Meeting Summary

**WRIA 10/12 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement**

**Committee Meeting**

October 9, 2019 | 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.| [WRIA 10 Webpage](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37323/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_10.aspx) |[WRIA 12 Webpage](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37324/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_12.aspx)

## **Location**

Puyallup Public Library

324 S. Meridian, Puyallup**Committee Chair**

Rebecca Brown

Rebecca.brown@ecy.wa.gov**Handouts**

Agenda

CU Estimates

Project Screening Criteria

# Attendance

Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Ryan Rutkosky, alternate (City of Puyallup)

Lisa Tobin (City of Auburn)

Dan Cardwell (Pierce County)

Austin Jennings, alternate (Pierce County)

Carla Carlson (Muckleshoot Indian Tribe)

Robert Wright, alternate (City of Sumner)

Char Naylor (Puyallup Tribe)

Tristan Weiss, alternate (WDFW)

Greg Reed (City of Orting)

Tim Osborne (Lakehaven Water and Sewer District)

Jessie Gamble (MBA Pierce)

Rebecca Brown, Chair (Ecology)

Carrie Hernandez (Puyallup River Watershed Council)

Lisa Spurrier, ex officio (Salmon Recovery LE)

Scott Woodbury (City of Enumclaw)

Jim Morgan (City of Pacific)

Jeremy Metzler (City of Edgewood)

Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe)

Ryan Mello (Pierce Conservation District)

Allan Warren (Pierce Conservation District)

Kris Kauffman (Chambers-Clover Watershed Council)

Paul Loveless (Town of Steilacoom)

Kelly Still (WDFW)

Don Stanley (Lakewood Water District)

Liz Bockstiegel (WDFW)

Paul Bucich (City of Lakewood)

Ryan Johnstone (City of Bonney Lake)

Renee Buck (Chambers-Clover Watershed Council)

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Not Attendance\*

City of Tacoma

City of Fife

Other Attendees\*

Spencer Easton (ESA, Facilitator)

Angela Johnson (Ecology)

Tom Culhane (Ecology)

Bob Montgomery (Anchor QEA)

Madeline Remmen (ESA, Information Manager)

Mike Noone (Ecology)

Jeff Johnson (Spanaway Water District)

Megan Kernan (WDFW)

Marc Blakely (Chambers-Clover Watershed Council)

\*Attendees list is based on sign-in sheet.

# Updates and Announcements

* September meeting approval will occur at the November meetings.
* [Updated information on the Nooksack rulemaking](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Laws-rules-rulemaking/Rulemaking/WAC-173-501) is available on Ecology’s website under WAC 173-501.
* Ecology Streamflow Restoration Section Manager meets regularly with WDFW Water Science Team to discuss high-level policy that affects both agencies. Anything specific about committees is redirected to Ecology chairs.
* Rebecca is presenting at Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council conference (IACC) on October 23 in Wenatchee on Streamflow Restoration Projects.
* Rebecca will be sending out questionnaire about the plan review and approval process for each entity to help us with our timelines.
* Rebecca will be sending out a link and instructions to BOX, which will allow us to share large files. This information will be in a separate email to committee members.
* Chambers-Clover Creek Watershed Council is holding a Chambers Creek cleanup project for Orca Recovery day (Oct 19) from 10 am – 2 pm.
	+ There is also a Watershed forum the third Wednesday in November, the topic this year is lakes.
* Salmon Recovery Lead Entity is holing a Symposium on Dec 11 and 12 at the Puyallup Park Pavilion. They would love to get new people that work in planning departments to attend and help them understand their role in salmon recovery.

# Public Comment

* *No comments.*

# HDR Team Update

Bob Montgomery from Anchor QEA gave a presentation of methods and results of PE well projection, as well as methods and result of calculating consumptive use in the sub basins. Questions and discussions occurred throughout the presentation.

* WRIA 12 high and medium estimates should be checked against the buildable land analysis.
* HDR checked their outdoor irrigation analysis against one Group B system for all of the south sound. They will check another one.
* Lakewood water system was suggested as an option for seasonal watering data.
* The CU Calculator (included with this summary, and posted to the webpages) includes parcel #’s, dates of aerial imagery, notes, and a lot of other data).
	+ Rebecca will make the spreadsheet and shape file available in Box.
* Tristan Weiss from WDFW wanted to make sure that committee members understood that certain aspects have a disproportionate effect on the final number, and outdoor irrigation is one of those factors. Wanted to make sure that the methodologies are clearly stated. Interested in creating a defensible approach and that representative of the watersheds.
	+ WDFW had specific concern regarding the number parcels selected for the outdoor irrigation analysis, and interested in ensuring that the sample size is appropriate/representative.
	+ Also concerned with the years used to analyze the parcels, and how the parcels were analyzed, to mitigate bias.
	+ HDR team is aware of WDFW’s concerns and is working to provide statistical analysis and 95% confidence interval (0.24 acres is the upper bound of the 95% confidence interval in WRIA 10). It is an ongoing discussion with Ecology.
	+ The pool of parcels available to analysis was based on the well data used for PE well projections. The most recent 10 or 20 years of new wells were used in the analysis in Pierce County.
		- Those numbers are available in the PE supporting documents on the [WRIA 10](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/images/WREC/WRIA10/201908/WRIA%2010%2012%2013%2014%2015%20Growth%20Rate%20Tables%20for%20Supporting%20Data.xlsm) and [WRIA 12](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/images/WREC/WRIA12/201908/WRIA%2010%2012%2013%2014%2015%20Growth%20Rate%20Tables%20for%20TM%20SupportingData.xlsm) webpages.
* Committee members chimed in with ideas and cautions:
	+ Advice from WRIA 11 was to focus most time on projects, not PE well projections or CU. We are discussing fractions of a CFS.
	+ Interest in working on projects, but balancing with a plan that will hold up over time and be defensible.
	+ Interest in looking at higher-income Group B during drought years to develop a high-end value.
	+ Climate change might affect the average size of irrigated acres if people respond to hotter, dryer summers with more irrigation.
	+ Irrigated area estimates vary by WRIA, from less than 0.1 in WRIAs 13 and 14 to much higher values in the north Sound. Climate (more rainfall) and cultural (lawns) may affect the area irrigated.

# Funding Program Update

Mike Noone gave a presentation on the funding program, detailing how projects are scored and answering committee questions.

* Water right and property acquisition projects are both eligible for funding.
* Priority projects (location, plan, water and fish benefits) receive more points during scoring. Priority incentives plan completion.
* Watershed councils and special purpose districts are likely quasi-governmental agencies. They can partner with public agencies for projects.
* Ecology makes the decision on funding projects with some input from WDFW. Streamflow planners are most likely going to evaluate the proposals.
* Feasibility studies are scored on quantification and certainty of their final streamflow impact. Any good application will describe the end point of the project using good data, and assuming the evaluators know nothing about the project.
* Ecology can carry grant funds over from other grant rounds.
* Projects not included in the plan are still eligible for funding. Project screening criteria (see below) not required for
* Grant workshops are available across the state in November. Likely a recorded WebEx workshop available later in the year. [Workshop information](https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Streamflow-restoration-implementation-grants#workshops) available on Ecology webpage.

# Projects

Bob Montgomery walked through the draft Project Screening Criteria tool. It can be used to prioritize projects, and it can help identify projects we want HDR to review in more detail. The screening criteria is not used for grant scoring. Ecology also has a draft project inventory spreadsheet (attached for review, input spreadsheet lives in Box). Committee members flagged a few things for consideration:

* Unlikely we can change the plan or projects in the future, but we can put something in the plan that says we will revisit it (Adaptive Management section).
* May want a place to score the project for the level of commitment of a partner, champion, or sponsor (or this could be a fatal flaw if a key partner will not participate.).
* Rebecca to check on whether projects in the plan would have the power of eminent domain.
	+ Master Builders Association and Town of Steilacoom would not support a plan that relied on eminent domain.
* Good idea to use the tool on projects we are already familiar with (site visit projects?).
* **Be ready by December project workshops to provide feedback on the tool, but we will accept feedback anytime.**
* Project inventory spreadsheet will be kept on Box for brainstorming input. May want to keep a polished spreadsheet of projects that we want to move forward.
* Remember that there are entities with potential projects who are not participating on this committee. Please keep in mind who we need to reach out to, contact, etc.
	+ Attached a one page “call for projects” that lists the types of projects we are looking for in the plan.
* Ecology staff and HDR can help with project types that are more specific to water resources, like water rights acquisitions.
* Salmon Recovery Lead Entity and Pierce Conservation District have a number of projects they can input into the tool.

# Action Items and Next Steps

* Meeting materials will be added to committee webpages.
* Rebecca and Spencer will look for opportunities for more joint meetings, when these meetings are information-based and relevant to both committees.
* **Committee members:** Please look at selection criteria tool and have edits, comments, ideas, etc. ready by December Project Workshops.
* Rebecca will send committee members invitations and instructions to join Box.
* Rebecca will send a number of items to the committee:
	+ CU calculator.
		- GIS Shapefile for outdoor watering available in Box.
	+ Project inventory spreadsheet.
		- Official “input” spreadsheet will be available in Box.
	+ One-page “call for projects”.
* Upcoming meetings:
	+ WRIA 10 Workgroup: Oct. 21, 2 pm -4 pm, WebEx.
	+ WRIA 12 Workgroup: Oct. 22, 10 am -12 pm, WebEx.
	+ WRIA 10 Committee: November 6, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm, Puyallup Public Library.
	+ WRIA 12 Committee: November 13, 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm, Lakewood Community Center.