



September 2019 MEETING SUMMARY

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

September, 24, 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
Stephanie.Potts@ecy.wa.gov
425-649-7138

Next Meeting

October 22, 2019
12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Tukwila Community Center

Attendance

Committee Representatives and Alternates*

Lisa Tobin, *Auburn*

Trish Rolfe, *Center for Environmental Law and Policy*

Tom Keown, *Covington Water District*

Scott Woodbury, *Enumclaw*

Mike Mactutis (alternate), *Kent*

Josh Kahan, *King County*

Rick Reinlasoder, *King County Agriculture Program*

Jennifer Anderson, *Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties*

Carla Carlson, *Muckleshoot Indian Tribe*

Kathy Minsch, *Seattle*

Larry Fisher (alternate), *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

Stephanie Potts (chair), *Washington State Department of Ecology*

Greg Volkhardt, *Tacoma Water, ex officio*

Matt Goehring (cities caucus rep), *WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum, ex officio*

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

Other Attendees

Eric Ferguson, *King County*

Ruth Bell (facilitator), *Cascadia Consulting Group*

Paulina Levy, *Washington State Department of Ecology*

Caroline Burney (information manager), *Cascadia Consulting Group*

Bridget August (technical consultant), *GeoEngineers*

*Attendees list is based on sign-in sheet.

Standing Business

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

Chair received comments on the July draft meeting summary and distributed the revised meeting summary by email. The Committee voted to approve the July WRIA 9 WREC revised meeting summary, with the cities caucus rep and Scott Woodbury abstaining. The final version will be posted on the Committee website.

Updates and Announcements

Chair provided updates from Ecology.

- Final NEB Guidance: Ecology released the final NEB guidance and Streamflow Restoration policy and interpretive statement July 31. Both documents are linked on the Ecology Streamflow Restoration webpage.
- Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grants Guidance: Expect to publish final grant guidance in October. Stephanie will send an email update once it's out.
- File sharing: Ecology is in the process of getting Box for sharing files with the Committee and workgroup. Hope to have it set up before the next Committee meeting.
- Technical Workgroup: The workgroup met September 11 and discussed growth projections and the consumptive use workplan. Contact Stephanie for workgroup meeting notes or to be added to the technical workgroup email list.

Growth Projections and Consumptive Use

Objective: Review and discuss total WRIA 9 growth projection

- Presentation and discussion of King County permit-exempt well potential assessment
- Status update on consumptive use estimate
- Report out from September 11 Technical Workgroup Meeting

Reference Materials

- [WRIA 9 Growth Projections spreadsheet](#) (new version 10/2/19 includes the assumptions tabs)
 1. Summary tab includes the 20 year permit-exempt well growth projection for WRIA 9
 2. King Co tab includes the King County unincorporated area 20 year projection (shaded green) and PE well potential assessment (in the red box)
 3. UGA Spot Check tab includes well log spot check results and 20 year permit-exempt well growth projection for the incorporated area
 4. Assumptions tab lists the assumptions used in the King County permit-exempt well potential assessment
 5. Over and Under Count tab lists assumptions used in the growth projections and permit-exempt well potential assessment that have the potential to over count or under count the number of new wells
- [Growth projections methods summary](#)
- Growth projections maps
 - [WRIA 9 Distribution of Projected Permit-Exempt Wells 2018-2038](#)
 - [WRIA 9 Permit-Exempt Well Potential Assessment](#)
 - [Web Map](#) – under “Draft Growth Forecasts” layer

Growth Projections – Overview

- At the July meeting, the WRIA 9 WREC discussed methods used for the King County growth projections for the unincorporated area, and the growth projection for the urban growth area (UGA) based on information from the well log database. GeoEngineers combined those to create the total WRIA 9 growth projection. See the “methods summary” for more information on the growth projection methods.
- The 20 year permit-exempt well growth projection has the potential to over count the number of new wells for reasons including: rural growth rates are based on past trends; water service connection rates do not factor in the expansion of water lines or county policies to require or encourage connecting to water service; King County’s growth projection includes an additional 6% to account for parcels with unclear water sources in the historic data; new wells in the UGA are unlikely; etc.

- See the “over count and under count” tabs in the growth projections spreadsheet
- Since January 2018, when RCW 90.94 required reporting on new domestic wells from counties in WRIA 9: King County had 22 new wells (for the entire county).

Growth Projections – King County Permit-Exempt Well Potential Assessment

- Eric Ferguson presented the King County Permit-Exempt Well Potential Assessment. This assessment looks at the potential parcels for future growth to occur in unincorporated King County. King County’s purpose for the PE well potential assessment is to see if there are enough parcels to accommodate the 20 year growth projection.
- Short description of PE well potential assessment methods:
 - Assessment of potential parcels for future growth: used assumptions and screening criteria to identify parcels with potential for future growth by subbasin (see assumptions tab in WRIA 9 growth projections spreadsheet)
 - Water district boundaries: The centroids of the parcels were determined to be ‘inside’ or ‘outside’ water district boundaries.
 - Water Use projection:
 - Public connection: Within the water district – public water connections were calculated based on historic rates of connection to public water by subbasin (WRIA 9 Growth Projection spreadsheet, KingCo tab, column H, rows 55-66).
 - Remaining number of parcels were assigned to be PE sourced
 - PE Sourced parcels were calculated based on the number of parcels “outside” district boundaries plus the remaining parcels from “inside” water district boundaries (see preceding bullet)
 - Further parcel analysis included the DU (dwelling unit), which represents the potential for subdivision.
 - Dwelling Units is a rough estimate of subdivision potential based on parcel size and zoning (e.g. a 22 acre parcel zoned RA-5 is assumed to have 4 dwelling units)
- This method of using historic rates of connecting to water service because King County does not have county-wide information on location of water lines.
- Eric suggested comparing the water use projection for PE sourced dwelling units to the 20 year well projection as a way to assess whether the subbasin has capacity for the number of wells in our 20 year projection (WRIA 9 Growth Projection spreadsheet, KingCo tab, columns AD-AH in PE Well Potential Assessment). The PE Well Potential Assessment shows a capacity shortfall of 20 wells in the Newaukum subbasin. Those 20 wells are reallocated to the Middle Middle Green subbasin because it is adjacent and has similar growth patterns (shown in blue in column AH).
- The summary tab of the WRIA 9 growth projection spreadsheet shows 632 projected new permit-exempt domestic wells and the distribution of those wells by subbasin.

Growth Projections – Discussion

- The Committee discussed growth patterns and whether we are likely to see more or less rural well growth than in the past. Enumclaw, Auburn, and Covington Water District reported very few wells within city or water service area boundaries in the past 5 years. Tom, Covington Water District, mentioned that when a large parcel is subdivided the result is often that the one PE well is decommissioned and the new homes connect to water service.
- Some Committee members are interested in getting information on water purveyor policies around decommissioning wells and discussing how projects that remove existing PE wells could be included in the plan.

Growth Projections – Next Steps

- **The Committee agreed to move forward with 632 as the 20 year permit-exempt well growth projection without holding a formal vote. The Committee can revisit the growth projections later in the planning process, if needed.**
- GeoEngineers will develop a growth projections technical memo to document the methods used for the 20 year permit-exempt well growth projections, rural capacity analysis, permit-exempt well potential assessment, and well log spot check.

Update on Consumptive Use Estimate

- GeoEngineers is working on the irrigated footprint analysis to estimate an average lawn size to use to estimate outdoor water use.
- GeoEngineers will develop a consumptive use calculator that Committee members can use to see how different assumptions impact the consumptive use estimate.
- GeoEngineers will present the irrigated footprint analysis, draft consumptive use estimate, and consumptive use calculator at the October WREC meeting.
- The Committee will discuss a safety factor and other considerations for developing an offset target at the October and November/December meetings.

NEB Guidance Overview and WRE Plan Outline

Objective: Review Final Guidance for Determining Net Ecological Benefit, the draft outline of the Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan, and discuss plan components.

Reference Materials

- NEB overview presentation

Stephanie presented on the components of the Final Guidance for Determining Net Ecological Benefit and provided an overview of the required, recommended, and optional items to include in the watershed restoration and enhancement plan. The Committee will review a template outline for the WRE plan in the coming months and provide feedback on the plan components.

Salmon Recovery Priorities

Objective: Discuss salmon habitat recovery priorities in WRIA 9 and learn about some of the existing salmon recovery efforts.

Reference materials

- Presentation on salmon habitat restoration in WRIA 9
- [Lead Entity page](#) on Recreation and Conservation Office website
- [Washington State Lead Entity Directory](#): This document describes what lead entities are and how they function. A two-page fact sheet on the WRIA 9 Green, Duwamish, Central Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA 9) Lead Entity is on pages 8-9.
- [WRIA 9 watershed website](#)

Matt Goehring, Planning and Technical Coordinator for the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum, provided an overview of the Lead Entity planning process and the priorities for salmon habitat recovery in WRIA 9.

Discussion

- Fish that leave as parr (older fish) have better survival rates than fish that leave the river as fry. Projects that increase rearing habitat in the Middle Green sub-watershed are important for getting more fish to parr stage.
- The Committee expressed interest in evaluating streamflow benefits of floodplain restoration projects and other habitat projects.

Public Comment

No comments.

Action Items for Chair:

- Send a projects handout for Committee members to use to solicit project ideas.
- Send a Committee status overview handout for Committee members to use to inform colleagues and partners about our work and upcoming decisions.
- Reschedule November and December Committee meetings to one meeting in late November or early December.

Action Items for Committee Members

- Talk with colleagues and partners about projects ideas to bring to the Committee for consideration.
- Let Stephanie know if you would like to be added to the technical workgroup list. The next technical workgroup call is October 8.
- Send Stephanie corrections to draft September meeting summary by October 14.
- Stephanie proposed holding WREC meetings every other month in 2020, with the workgroup continuing to meet monthly. Let Stephanie know if you have concerns with that meeting schedule.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 22

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 22 from 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Tukwila Community Center

- Review and discuss consumptive use estimate
- Discuss climate change considerations
- Discuss project identification and selection process
- Update on Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grants Guidance