



WRIA 9 Plan Approval Timeline

Duwamish - Green (WRIA 9)

Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee

Background

The [Ecology Memo](#) on Timeline and Expectations for Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan Development, Review and Committee Approval provides information on the plan development and review process. From August 2020 through Q1 2021, the committee will need to complete the steps:

1. Review and revise the draft plan.
2. Committee meetings to address revisions.
3. Committee meetings to finalize project list and NEB evaluation (as needed).
4. Committee interim approval of the plan for distribution to local decision makers (as needed).
5. Distribution of final plan to local decision-makers that require review/approval.
6. Committee meeting for final approval of the plan. All Committee members (including cities caucus members) are expected to attend the meeting to vote on the final plan.

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. For Committee members' detailed responses to the WRE Plan Local Approval Process Form see [WRIA 9 WRE Plan Local Approval Process](#) responses.

The chair and facilitator updated this timeline in September 2020 due to the additional time needed to complete the draft plan.

Trade-offs and Considerations:

- The timeline is fluid and dates may change or additional meetings may be scheduled, as needed. The Chair and Facilitation Team will adaptively manage this timeline throughout the process based on the time needed to complete the plan and comments received on the draft and final plan.
- The proposed timeline provides 5 weeks for draft plan review and 12 weeks for final plan review and approval by local decision makers.
 - Committee members shared that their internal review processes could take upwards of 2 months. Given shifting workloads due to COVID-19 and that the review period of the final plan falls over the holidays, the Facilitation team recommends extending the total review time to around three months (Week of November 23 – February 16).
- The Chair and Facilitation team seek to build consensus along the way to minimize the number of issues that arise during the review of the final plan. The expectation is that Committee members and appropriate decision makers will thoroughly review and provide feedback on the plan components as they are developed and during the draft plan review.
- If Committee members have comments on the final plan, the chair and facilitator will work with the Committee to determine time needed for a second-round review by local decision-making bodies and reschedule the vote on approval of the final plan.
- All comments on the plan components, draft plan, and final plan will be reviewed and addressed during Committee meetings.

Proposed plan review and approval timeline:

Date	Who	Task
Spring & Summer 2020	Committee	Review plan chapters and technical memos as they are completed. The expectation is that Committee members will vet all draft plan components with appropriate decision makers within their entity to seek ongoing, thorough review and approval of plan components. This includes the following sections of the Plan: • Chapter 1: Plan Overview • Chapter 2: Watershed Overview • Chapter 3: Subbasin Delineation • Chapter 4: New Consumptive Water Use Estimate and Impacts • Chapter 6: Plan Implementation and Adaptive Management • Chapter 7: Net Ecological Benefit (outline only) Discuss comments on plan components at Committee meetings.
September 14	Chair	Distribute draft plan • Some sections of the draft plan will be incomplete (e.g. project details, NEB evaluation).
September 22	Committee	Committee Meeting • Finalize any incomplete plan sections, such as the project list and NEB evaluation
October 19	Committee	Deadline for review of draft plan.
Week of October 19	Facilitation Team; Chair	• Work to address/incorporate comments that do not require Committee feedback. • Develop discussion guide for comments that do require Committee discussion. • Distribute comments to Committee for review.
October 27	Committee	Committee Meeting • Finalize any incomplete plan sections. • Discuss comments received to draft plan. • Revise plan, as needed, to address comments.
October 27 through November 13	Facilitation Team; Chair	• Build consensus by facilitating 1 on 1 or small group calls to discuss any outstanding comments on draft plan.
Week of November 16	Committee	Committee Meeting • Interim Approval of the plan and distribution to local decision makers.
Week of November 23	Chair	Distribute Final Plan and cover memo to committee members. • Committee members to initiate local review and approval process.
November through February	Committee	Final plan review and approval by local decision makers.
February 1	Committee	Target date to submit final plan to Ecology – <i>the chair anticipates the WRIA 8 Committee will miss the February 1 target date</i>
February 16	Committee	Deadline for review of Final Plan

Date	Who	Task
February 23	Committee	Committee Meeting Vote on approval of final plan. All committee members, including cities caucus members must approve the plan before it is submitted.
March 1	Chair	Submit final plan to Ecology to begin the review. (<i>plans that are received after the target date will be reviewed on a first-come, first-serve basis</i>)
June 30	Ecology	Director of Ecology will decide on plan adoption by June 30, 2021.

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WRIA 9 WRE Plan Local Approval Process

Entity	Who at your organization will need to review the plan before approval?	Are there specific individuals or bodies that must authorize approval of the plan prior to your vote?	Briefly describe the process and timeline for reviews, including meeting schedule and/or frequency.	How can Ecology help?
Department of Ecology	- Water Resources Regional Section Manager - Streamflow Section Manager	- Water Resources Regional Section Manager - Streamflow Section Manager	- Chair briefs the section managers every 6-8 weeks 30 days to review draft plan	
Department of Fish and Wildlife	- Science team - Policy team - Other WDFW staff, as appropriate	Streamflow restoration team and possibly other management staff	- Streamflow restoration team meets every 2 weeks - Minimum 6 weeks to review	Provide as much time to review plans as possible
Tukwila	- Public Works - Community Development - Parks and Recreation	Mayor	- Once the draft plan ready, will meet with 3 depts to discuss any concerns (time estimate: 3 weeks) - Brief mayor and City executive - Draft authorizing resolution for City Council (meets two times per month) - Total estimated time: 2-3 months	- Briefing document for executive - Presentation to City Council
Master Builders of King and Snohomish Counties	WRIA 7, 8, and 9 WREC representatives, Director of Govt Affairs	- Decision will come from Govt affairs staff - If there are any big concerns, will need to take to Board of Directors (meet monthly)	- WRIA 7, 8, 9 WREC reps meet monthly 1-2 weeks for plan review, 1 month at most	
King County	- Department of Natural Resources staff - Department of Local Services staff	Directors of Department of Natural Resources and Department of Local Services	- Gov relation officer initiate staff review- 30 days - Signature approval- 30 days - Total estimated time: 60 days	- Start drafting plan sections - Reduce number of meetings, focus meetings on decision-making
King County Ag Program		If projects impact agriculture, would ask Ag Committee to review (meet monthly)	Same as process for King County	

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Covington Water District	Board of Directors	Board of Directors	- Board of Directors meets twice a month. - Should take ~1.5 months for plan review and approval.	
Kent	- Environmental Engineering manager, Environmental supervisor, other internal staff involved in WREC planning - City Attorney	Mayor	- If Plan will not impact land use standards, will take ~3 weeks - If Plan impacts land use standards, will need to go through formal review process (City Council) and will take 2 months	Potential presentation to City Council
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	- Fish biologists - Habitat program manager	Director and Fisheries Commission (meets once a week, less if fishing)	- Review by technical staff - Approval by managers - Present to Commission for approval - Total estimated time: 2 months	Ecology available to answer questions
Enumclaw	- City administrative staff - City Council Public Works Committee	City Council resolution	- City Council meets 2x a month - Around 3 weeks for Council review and approval	- Briefing materials - Potential presentation to City Council
Auburn	Upper-level managers for Public Works and Community Development	Upper-level managers for Public Works and Community Development	2 months for review of draft plan 1 month for review of final plan - If requires changes to codes, additional 6 months needed for review	- Presentation with talking points - Potential presentation to City Council
Seattle	- Water Line of Business Director (SPU) - Seattle City Light Managers - Corporate and Government Relations	General Manager, SPU or designee	- Monthly internal coordination meetings for WRIA 7, 8, 9 - Monthly water LOB and SCL ELLBU briefings 30 days to approve (although if over holidays, may need 2 months)	- Ecology available to answer questions - Cover letter outlining what plan approval means
Black Diamond	Community Development Director reviews and makes recommendation to City Council	City Council authorizes approval	- Committee Rep presents to City Council workshop (2nd Thursday of month) - City Council adopts plan by resolution - Council meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays, staff schedules council agenda item 2 weeks in advance	- Handouts and presentation - Ecology staff present at Council workshop

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Center for Environmental Law and Policy	Board of Directors	Executive Director	Quick process	
Normandy Park	Community Development Director and Environmental Specialist will review prior to submission to a subcommittee of City Council	City Council resolution	- Council meets second Tuesday of each month ~2 months for reviewing Plan and a resolution	