AGENDA

**WRIA 12 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement**

**Committee Meeting**

May 8, 2019 | 12:30p.m. - 4:00 p.m. |[WRIA 12 Committee Webpage](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37324/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_12.aspx)

**Location**

Environmental Services Building East Room

9850 64th Street W., University Place

**Committee Chair**

Rebecca Brown

Rebecca.brown@ecy.wa.gov

**Handouts**

Agenda

Discussion Guide

Maps

Timeline

# Attendance

Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Tom Kantz, alternate (Pierce County)

Don Stanley (Lakewood Water District)

Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe)

Paul Loveless (Town of Steilacoom)

Jessie Gamble (MBA Pierce)

AustinJennings*,* alternate (Pierce County)

Dan Cardwell (Pierce County)

Calvin Taylor (City of Tacoma)

Paul Bucich (City of Lakewood)

Kelly Still (WDFW)

Renee Buck, alternate (Chambers-Clover Watershed Council)

Kris Kauffman (Chambers-Clover Watershed Council)

Rebecca Brown (Ecology)

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Not Attendance\*

Puyallup Tribe

Pierce Conservation District

Other Attendees

Spencer Easton, facilitator (ESA)

Madeline Remmen, information manager (ESA)

StacyVynneMcKinstry(Ecology)

Rebecca Kowalski (JBLM)

Lisa Spurrier (WRIA 10/12 Salmon Recovery Lead Entity)

Jeff Johnson (Regional Water Co-op of Pierce County)

Burt Clothier (Pacific Groundwater Group)

Chad Wiseman (HDR)

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

# Meeting Agenda and Meeting Summary

Rebecca did not receive any revisions to the meeting summary.

*Meeting summary approved.*

# Updates and Announcements

Rebecca provided updates from Ecology.

* Streamflow projects webinar scheduled for May 30. Ecology and DFW staff will talk generically about what projects to consider in this planning process. Ecology will record the webinar and make available to those unable to attend on the scheduled date.
  + If the presentation triggers project or field trip ideas, please send them my way, or keep track of them for our upcoming project discussions.

# Public Comment

*No comments.*

# Plan to Move Forward

Spencer presented the plan for the committee to move forward to planning efforts. Spencer and Rebecca spoke to all the committee members on this approach prior to the meeting.

* Based on the goals exercise from April, we all wanted to identify projects that enhance habitat for fish and wildlife, offset future consumptive use, meet the letter of the law and fulfill requirements, and include implementable projects.
* We are stuck about how to make to make interim decisions and Ecology’s team has decided that it is likely we won’t be able to come to a decision.
* For interim decisions, committee will try and come to a decision, but if it cannot Ecology will step in and make the decision
* Ecology planning team will take interim decision-making role based on:

1. keeping process moving forward.
2. keeping in mind committee opinions and discussion.
3. meeting net ecological benefit guidance.

* Interim decision-making will start with a consensus-type vote, Ecology will listen to any reasons for disagreement, and if no agreement is reached, Ecology will decide.
* Ecology is fully committed to achieving a good plan.

Committee members had no questions or comments

# Plan Outline and Content

Rebecca presented on the plan outline and content based on a request from the April meeting. The plan content and outline is not solidified yet because the Net Ecological Benefit guidance will provide some plan structure and detail, and it is not yet final. A plan outline will be available later this summer.

* Several Committee members proposed ideas for items they would like to see in the plan:
  + Comprehensive history of water planning in WRIA 12.
  + Plan should have historic permit exempt water use and projections of future use to set a context to understanding the challenges in the basin and the impact of future water use.
  + Existing water rights in the basin and how that will affect the future.
  + All future water use.
  + History is important to give a future reader context of the plan.
  + Challenges and problems in the basin.
  + Relationship of the plan to other plans and programs, such as Pierce County’s Clover Creek drainage survey
  + Context of what the purpose and use of the plan: it is a legislative plan that will adopted by Ecology not local jurisdictions like counties.
    - The expectations of the plan need to be clear and where the plan will go after Ecology adopts it.
  + The difference between this plan and other watershed plans to provide context.
  + Address the funding needs, what projects have been funded, what projects are anticipated to be funded, and what projects need to funded.
    - The mechanism for grants.
    - Most projects receive funding from different sources, salmon projects are example.
    - Projects in this plan should leverage or compliment projects funded through other sources.
  + Partnerships with other entities like municipalities
* Q. At the end of the process does this committee go away? What is the monitoring process after the plan is adopted?
  + We don’t know right now.
  + Issue with WRIA 11- how do we move forward with projects that are not fully developed
    - Plan should capture additional information needs for projects before the can be on the ground and ready to go.
* Stormwater is a potential resource to build into projects – look for opportunities to leverage water quantity challenges for baseflow improvements

# Draft NEB Guidance

Rebecca presented a brief overview of the draft Final NEB Guidance. The presentation is available on the [committee webpage](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37324/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_12.aspx). Committee members are encouraged to review the NEB and submit comments by June 7 through the eComments system. More information is available on [Ecology’s Streamflow Restoration website](https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Streamflow-restoration).

# Funding Update

Rebecca gave a brief update on the grants for streamflow restoration projects based on a request from the April meeting.

* New final funding rule out in June, which sets grant funding framework for moving forward.
* Difference is the way that projects will be prioritized: Projects that are in WRIAs identified in RCW 90.94 and projects that are included in the watershed restoration and enhancement plans or rule-supporting documents have the highest priority.
* Grant rule defers a lot of details to the guidance because rules take a lot of time to develop while guidance can be updated..
* Grant guidance will be updated once the rule is finalized and we will have a month to comment on it in the summer.
* Expect that the next grant round will open in early 2020, and Ecology will host some grant application workshops before then.

# Schedule/Work Plan

Rebecca presented the upcoming schedule/work plan. No meeting in July, and Aug will be a short meeting discussing NEB and then site visits to look at potential and past projects.

* On the June 12 meeting, we will generate a list of potential site visit spots.
  + Reach out to Rebecca about potential site visits on or before June 12th meeting.

# Technical Consultant Introduction

* HDR- Chad Wiseman from HDR introduced himself and the technical consulting team
* Supporting WRIA committees for WRIAs 10, 12, 13, 14, 15.
* Technical consultant team includes: HDR, Anchor QEA and Pacific Groundwater Group.
* Their analysis will include water resources, biological evaluations, etc.
* Scope of work follows from the steps needed
  + Assist as needed with sub basin delineations
  + Growth estimates
  + Consumptive use
  + NEB evaluation
  + Tech memo for each of these that will document method and result of each of the steps
* Rebecca will send the scope of work to the committee.

# PE Well Projections

Rebecca presented an overview of the PE well use projection task. That presentation and discussion guide are available on the WRIA 12 webpage.

The technical workgroup recommended a method to project PE well use:

* Use Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Historical Well Data and overlay with Developable Land Method. Technical consultant will get started on it.
* This method will give us a moderate assumption but it would be better to have more of a range.
  + Technical workgroup will meet and discuss another method or option for providing a range of possible outcomes to bring to the June meeting.
* Discussion:
  + Fewer assumptions means fewer sources of uncertainty
  + There are exceptions: some new development will connect to existing systems, while “timely and reasonable” means some exempt wells may go in within system boundaries.
  + Information is needed to support projects to replace shallow wells with a deep source
  + Look into incentives to address hookup fees and decommissioning costs for exempt well replacement
  + Focus on possibilities – don’t rule out ideas. All projects will have assumptions and uncertainties
  + Consumptive use needs to take into account exempt wells which are hooked to the sewer, not septic systems
  + Does the Plan have “regulatory power”?
    - Ecology: could help with permits. Rule changes can be proposed.
  + Area not in service areas is small
    - Simplifying assumptions won’t make much difference
    - Borders WRIA 10 and 11. What are subsurface conditions? Relation of this area to bordering WRIAs should be considered.
* Rebecca will provide maps with the following information for the June meeting:
  + Underground hydrology of watershed boundaries
  + Surface and sub-surface geology
* We will discuss more projection methods at the next meeting but the technical consultants are going to get started on the Historical Well Data and Developable Land Method.
  + Be prepared for discussion and decision on projection methods in June.

# Action Items and Next Steps:

* The next work group meeting is May 14.
* We encourage you to attend the May 30 webinar on projects (Flyer available on the webpage).
* The next committee meeting is June 12 at the University Place Public Library.
  + Prepare for a discussion of site visit locations. Please send site visit ideas to Rebecca.
  + Ecology will come back with an answer to the committee members question:
    - If we cannot reach agreement on a plan, will Ecology consider using what we came up with if it goes beyond the minimum?
    - With WRIAs that cannot come to consensus, will Ecology be making decision about what will be included in the plan?
  + Ecology will develop maps of the area of WRIA 12 that is not covered by Group A systems that overlay geology (surface and subsurface), streams, surface impoundments, and hydrogeology, among other information. We will use this information to discuss sub-basins and growth projections.
  + PE well projections will be discussed again in June. Be prepared for weighing in on a decision on additional projection methods.
* Ecology will provide the HDR scope of work to the committee.
* Future Agenda Item: will including something in the plan that Ecology has regulatory power over will make it easier to for approval/adoption?
* Future Agenda Item: Ecology will bring more detailed plan outline at an upcoming meeting.