



# JUNE 2020 MEETING SUMMARY

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

June 23, 2020 | 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | [Committee website](#)

### Location

WebEx

### Committee Chair

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

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 28  
12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
WebEx

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates\*

Lisa Tobin, *Auburn*

Trish Rolfe, *Center for Environmental Law and Policy*

Tom Keown, *Covington Water District*

Steve Lee, *Covington Water District*

Scott Woodbury, *Enumclaw*

Evan Swanson, *Kent*

Josh Kahan, *King County*

Rick Reinlasoder, *King County Agriculture Program*

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

Kathy Minsch, *Seattle*

Stewart Reinbold, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

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

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

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

### Committee Members Not in Attendance\*

Muckleshoot Indian Tribe<sup>1</sup>

Tacoma Water

### Other Attendees

Ruth Bell (facilitator), *Cascadia Consulting Group*

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

Bridget August (technical consultant), *GeoEngineers*

Joe Hovenkotter, *King County*

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, *Washington State Department of Ecology*

John Covert, *Washington State Department of Ecology*

Paulina Levy, *Washington State Department of Ecology*

\*Attendees list is based on roll call and participants signed into WebEx.

## Standing Business

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

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<sup>1</sup> Muckleshoot Tribe is unable to send a representative due to COVID-19 related furloughs.

Chair received two comments on the draft April meeting summary and circulated the revised meeting summary.

The Committee voted to approve the April 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.

- Ecology staff will be furloughed July 2, 10, 17 and 24, then 1 day a month (dates TBD) August through November.
- The Muckleshoot Tribe is still not able to send a representative to WREC or technical workgroup meetings due to staff furloughs.
- [WRIA 1 Rule](#): On May 27 Ecology adopted an amendment to Chapter 173-501 WAC, Instream Resources Protection Program - Nooksack Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 1 to meet the requirements in RCW 90.94.020.
- [2020 Streamflow restoration grant round](#): application period closed April 30. Applications are under review, expect to announce awards in the fall.
  - Received 63 applications from across the state.
  - 3 applications in WRIA 9, 2 are habitat projects.
- [WRIA 9 Plan Approval Timeline](#): Ecology distributed the WRE Plan Local Approval Process form to understand Committee members' timeline and needs related to internal review and approval of the plan. Based on this information, the chair and facilitator developed the timeline for plan review for the WRIA 9 WREC.
  - Several Committee members shared concerns with the timeline because of impacts on representative capacity from COVID-19 and requested that Ecology extend the deadline.
  - Ecology is unable to move the June 30, 2021 plan adoption deadline because it is set in statute.
  - The dates in the timeline, including the Feb 1 plan submittal date, are target dates and the chair and facilitation team will adaptively manage the timeline as needed.
  - Send comments on the timeline to Stephanie.
- WRE Plan Status Update:
  - Chair distributed [Chapters 1 -3](#) of the WRE Plan along with a [Comment Tracker](#).
  - The Plan will consist of the following chapters.
    - Chapter 1: Plan Overview
    - Chapter 2: Watershed Overview
    - Chapter 3: Subbasin delineation
    - Chapter 3: New Consumptive Water Use and Impacts
    - Chapter 5: Projects and Actions
    - Chapter 6: Plan Implementation and Adaptive Management
    - Chapter 7: Net Ecological Benefit
  - Consumptive Use Estimate
    - Currently drafting Chapter 4 which discusses growth projections and consumptive use.
    - The Committee will discuss the consumptive use estimate at the July meeting.
    - In the January meeting, the Committee opted to move forward with a range until water offset projects were further developed.
      - Consumptive use based on average lawn size is 247.7 acre-feet/year
      - Consumptive use based on homes using 950 gpd is 456.9 acre-feet/year

## Public Comment

*No comments.*

## Water Rights Assessment

Objective: Hear presentation of final report from Washington Water Trust on the Water Rights Acquisition Assessment.

### Reference Materials

- DRAFT WRIA 9 Green-Duwamish Priority Water Right Projects Reports

Jason Hatch and Jason McCormick from Washington Water Trust provided an update on the water rights acquisition assessment.

- WWT identified 11 priority water rights projects.
  - 5 were identified through the irrigation analysis.
  - 6 were water rights identified by Ecology and the WREC (“pre-identified”).
  - A [web map](#) is available to view the parcels (contact chair for log in information).
- WWT developed project opportunity profiles for each of the 11 priority water rights.
  - For more information, view the [WRIA 9 Green-Duwamish Priority Water Right Projects Reports](#)
- The report includes resources to reach out to water right holders.

### Discussion:

- Rick mentioned that Lower Middle Green 13 and 14 and Newaukum 2 are part of the farmland preservation program. For properties in the farmland preservation program, King County Agriculture Program is not supportive of water leaving the site without a replacement water source. Rick will look into whether Newaukum 5 is also in farmland preservation.
  - WWT will send Rick the parcel information so King County Ag can check farmland preservation status.

### Next steps:

- The Technical Work Group will discuss the project opportunities in more detail at the meeting on July 7 and discuss recommendations on which projects to include in the plan and additional outreach tasks.

## Projects

### Objectives:

- Report out from May and June Technical Workgroup meeting.
- Updates on project development and project list organization.
- Share workgroup recommendations for habitat projects and water offset projects.

### Reference materials:

- WRIA 9 [project inventory](#)

### Technical Workgroup Recap

- Discussed water offset project concepts from the April WREC meeting and which ones to move forward.
- Recommended including a general water rights project idea in the plan.

- Discussed including a policy recommendation and project to support surface to groundwater source switches in the plan.
- Technical WG is supportive of Tukwila Golf Course Baseflow Augmentation (Foster Links) water offset project.
  - The workgroup recommended including the project as a water offset in the plan, but recommends the Committee continue to search for water offset projects in priority subbasins.
- Discussed organizing project list into tiers.
- Recommended 11 habitat projects to include in the plan.
- Discussed addressing climate change in the plan through: a qualitative description of impacts on streamflow and salmon, adaptive management, adding a safety factor to the consumptive use estimate.

### Updates on Project Development

- Stephanie and Bridget provided updates on water offset project development. See the “conceptual ideas” tab on [project inventory](#) for project information.
- The Committee discussed the Tukwila Golf Course Baseflow Augmentation Project (Foster Links).
  - CELP expressed concerns with including Tukwila Golf Course Baseflow Augmentation project as a water offset project because it is not located in a priority subbasin where there will be new PE wells.
  - Other committee members shared that if we don’t count it as a water offset project, we may not meet our consumptive use offset.
  - Committee members expressed support for including the project.
  - The Committee can continue to discuss how to count the water offset benefits from the project.

### Next steps:

- The technical workgroup will discuss managed aquifer recharge and stormwater projects at the July 7 meeting.
- GeoEngineers will update the Tukwila Golf Course [project description](#).

### Habitat Projects

- The Technical Workgroup discussed habitat projects at the June workgroup meeting and recommends keeping the list of habitat projects short, and to prioritize projects with streamflow benefits and projects closest to projected PE well growth.
  - The workgroup recommended that the habitat project descriptions clearly explain how the projects will benefit streamflow and salmon habitat.
- The workgroup recommended the 11 habitat projects on the “short list” tab in the [project inventory](#) for inclusion in the plan.
- The Committee discussed the 11 habitat projects recommended by the workgroup and supported including those projects in the WRIA 9 plan.
- City of Enumclaw shared concerns about projects that attract beavers and suggested that beaver analogs may be more appropriate for the Newaukum Creek Revegetation project.
  - King County clarified that much of the land adjacent to Newaukum Creek is owned by the County. King County is taking steps to create a landscape that would allow significant damming to take place over the next 10-15 years. They are planting at high densities to provide shading.
  - King County hopes that the beaver dams in coordination with acquisition of sites will result in more groundwater recharge, more shade, and temperature amelioration.

- Monitoring will be included in the project.

Next steps:

- GeoEngineers will work with project sponsors to develop habitat project descriptions.
- The chair will share the draft habitat project descriptions for Committee review.

Project list organization:

- The technical workgroup recommended tiering water offset projects and habitat projects to reflect the likelihood of implementation or contribution to achieving NEB.
- The proposed tiering criteria are:
  - Water offset tiering criteria:
    - Water offset quantity
    - Timing of water offset benefit (in time)
    - Project location relative to new PE wells (in place)
    - Project certainty
    - Resilience and durability
  - Habitat project tiering criteria:
    - Project location: based on expected number of PE wells in subbasins (used to select projects to include in the plan)
    - Project location: based on salmon habitat needs
    - Multi-benefit: potential to provide streamflow benefits, temperature
    - Project certainty
    - Resilience and durability
- The Committee supported the tiering criteria developed by the workgroup.

Next steps:

- Stephanie will draft descriptions for the criteria for the workgroup to review at the July 7 meeting.
- Ecology and consultants will add the readily available criteria information to the project inventory.
- The workgroup will add criteria information and use criteria to sort projects into tiers at an upcoming meeting.

## Policy Recommendations & Adaptive Management

Objective:

- Discuss policy and regulatory proposals.
- Revisit WDFW adaptive management proposal and identify questions or concerns.

Reference materials:

- [Policy recommendations from policy leads](#)

Policy Recommendations

- Ruth reminded the Committee of the process for developing policy recommendations.
  - The Committee can decide to include policy and regulatory recommendations in the plan, including recommending changes to state laws, agency regulations and local codes, and education and outreach programs.
  - Any policies are recommendations and do not obligate Ecology or local governments to do anything.
- Policy leads shared policy recommendations for Committee feedback (see table below).

- Some committee members suggested that the policies may be reaching beyond the scope of the WRE Plan. Some committee members recommended having the Policy Recommendations as a secondary chapter that a subset of committee members could sign on to.
- Other committee members shared that the policies are important for ensuring that Ecology has the funding and authority to implement the plan.
- The following Committee members volunteered for a policy sub-group to further develop the policy recommendations: Joe, Trish, Lisa, Kathy and Stewart.

| Policy  | About  | Who                    | Next Steps   |
|---|--|------------------------|--|
| <a href="#">Enable Ecology to Fully &amp; Comprehensively Administer State Water Laws</a> | Enable Ecology to effectively manage, monitor, and enforce instream flows moving forward.  | Joe Hovenkotter        |  |
| <a href="#">Instream Flow Rules and Trust Water Rights Program</a>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adapt and update existing instream flow rules to assure that existing instream flow rules are interpreted and applied based on contemporary standards and best available science.</li> <li>• Acquire instream rights through additional funding and resources for acquisitions of water rights that can be repurposed to benefit instream flows.</li> <li>• Protect instream rights.</li> </ul> | Joe Hovenkotter        | Connect with Carrie Sessions at Ecology for recommendations coming from the Advisory Committee related to the Trust Water program. |
| <a href="#">Recycled Water</a>  | Use recycled water to offset water and reduce amount of discharge of treated wastewater.   | Joe Hovenkotter        |  |
| Education/Outreach/Incentives for Water Conservation (Cross-WRIA group)                   |  | Kathy Minsch           | Small cross-WRIA workgroup developing a high-level shared statement.   |
| <a href="#">Increase water service connection</a>   | Policy to encourage state and local jurisdictions to adopt and implement policy that encourages connections to water purveyors.  | Tom Keown<br>Steve Lee |  |
| Plan implementation   | Ensure that there is monitoring in place to make sure that plans are implemented, and provide a NEB.   | Trish Rolfe            | CELP is developing the policy recommendation and will share with the Committee.  |
| Surface to groundwater source switches  |  | Trish Rolfe            | CELP will work with legislature outside of this process. Remove from list of policies  |
| <a href="#">Improve ecology well log tracking</a>   | Make improvements to Ecology well tracking database.   |                        | Coordinating on policy development across WRIAs.   |

Next Steps:

- Policy leads update proposals based on Committee feedback.

- Ruth will follow-up with the policy sub-group members to schedule a meeting to further development of policy recommendations to bring to the Committee.

### Adaptive Management

- The Committee discussed the plan implementation and adaptive management proposals shared at the April meeting: project tracking language from WDFW and high-level proposal.
- The technical workgroup supported addressing climate change through the adaptive management.
  - Workgroup members discussed adding a safety factor to the consumptive use estimate to account for increased water use from climate change.

### Next steps:

- Ruth will follow-up with the policy sub-group to discuss adaptive management components to include in the plan.

## Action Items for Chair/Facilitator/Technical Consultants:

- GeoEngineers will update the Tukwila Golf Course [project description](#).
- GeoEngineers will work with project sponsors to develop habitat project descriptions.
- Stephanie will share the draft habitat project descriptions for Committee review.
- Stephanie will draft descriptions for the criteria for the workgroup to review at the July 7 meeting. Ecology and consultants will add the readily available criteria information to the project inventory.
- Facilitation Team will coordinate policy sub-group meeting on July 8 and help coordinate policy recommendations across WRIAs.

## Action Items for Committee Members

- Review the [WRIA 9 Plan Approval Timeline](#) and send comments to Stephanie.
- Review Chapters 1- 3 and send feedback to Stephanie by July 8.
- Review the project profiles in the WWT Draft [WRIA 9 Green-Duwamish Priority Water Right Projects Report](#).
- Policy leads update proposals based on Committee feedback.
- Policy sub-group to meet on July 8 to discuss next steps for policy recommendations and adaptive management.

## Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 28, 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- Next Technical Work Group meeting: Tuesday, July 27: 10 am – 1 pm
  - Discuss water right acquisition project profiles
  - Discuss water offset projects: MAR and stormwater
  - Review tiering criteria