



JUNE 2019 MEETING SUMMARY

**Duwamish-Green (WRIA 9)
Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee**

June 25, 2019 | 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | [Committee website](#)

Location

Meeting Room A
Tukwila Community Center
12424 42nd Ave S, Tukwila

Committee Chair*

Stephanie Potts
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425-649-7138

Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 23, 2019
All day
Auburn City Hall & Green River

* Stacy Vynne McKinstry chaired the June 25th meeting.

Attendance

Committee Representatives and Alternates*

Lisa Tobin, *Auburn*
Scott Woodbury, *Enumclaw*
Kathy Minsch, *Seattle*
Josh Kahan, *King County*
Carla Carlson, *Muckleshoot Indian Tribe*
Steve Lee (alternate), *Covington Water District*
Trish Rolfe, *Center for Environmental Law and Policy*
Rick Reinlasoder, *King County Agriculture Program*

Jennifer Anderson, *Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties*
Stewart Reinbold, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*
Stacy Vynne McKinstry (alternate), *Washington State Department of Ecology*
Matt Goehring (cities caucus rep), *WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum, ex officio*
Tyler Patterson (alternate), *Tacoma Water, ex officio*

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

Committee Members Not in Attendance*

City of Kent

Other Attendees

Eric Ferguson, *King County*
Joe Hovenkotter, *King County*
Ruth Bell (facilitator), *Cascadia Consulting Group*
Caroline Burney (information manager), *Cascadia Consulting Group*

Bridget August (technical consultant), *GeoEngineers*
Kelsey Collins, *Department of Ecology*
Alora McGavin, *Department of Ecology*

*Attendees list is based on sign-in sheet.

Standing Business

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

Chair did not receive comments on the meeting summary. The Committee voted to approve the May Joint WRIA 8 and WRIA 9 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.

- Workgroup: the next workgroup meeting is Thursday, July 18th from 10am-12pm via WebEx. Email Stephanie if you want to be added to the workgroup list.
- Project site visit: Tuesday, July 23. Will plan to have a short meeting and visit a few King County levee removal/floodplain restoration projects in Auburn. Please continue to hold the full day while Stephanie confirms the details.
- Net Ecological Benefit Guidance: The comment period is closed. Thanks to those who submitted comments. Ecology is reviewing comments now and plans to release the final NEB guidance at the end of July.

Growth Projections and Consumptive Use

Objective: Update on the timeline and process for growth projections and consumptive use tasks.

Technical Workgroup Report

- Stephanie will send out the workgroup meeting notes.
- Lisa Tobin shared a summary of the June 12th WRIA 9 WREC technical workgroup call.
- King County is having internal discussions to gather feedback and buy-in on methods and assumptions for growth projections. They plan to use building permit data to determine the number of expected new well connections and a developable lands analysis to figure out where those wells are likely to go. King County is planning to rely on building permit data because they don't have growth targets for the rural area.
- King County has reported 10 new domestic permit-exempt wells countywide since ESSB 6091 was enacted in January 2018. In Auburn, there has only been one new well since 2018.
- The workgroup went through the developable lands assumptions matrix, which details the assumptions that King and Snohomish counties are making and the justification for those assumptions. Most of the King County assumptions are based on the water availability study.
- The Committee will start talking about projects while the county, workgroup and technical consultants keep working on growth projections.
- [This Department of Health website](#) has information on the location of Group A and Group B water systems. Group B systems serve 2-14 connections and Group A systems serve 15 or more connections.

Update on Growth Projections

- Eric Ferguson provided an update on King County growth projections. Tentative timeline is to share growth projections with the technical workgroup in July or August and present to the Committee in September.
- King County will look at total developable land, combined with historical building data to understand where growth will occur. They are looking at potential for new domestic wells in the unincorporated area, inside and outside of water service areas.
- Once King County has completed the growth projections analysis, GeoEngineers will write up the methods and assumptions.
- The workgroup and Committee will decide whether to assume new wells within cities/UGA.

Update on Consumptive Use

- Stacy Vynne McKinstry provided an update on the consumptive use analysis.

- Ecology is updating recommendations for estimating consumptive use as part of Appendix A of the Net Ecological Benefit guidance. Appendix A identifies generally accepted and reasonable methods and assumptions. The Committee can use other methods and assumptions, but will need technical justification. Alternate methods and assumptions should be discussed with John Covert, Ecology technical team.
- Ecology expects Committees to estimate outdoor water use based on a WRIA specific analysis of average outdoor watering area (lawn size) by subbasin or groups of subbasins, unless that analysis is not feasible based on available time and resources.
- The Committee can choose to look at additional consumptive use scenarios with local data to justify or with justification for inclusion as a buffer.
- The Committee must estimate consumptive use by subbasin. However, the Committee is not required to include high priority projects (projects in the same basin or tributary as the impact) or offset consumptive use at the subbasin scale.
- The workgroup will talk more about the methods and assumptions for consumptive use on the next call, including methods for calculating average lawn size.
- The King County Agriculture program might have data related to outdoor watering.
- The Committee discussed recommendations and considerations around metering domestic permit-exempt wells.

Subbasins

Objective: Discuss workgroup recommendation for initial subbasin delineation.

Reference Materials

- King County subbasin proposal.

Discussion

- Josh Kahan and Eric Ferguson presented their subbasin proposal, which was support by the workgroup at the June 12th meeting.
- The King County proposal is similar to the proposal that Carla and Trish presented in April, but with some different boundaries in the Middle Green area.
- The King County proposal does not perfectly align with the Ecology WRIA boundary because King County used newer LIDAR-mapped stream basins. King County will work with GeoEngineers to include all land area within the Ecology WRIA boundary in the subbasins. Ecology will distribute a revised map and written explanation to the committee for approval at a future meeting.
- The Committee is not required to offset consumptive use at the subbasin scale. We have flexibility to target projects in locations that are most critical to fish.

Committee Progress Check-In

Objective: Discuss progress to date and preparation to begin looking at projects within the WRIA.

Discussion

- The Committee discussed reviewing projects from salmon recovery and ecosystem recovery plans for inclusion in the watershed restoration and enhancement plan, especially projects that could contribute to water offsets.
- The Committee wants to learn more about opportunities and challenges with using [reclaimed water](#) as an offset project. Ecology will schedule a presentation at a future meeting.

- Ecology is looking into how well consolidation and decommissioning could count toward offsets and NEB.
- Some Committee members expressed interest in the [VELMA model](#) that looks at the impacts of green infrastructure on water quality and quantity.

Water Rights Acquisition Opportunities

Objective: Learn about the Trust Water Rights program and discuss the process for exploring acquisition opportunities in the WRIA.

Kelsey Collins, Ecology Statewide Trust Water Coordinator, gave a presentation on water right acquisitions and the [Ecology Trust Water Rights program](#).

Reference Materials

- Water right acquisitions presentation
- Water right acquisitions handout

Discussion

- Kelsey discussed different types of acquisitions, including water right purchases, shortened or shifted season of use, switching sources, switching to reclaimed water, and water storage and release.
- Ecology will sometime use partner organizations to do outreach to landowners around water right acquisitions.
- Water rights are validated before they are put into the Trust Water Rights program.
- The Committee will discuss whether to explore acquisition opportunities. Kelsey can work with contractors to do an assessment of water right acquisition opportunities for the WRIA 9 watershed.
- The [Ecology Water Resources Explorer](#) is a tool to search for existing water rights by person, organization, or parcel.
- More information on the [Trust Water Rights program](#) and Ecology's [Guidance for Processing and Managing Trust Water Rights](#) is available on the Ecology website.

Public Comment

No comments.

Action Items for Chair:

- Work with King County and GeoEngineers to refine the King County subbasin proposal so it includes all the land within the Ecology WRIA boundary line. Send an updated proposal, with justification, to the Committee to review before a vote in July.
- Look for a presenter on reclaimed water.
- Schedule presentation on salmon recovery priorities and projects.
- Follow up with King County Ag program about data related to outdoor watering.
- Research funding, policies, and potential for offsets from well consolidation and decommissioning.

Action Items for Committee Members

- Send Stephanie requests for presentations on specific project types.
- Watch the [streamflow restoration project type overview webinar](#), if you haven't already.

- Let Stephanie know if you will need to get higher level review and approval before making a decision and the time you need for review. Decisions expected in the next few months include: subbasin delineations, growth projection scenarios, consumptive use scenarios.
- Let Stephanie know if you want to be added to the technical workgroup email list.
- Review draft June meeting summary and send Stephanie comments by July 19.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 23

- Short meeting followed by project site visits to levee removal/floodplain restoration projects on the Middle Green River in Auburn.
- Update on growth projections and consumptive use estimates
- **Vote** on subbasin proposal
- Next technical workgroup meeting: Thursday, July 18th from 10am-12pm via WebEx
 - Tentative agenda includes: update from King County on growth projections, discuss consumptive use assumptions and scenarios, discuss approach for developing initial project list (if time allows).