

Duwamish-Green (WRIA 9)  
Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee  
April Meeting Summary

[Committee website:](#)

[https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_\\_1962/37322/watershed\\_restoration\\_and\\_enhancement\\_-\\_wria\\_9.aspx](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37322/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_9.aspx)

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 28, 2019 from 12:30 – 3:30 pm at the King County South Treatment Plant.

**Note:** The May 28th meeting will be a joint meeting with the Cedar-Sammamish (WRIA 8) Committee.

Meeting Information

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Black River Room, King County South Treatment Plant | 1200 Monster Road S.W., Renton, WA

Agenda

	Topic	Time	Action	Handouts	Lead
1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	12:30 pm			Chair & facilitator
2.	<b>Review Agenda and Approve March Meeting Summary</b>	12:35	Vote	- Agenda - March mtg summary	Facilitator
3.	<b>Updates and Announcements</b> <i>-Updates from Ecology</i> <i>-Roundtable announcements</i>	12:40			Chair & All
4.	<b>Subbasin Delineations</b>	1:00	Discussion	- Subbasin proposals	Facilitator & Tech Workgroup
5.	<b>Break</b>	1:50			
6.	<b>Methods for Rural Growth Projections</b>	2:00	Presentation & discussion	- Recommendations for Water Use Estimates	Chair & John Covert
7.	<b>Action Items and Next Steps</b>	3:10			Facilitator & Chair
8.	<b>Public Comment- <i>limit to 3 minutes per person</i></b>	3:20			Facilitator
9.	<b>Adjourn</b>	3:30			

All handouts and meeting materials are available on the [Committee website](#).

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Attendance\*

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Lisa Tobin	Auburn	Susan Fenhaus (alternate)	Auburn
Kathy Minsch	Seattle	Scott Woodbury	Enumclaw
Shawn Gilbertson	Kent	Josh Kahan	King County
Carla Carlson	Muckleshoot Tribe	Tom Keown	Covington Water District
Jennifer Anderson	Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties	Trish Rolfe	Center for Environmental Law and Policy
Rick Reinlasoder	King County Agriculture Program	Stewart Reinbold	WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Stephanie Potts (chair)	WA Department of Ecology	Greg Volkhardt	Tacoma Water, <i>ex officio</i>
Doug Osterman (alternate, cities caucus rep)	WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum, <i>ex officio</i>		

Cities caucus members: Black Diamond, Normandy Park, and Tukwila

Other Attendees

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Megan Kernan	WA Department of Fish and Wildlife	Stacy Vynne	WA Department of Ecology
Ruth Bell (facilitator)	Cascadia Consulting Group	Caroline Burney (information manager)	Cascadia Consulting Group
Bridget August (technical consultant)	GeoEngineers	John Covert (phone)	WA Department of Ecology

\*Attendees list is based on sign-in sheet

Meeting Objectives

- Committee representatives will review and provide feedback on draft subbasin delineations.
- Committee representatives will discuss methods for rural growth projections and select a preferred approach

Approval of Agenda and Meeting Summary

There were no additions to the agenda.

There were no changes to the meeting summary. The Committee voted to approve the March meeting summary, with the cities caucus rep abstaining. The final version is posted on the Committee website.

Updates and Announcements

Stephanie provided the following Department of Ecology updates:

### *Technical support*

GeoEngineers has started work for the WRIA 7, WRIA 8, and WRIA 9 Committees. Bridget August is the project manager and will work with other GeoEngineers staff and staff from their teaming partner Northwest Hydraulic Consultants. GeoEngineers will be invited to Committee meetings on a case-by-case basis. Stephanie will share the scope of work once the contract is signed.

### *Workgroup update*

The Technical Workgroup met on April 18 to review and discuss subbasin proposals. The proposals that came out of the discussion were presented during the subbasin delineation agenda topic. The next technical workgroup meeting is Thursday, May 23. This is a joint meeting of the WRIA 7, 8, and 9 technical workgroups focused on growth projections. Contact Stephanie for more information.

### *Net Ecological Benefit guidance*

Ecology released the draft final NEB guidance on May 6, with a 30 day public comment period closing on June 7. Final guidance is expected by July 31st. We will have a presentation at a Committee meeting after the final guidance is released. The draft final guidance and a link to the public comment form are posted on the [Ecology Streamflow Restoration webpage](#).

### *WRIA 1 rulemaking*

The [WRIA 1 preliminary draft language for the rule amendment](#) is available for review and comment. Comments are due May 10th.

### *2019 Committee meeting schedule*

The Duwamish-Green WREC will have the following meetings in 2019:

May: Tuesday 5/28 at 12:30pm, Black River Room, King County South Treatment Plant. This is a joint meeting with the WRIA 8 Committee.

June: Tuesday 6/25 at 12:30pm, location TBD

July: Tuesday 7/23: Short meeting followed by a project site visit. Time and location TBD. Please hold the full day on your calendar.

August: no meeting

September: Tuesday 9/24 at 12:30pm, location TBD

October: Tuesday 10/22 at 12:30 pm, location TBD

November/December: will schedule one meeting for late November or early December.

### *July project visits*

The purpose of a project site visit is to see an example of a type of projects we can include in our plan. Greg Volkhardt suggested visiting Eagle Lake, a potential water offset project. The project is in the upper Green River watershed near Ravensdale. Tom Keown suggested a Covington Water well field in the Maple Valley area. Lisa Tobin suggested visiting a salmon recovery project that has streamflow benefits. Shawn Gilbertson suggested a side channel project in Kent. Kathy Minsch will look into potential SPU projects to visit. Lisa also suggested putting together a list of key places in the watershed to visit.

Please send Stephanie suggestions for projects for the site visit, or the type of project you would like to see.

### *Project types webinar*

Please mark your calendars for a webinar on project types May 30, 1:30-3pm. The webinar will cover (1) water projects; 2) water rights acquisitions; and 3) habitat projects. Ecology will record the webinar to post for people who can't watch it live.

### Subbasin Delineations

Stephanie provided background information and considerations for subbasin delineations:

- *Why create subbasins:* RCW 90.94.030(3)(b) says plans must include "actions that the committee determines to be necessary to offset potential impacts to instream flows associated with permit-exempt domestic water use. The highest priority recommendations must include replacing the quantity of consumptive water use during the same time as the impact and in the same basin or tributary." Subbasins are helpful to determine which projects are high priority and are replacing water in the same place as the impact. Lower priority projects are not in same basin or tributary, and/or replace water during critical flow periods.
- Need to balance the number of subbasins we create. Too few: difficult to understand relationship between impacts of well pumping and benefits of offset projects. Too many: difficult to estimate consumptive use by subbasin if our data is not spatial. Could be difficult to find high priority projects.
- *Timing for subbasins:* The Committee can discuss subbasins and rural growth/well projections concurrently. However, if our data is not spatial then we will need to make a number of assumptions to fit overall rural growth projections within a subbasin boundary. The Committee should refine subbasin boundaries before making rural growth and consumptive use assumptions that are based on subbasin boundaries. Data that is not spatial will require more work to recalculate if subbasin boundaries change.
- *Subbasins and offset projects:* The Committee must offset the total estimated consumptive water use from new, domestic, permit-exempt wells within the watershed. The legislation does not require offsets to be in the same subbasin or tributary. However, when prioritizing projects, the Committee must include projects that offset consumptive water use within the same basin or tributary as high priority.
- GeoEngineers created an [online mapping tool](#) for Committee members to use to visualize data. This is a work in progress. Stephanie will send instructions for using the web map and providing feedback on the data sources.

Carla and Trish presented on their joint subbasin proposal. See presentation and map posted to the Committee website.

- The Committee discussed having more subbasins now and combining some once we have a better idea of where wells will go.
- The Committee discussed moving the boundary between subbasin 8 and subbasin 10 to the west.
- There was a suggestion to change the Ecology WRIA boundary to align with King County drainage basins, which are based on newer technology (LIDAR). Stephanie brought that comment to Ecology technical staff and they said that is not likely to happen before our planning deadline. The Committee will need to work with the existing Ecology WRIA boundary and incorporate all of the land areas within the WRIA boundary into one of our subbasins.

The Committee will put the subbasin discussion aside for now and revisit it once we get further along on rural growth projections.

### Methods for Rural Growth Projections

Stephanie presented on methods for rural growth projections and examples from other WRIA Committees. See presentation posted to the Committee website.

Summary of the Committee discussion following the presentations:

- Key takeaways from WRIA 1 and 11 planning unit members: quickly figure out growth projections and consumptive use. Use conservative assumptions to deal with uncertainty. Spend the most time and effort on identifying and evaluating projects.
- Committee members suggested using some combination of one or more of the following methods: developable lands analysis (with different assumptions than the King County water availability study), rural population projections, and use Ecology well log map to ground truth our assumptions.
- The Committee discussed going beyond the 20 year requirement to look at expected wells and consumptive water use in a full build-out scenario. The full build out scenario could be done for one subbasin, one county, or the whole basin. The Committee will still need to include a 20 year consumptive use estimate in the plan in order for Ecology to evaluate whether it meets the legislative requirements: (1) projects and actions to offset estimated 20 year consumptive water from domestic, permit-exempt wells and (2) an overall net ecological benefit in the watershed.
- The Committee agreed to coordinate the work on growth projections with the WRIA 7 (Snohomish) and WRIA 8 (Cedar-Sammamish) Committees. Stephanie will work with the WRIA 7 chair to schedule a joint WRIA 7, 8, 9 technical workgroup meeting focused on growth projections.

### Public Comment

No public comments.

### Action Items

#### For the chair:

- Post final March meeting summary and April meeting presentations and materials on the Committee website.
- Work with the WRIA 7 chair to schedule a joint WRIA 7, 8 & 9 technical workgroup meeting focused on rural growth projections.
- Send instructions for using the web map and providing feedback on the data sources.
- Compile list of key places to visit as part of a watershed tour.

#### For Committee members:

- Review draft April meeting summary and send comments to Stephanie by May 15.
- Hold May 30, 1:30-3 pm on your calendar for the projects webinar (see calendar invite sent May 1 for more information).
- Hold the full day Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> on your calendar for a Committee meeting and project site visit.
- Send Stephanie suggestions for projects for the site visit, or the type of project you would like to see.

- Send Stephanie suggestions for data layers to add or change on the web map.
- Send Stephanie suggestions for locations to visit as part of a watershed tour, e.g. dams, other important infrastructure features, hatcheries, etc.
- Identify your organization/government's approval process and timeline for making decisions on subbasins and growth projections (e.g. do you need to vet proposals internally with your council or board?). Let Stephanie know if you anticipate an extensive review process within your organization/government.

**Next Technical Workgroup Meeting, Thursday, May 23 from 10 am – 12:30 pm at the Ecology Northwest Regional Office:**

- This is a joint meeting of the WRIA 7, 8, and 9 technical workgroups focused on growth projections. Contact Stephanie for more information.

**For Next Committee Meeting, May 28, 2019 at the King County South Treatment Plant:**

- Discussion on proposed methods for rural growth estimates.
- Presentation on calculating consumptive water use.
- Prepare to talk about your expectations and concerns about the process and final plan.
- No major votes planned.
- **Note: The May 28th meeting will be a joint meeting with the Cedar-Sammamish Committee.**