rheaume	Redmond	Michele Koehler	Seattle
Tom Beavers	King County	Terri Strandberg	Snohomish County
Carla Carlson	Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	Matt Baerwalde	Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
Kurt Nelson	Tulalip Tribes	Julie Lewis (alternate)	Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
Gina Clark	Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties	Trish Rolfe	Center for Environmental Law and Policy
Melissa Borsting	King County Agriculture Program	Stewart Reinbold	WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
John McClellan	Alderwood Water & Wastewater District	Stephanie Potts	WA Department of Ecology
David Hartley (consultant)	Snoqualmie Tribe	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council, <i>ex officio</i>

Committee members not in attendance: Sammamish

Other Attendees

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council	Ingria Jones (facilitator)	WA Department of Ecology
Stacy Vynne	WA Department of Ecology	John Covert	WA Department of Ecology

*Attendees list is based on sign-in sheet

Public Comment

No public comments.

Approval of Agenda and Meeting Summary

There were no additions to the agenda.

A revised draft meeting summary was distributed by email to the Committee on February 13, which included suggestions for edits to the statutory closure language under "Instream Flows Overview." The Committee voted to approve the revised January meeting summary, with Mukilteo and Snohomish County abstaining. The final version is posted on the Committee website.

Updates and Announcements

Stephanie provided the following Department of Ecology updates:

Cities caucus

The following cities plan to participate in the cities caucus: City of Bellevue, City of Bothell, City of Issaquah, City of Kenmore, City of Mukilteo, City of Redmond, and City of Sammamish. Those cities will officially opt-in to the caucus by sending me an email that says they agree to the internal caucus operating procedures. Jason Wilkinson, staff for the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council, will represent the caucus at Committee meetings (Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, also WRIA 8 staff, is the alternate). The Caucus will have one collective vote on interim decisions and each caucus member will have an individual vote on the final plan. Section 3 of the Operating Principles includes more information about the cities caucus.

Workgroup formation

Stephanie requested volunteers to participate in a technical workgroup to develop recommendations and considerations for the Committee's technical decisions. The first tasks for the workgroup are subbasin delineations, data for population growth projects, and consumptive use estimates. The workgroup membership can change over time as the tasks change. The workgroup can include other staff at Committee member organizations/governments as well as non-committee members. Volunteers for the technical workgroup so far, include: Muckleshoot Tribe, Snoqualmie Tribe, Tulalip Tribes, CELP, Seattle, WDFW, Alderwood Water, and likely WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council and King County. Stephanie will follow up with technical workgroup members from those organizations to schedule the first workgroup call for mid to late March.

Facilitation support

In early December, Ecology requested bids for facilitation support for the WRECs. Ecology received 5 bids and the successful bidder for the NW WRECs is Cascadia Consulting. We anticipate Gretchen Muller or Ruth Bell will provide the facilitation support for the Cedar-Sammamish WREC. Please contact Stephanie ASAP if you have any concerns about the proposed facilitator.

Technical support

Ecology announced a Work Assignment Job Proposal for Watershed Plan Tech Support on February 5 with a deadline of Feb 27. The announcement went to Ecology's Water Resources consultant pool. Stephanie shared the list of firms that submitted proposals to the Committee by email on March 1 and requested Committee members share any major concerns by March 6. The technical consultant will work with the Committee and the technical workgroup to support development of subbasin delineations, growth projections and consumptive use estimates, and project identification and evaluation.

Resource binders

Ecology staff are creating resource binders for each Committee member that will include the roster, agendas and meeting minutes, operating principles, RCW language and other key resources. We hope to have those ready for the March meeting. Please note: we will not create binders for cities caucus members unless requested.

Funding Rule

On January 17, ECY issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (CR 102) for the Streamflow Restoration Funding Rule (Chapter 173-566 WAC). Stephanie sent this information to the Committee by email on Feb 14. The proposed rule language, information on the March 5 hearing/webinar, and public comment

instructions are available on Ecology's [rulemaking webpage for Chapter 173-566 WAC](#). The public comment period closes at 5:00pm on March 15, 2019.

Streamflow Restoration Grants

Ecology received 46 applications seeking more than \$76 million in grant funding. Ecology is offering funding for 15 projects totaling approximately \$20 million in requests. There are no projects in WRIA 8. The [list of grant awards](#) is available on the Ecology [Streamflow Restoration website](#) (scroll down to "Grants program").

WRIA 1 and 11 Plan updates

ESSB 6091 required Ecology to adopt the Nisqually (WRIA 11) and Nooksack (WRIA 1) plans by Feb. 1, 2019. Despite hard work and commitment, the Nooksack watershed planning group did not approve a plan for Ecology to evaluate and adopt by the deadline. The law requires Ecology to complete rulemaking for the Nooksack by August 1, 2020. Information on the Nooksack rulemaking is available on Ecology's [rulemaking webpage - WAC-173-501](#).

The Nisqually watershed plan earned the state's first approval under ESSB 6091. Examples of projects in the plan include connecting new and existing homes to the city water system and decommissioning existing wells, transferring water rights to the state's water rights trust to benefit streamflow, restoring wetlands to better retain water for more steady release throughout the year, and storing water in underground aquifers for release to augment stream flows in the late summer and early fall. The Nisqually Plan is available on Ecology's [Streamflow Restoration Planning webpage](#) (scroll down and click on "WRIA 11").

Ecology staff are working to schedule a "lessons learned" webinar in March or April with some of the WRIA 1 and WRIA 11 planning group members.

Net Ecological Benefit guidance

Expect Ecology to release draft final NEB guidance for public comment in early May. Stephanie will share with the Committee once it is released.

Meeting location

At one of the 2018 meetings, Committee members suggested moving the meeting location each quarter. Stephanie is looking for meeting space in the north of the watershed for Q2 meetings (April 25, May 23, and June 27). Please let Stephanie know if you have space suggestions.

Operating Principles Decision

The Committee voted on the Operating Principles (v022619). Changes made since the version distributed after the January meeting (v020119) include: fixing typos, formatting for accessibility, edits to the header language and signature page language, and updates to Appendix A. The Operating Principles for the Cedar-Sammamish WREC and the Duwamish-Green WREC are the same. The Operating Principles require approval by all members of the Committee, as described in Section 2.

A quorum was established with 19 of 20 Committee members represented. The City of Sammamish was not represented. The Sammamish representative provided their vote to approve by email to the chair on March 6, 2019.

All Committee members voted to approve the Operating Principles.

Stephanie will post the approved Operating Principles on the Committee website. The “approved” date for the Operating Principles is March 6, 2019, which is the date the last vote was received. The “effective” date will be the date that all Committee members provide a signature to the chair. The Committee will operate under the approved Operating Principles while the chair collects the few remaining signatures.

Stephanie is attempting to get written documentation from each entity that decided not to join the Committee. Appendix A lists entities that have already responded in writing. The entities that have not responded are City of Maple Valley, City of Mercer Island, City of Mill Creek, Town of Beaux Arts Village, Town of Hunts Point, and Town of Woodway. The City of Renton does not plan to participate and is in the process of getting that decision finalized. Any new entity that joins the Committee from this point forward will be subject “latecomers” provisions described in Section 3 of the Operating Principles.

Ex Officio Membership Decision

Ex officio members sit at the Committee table and participate in discussions and review of documents, but do not participate in voting or in the final Committee approval of the plan. “Membership” under Section 3 in the Operating Principles states that the Committee can decide to add ex officio members by consensus. The WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council expressed interest in ex officio membership and Jason Wilkinson attended the meeting to speak about their interest and benefit to the Committee.

The Committee approved adding the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council as an ex officio member.

Snohomish County abstained and the remaining Committee members present voted to approve.

Jason will start acting as the cities caucus representative at the March meeting. Jason will be clear about which interest he is representing when making remarks during meetings.

Committee members can provide additional suggestions for ex officio members to the chair for future consideration by the Committee.

Hydrogeology Overview

John Covert, hydrogeologist with the Department of Ecology Water Resources Program Northwest Regional Office, provided an overview on hydrogeologic principles and the hydrology and geology of the Cedar-Sammamish watershed. The presentation is posted on the Committee website.

John presented a modeling tool developed by USGS that estimates the rates, locations, and timing of streamflow depletion in response to groundwater pumping. Stephanie will post [USGS Circular 1376: Streamflow Depletion by Wells—Understanding and Managing the Effects of Groundwater Pumping on Streamflow](#) on the Committee website.

Summary of the Committee discussion following the presentation:

- The well maps in John’s presentation are data from Ecology’s [Well Report database](#). The map shows active water wells over the decades that have been reported to Ecology by the driller, as required by state law ([Chapter 173-160-141 WAC](#)). Decommissioned wells and Resource Protection wells are not included on the maps.
- Likely that homes using domestic wells are also using a septic system. In this case, the indoor water use is estimated as 10% consumptive. Outdoor watering has a bigger impact than indoor

use. For more about consumptive use estimates see the Ecology publication [Recommendations for Water Use Estimates](#).

- The Committee discussed the opportunities and challenges for using managed aquifer recharge projects to offset the consumptive water use. The Committee will have more opportunities to learn about and discuss water for water and non-water projects in the late spring/summer.
- The Committee discussed some of the complicating factors in the watershed, including wells using water from deep aquifers, development in the foothills and uplands, large estates using municipal water for indoor use and wells for outdoor watering, and projecting growth inside and outside the UGA, projecting future zoning.

Initial Subbasin Discussion

Stephanie talked about the need for the Committee to break WRIA 8 up into subbasins. John presented on existing subbasin delineations, which included a strawman proposal to break WRIA 8 into 4 subbasins. The presentation is posted on the Committee website.

Note that the on some WRIA maps a small part of the Cedar-Sammamish basin, northeast of Black Diamond around Lake Number Twelve, is incorrectly included within the boundary of WRIA 9. John manually added that portion into his subbasin proposal.

Coming up with recommendations for subbasins will be the first task of the technical workgroup, with support from the Ecology technical team and technical consultants. The workgroup will make a recommendation to the Committee, but it is ultimately up to the full Committee to make the decision. Expect to make an initial decision in May. The Committee can revisit subbasins later in the planning process and make changes, if needed.

Action Items

For the chair:

- Post final January meeting summary and February meeting presentations and materials on the Committee website.
- Post final approved Operating Principles on the Committee website.
- Contact people interested in technical workgroup to schedule first call.

For Committee members:

- Review draft February meeting summary and send comments to Stephanie by March 15.
- Send Stephanie any questions you'd like covered during an upcoming webinar on lessons learned from the WRIA 1 and WRIA 11 planning processes (to be scheduled in March or April).
- Contact Stephanie if you have concerns about having Gretchen Muller or Ruth Bell as the facilitator for the Committee.
- Let Stephanie know if you have space suggestions for Q2 meetings (April 25, May 23, and June 27) in the northern part of the watershed.

For Next Meeting, March 28th:

- Presentations on land use planning from King County and Snohomish County.