



JULY 2019 MEETING SUMMARY

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

July 23, 2019 | 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. | [Committee website](#)

Location

Council Chambers
Auburn City Hall
25 W Main St
Auburn, WA 98001

Committee Chair

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

Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 24
12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Location TBD

Attendance

Committee Representatives and Alternates*

Lisa Tobin, *Auburn*
Susan Fenhaus (alternate), *Auburn*
Shawn Gilbertson, *Kent*
Kathy Minsch, *Seattle* (phone)
Eric Ferguson (alternate), *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*
Stephanie Potts (chair), *Washington State Department of Ecology*
Stacy Vynne McKinstry (alternate), *Washington State Department of Ecology*
Matt Goehring (cities caucus rep), *WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum, ex officio*
Greg Volkhardt, *Tacoma Water, ex officio*

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

Committee Members Not in Attendance*

City of Enumclaw

Other Attendees

Joe Hovenkotter, *King County*
Ruth Bell (facilitator), *Cascadia Consulting Group*

Caroline Burney (information manager), *Cascadia Consulting Group*
John Covert, *Washington State Department of Ecology* (phone)

*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 June WRIA 9 WREC meeting summary. The final version will be posted on the Committee website.

Updates and Announcements

Chair provided updates from Ecology.

- Funding rule: On June 25, 2019, Ecology adopted a new rule: Chapter 173-566 WAC – Streamflow Restoration Funding for funding projects under Chapter 90.94 RCW.
- Grants: Ecology is working to develop grant guidance for the 2020 grant round. We expect a draft to be released for public comment in August.
- Net Ecological Benefit final guidance is expected by end of July. The Committee will talk about it in detail at the September meeting.

Growth Projections and Consumptive Use

Objective: Update on preliminary growth projection results and method for consumptive use estimates

Reference Materials

- King County draft growth projections (spreadsheet and 3 maps)

Technical Workgroup Report

- Eric Ferguson shared a summary of the July 18 technical workgroup call.
- The workgroup discussed the draft King County growth projections and methods for estimating consumptive use.
- Before discussing projects, the workgroup would like to start with a brainstorming session at a Committee meeting to talk about project types the Committee thinks is appropriate in different subbasins.
- Contact Stephanie for workgroup meeting notes.

Update on Growth Projections

- Eric Ferguson presented the preliminary results for the King County rural growth projections (see spreadsheet and 3 maps).
- King County used the average of building permits/year (80) for the 18 year period multiplied by the historic percent of homes using wells (36%) to come up with the estimate of ~29 new permit-exempt wells per year in rural unincorporated King County. The 20 year estimate of new PE wells is 578. GeoEngineers will work with King County to develop a detailed memo summarizing the methodology.
 - This estimate assumes all building permits outside of water service area boundaries are using wells. For building permits within water service area boundaries, King County looked at parcel information from the assessor's office, which lists the water source as public or private (private water sources are wells), and then used this information to come up with a percent of buildings that rely on wells.
 - The "other" category for water service info includes parcel information with "unknown" listed for water source (likely vacant land) and where the building permit data and parcel attribute data did not match up. The Committee can decide to add the error percent (6%) to increase the 20 year PE well projection (~35 additional wells).
 - The analysis likely over counts the number of homes on wells because any homes outside a Group A water service area boundary are assumed to use a well. Some of those homes might actually connect to a group B system that has a water right.
 - The building permit data for 2000-2017 includes both periods of high growth and periods of low growth. King County compared this data with information from Vision 2040 and population data and is confident in using the average of this time period to project into the

future. The Committee also discussed the regional strategy to concentrate growth in urban areas around transit.

- The two growth percent maps show the historic distribution of growth between the stream basins and WRIA 9 proposed subbasins. The building permit maps shows building permit locations for 2000-2017.
- Based on the WRIA 9 proposed subbasins, most of the rural growth happened in the Lower Middle, Mid Middle and Covington subbasins- 17-18% of the growth. Soos Creek, Jenkins Creek and Newaukum Creek received 11-12% of the growth.
- The King County growth projection analysis only looks at unincorporated areas (excludes areas within cities).
- GeoEngineers did a spot check for wells from the Ecology well log database that plot within the Urban Growth Area. 58 wells plot within the UGA for 1998-2007 and 35 wells plot within the UGA for 2008-2018. Bridget checked about 70% of those wells by looking at the well logs. She noted whether the wells were domestic, irrigation, or other (test, industrial, errors, etc.). About 25% of the wells were for domestic use. GeoEngineers will tabulate the well spot check data by WRIA 9 proposed subbasin to come up with an estimate of domestic wells within the UGA within each subbasin. The workgroup will review this information and decide how to add an urban PE well estimate to the growth projections.
- 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.
- Some Committee members would like to reach out to Group A water purveyors to get information on their policies on when new homes need to hook up to service. The workgroup will discuss this more at a future meeting, including: specific questions to ask purveyors, how the responses will be used in developing the plan, and how to split up task of contacting purveyors.
 - Covington Water District requires connections for homes within 700 feet of water mains. Homeowner can appeal. Well decommissioning is required if a homeowner wants to connect to water service.
 - Kent requires connection to water service.
 - In the last few years Tacoma Water started requiring homeowners to sign an agreement to connect once mains are extended.

Update on Consumptive Use Estimate

- During the workgroup meeting we discussed the consumptive use assumptions and methods for estimating indoor and outdoor water use.
- GeoEngineers will get started on outdoor irrigation footprint analysis (lawn size) once we have the subbasins approved.
- The lawn size analysis will exclude the following subbasins because they are not expected to have new wells: Duwamish, Central Puget Sound, and Upper Green River Subbasins

Subbasins

Objective: Decide on initial subbasin recommendation

Reference Materials

- Subbasin proposal

Discussion

- The Committee discussed the revised subbasin proposal, which reflected a change proposed by Seattle to include all of Lake Youngs within the Soos Creek subbasin. Lake Youngs drains entirely into Soos creek and is part of Seattle’s water supply.
- Kathy Minsch provided the following additional information about the drainage around Lake Youngs for inclusion in the meeting summary: The Lake Youngs perimeter, which consists of a berm, drains discharge into a 10 acre wetland near the Cascade Dam (south end of the Lake).
- The Committee discussed the name for the Soos Creek subbasin, which does not match the name of the stream which is Big Soos Creek. The Committee agreed to keep the name as Soos Creek for consistency with other watershed efforts, and note that the Jenkins Creek and Covington Creek are tributaries to Big Soos.
- Committee members were comfortable voting on the revised subbasin proposal. Stephanie followed up with Enumclaw and Covington Water District after the meeting to confirm their votes. Enumclaw provided a vote by email to approve the revised subbasin proposal on July 30. Covington Water District provided a vote by email to approve the revised subbasin proposal on August 6.
- The Committee can decide to revise the subbasin delineations before approval of the final watershed restoration and enhancement plan. Committee members can make a request to discuss revised subbasin delineations at future Committee meetings or technical workgroup meetings.

Decision: Approved. All Committee members voted to approve the revised subbasin proposal. The cities caucus representative voted on behalf of Black Diamond, Normandy Park and Tukwila. Enumclaw and Covington Water District voted their approval by email.

Projects Discussion

Objective: Discuss project ideas

Reference Materials

- Tacoma Water presentation on Eagle Lake Syphon Project

Discussion

- Greg Volkhardt, Tacoma Water, presented on the proposed Eagle Lake Syphon Project. Tacoma Water would like information from Ecology on the water rights permitting relating to the proposed project.
- The Committee will continue to focus on projects in the coming months. Send Stephanie suggestions for proposed projects or project examples to discuss at upcoming meetings. Let Stephanie know if there are specific project types that you would like to learn more about.

Project Site Visits

The Committee visited four King County levee removal and floodplain restoration projects in and around Auburn. Two of the projects are in the planning stage and two are completed.

Project information

- Lones and Turley Levee Setback and Floodplain Restoration: These two levee setback projects will restore critical rearing habitat and protect adjacent farmlands which are now vulnerable because the levees, constructed over 50 years ago, are in disrepair.
 - [Lones Project Description](#)
 - Lones Project Status: Project construction will begin in the spring of 2020, 2021 or 2022 (funding dependent).

- Porter Levee Setback: King County removed approximately 900 feet of the 1,550-foot-long Porter Levee adjacent to the Green River, in order to reconnect the river with 52 acres of associated floodplain, and construct a setback facility to protect a King County road. This project was implemented at the county-owned natural area on the left bank of the Middle Green River (River Mile 34), two miles upriver of the City of Auburn.
 - [Project Description](#)
 - Status: completed
- Pautzke Restoration: This project improved fish and wildlife habitat along the Green River by removing the Pautzke Levee (two segments) at River Mile 32.5. The project resulted in twenty acres of Green River floodplain and 1,800 linear feet of river bank and channel exposed to channel migration, floodplain inundation, and logjam formation which will significantly enhance salmonid habitat.
 - [Project Description](#)
 - Status: completed

Public Comment

No comments.

Action Items for Chair:

- Tacoma Water would like information from Ecology on the water rights permitting relating to the proposed Eagle Lake Siphon project.

Action Items for Committee Members

- Send Stephanie requests for presentations on specific project types or project proposals.
- 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: growth projections, consumptive use estimate.
- Review draft July meeting summary and send Stephanie comments by September 10.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 24

Tentative agenda topics:

- Update on growth projections and consumptive use estimate
- Presentation on final Net Ecological Benefit guidance
- Presentation on salmon recovery priorities

The WRIA 9 WREC is not meeting in August.