Meeting Summary

**WRIA 12 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement**

**Committee Meeting**

September 11, 2019 | 12:30p.m. – 3:30p.m. |[WRIA 12 Committee Webpage](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37324/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_12.aspx)

**Location**

Lakewood Community Center

9112 Lakewood Drive SW

**Committee Chair**

Rebecca Brown

Rebecca.brown@ecy.wa.gov

**Handouts**

Agenda

PE Well Projections

CU Discussion Guide

NEB Guidance

# Attendance

Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Don Stanley (Lakewood Water District)

Scott Steltzner (Squaxin Island Tribe)

Paul Loveless (Town of Steilacoom)

Dan Cardwell (Pierce County)

Calvin Taylor (City of Tacoma)

Kelly Still (WDFW)

Renee Buck, alternate (Chambers-Clover Watershed Council)

Kris Kauffman (Chambers-Clover Watershed Council)

Char Naylor (Puyallup Tribe)

Rebecca Kowalski, ex officio (JBLM)

Lisa Spurrier, ex officio (Salmon Recovery LE)

Rebecca Brown (Ecology)

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Not Attendance\*

Pierce Conservation District

City of Lakewood

MBA Pierce

Other Attendees

Spencer Easton, facilitator (ESA)

Jimmy Kralj, information manager (ESA)

Mike Noone(Ecology)

Chad Wiseman (HDR)

Burt Clothier (PGG)

Tony Paulson

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

# Meeting Agenda, August Summary, and Announcements

* Meeting summary approved with changes.
* Suggestion from WRIA 10 for a joint WRIA 10/12 meeting in October. This will occur on October 9, from 12:30 – 3:30 at the Puyallup Public Library.
* Question to the committee about holding a project workshop in November or December in place of the committee meeting.
  + Committee agreed to holding this meeting and Rebecca will schedule.

# Public Comment

* No public comment

# Ex Officio

* Committee considered adding Lisa Spurrier (Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Coordinator) as an ex-officio member.
  + Lisa is familiar with priorities of the watershed and she serves as an ex-officio member in WRIA 10.
  + Committee agreed to add Lisa as an ex-officio member of the committee.
* Committee reviewed procedures when there is disagreement on decisions.

# PE Well Projection Update

HDR has provided initial projections for wells based on historical data well data and a heat map based on preliminary mapping of parcels outside of water systems.

* The workgroup discussed these numbers and would like move the three scenarios forward as a high, medium, and low range for projected wells based on high, medium, and low rates of new wells. These numbers would then be used to estimate consumptive use.
  + The committee agreed to use these three estimates for the consumptive use analysis.
* HDR team is making changes to the WRIA 12 heat map to more accurately reflect areas outside of the Group A systems. HDR will check with their analysts to see if parcel size was a criterion in the buildable lands analysis, because Pierce County requires a 100 ft. radius (roughly .72 acres) around a well.
  + The heat map is informative and useful for siting projects and evaluating sub-basin delineation. However, the overall number of wells does not change based off the methods that distributes them in the sub-basin.
  + It is unlikely that PE domestic wells will be installed on JBLM property.

# Consumptive Use

Chad presented on consumptive use. Purpose of the presentation is to provide background information and explain how local information informs consumptive use calculations. The full presentation is available on the [WRIA 12 Webpage](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37324/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_12.aspx).

* Discussion on the irrigation efficiency amount: assume it evaporates, more so on hot days. The actual efficiency might be higher than 75% because of Pierce County’s Low Impact Development requirements.
  + Project/action idea: require lawn watering to occur at night to minimize evaporation. Or have an education campaign.
  + The workgroup will discuss potential adjustments to assumptions, such as the efficiency assumptions.
* Some of these assumptions in the method recommended by Ecology are very conservative, such as the agronomic rates for grass watering.
* Discussions on parcel analysis:
  + HDR will corroborate irrigated areas with adjacent areas that are not irrigated to account for high groundwater levels in the area where there is a high concentration of wells.
  + HDR is currently finalizing methods and determine whether they will consider NDVI information. They will follow up specifically on NDVI.
  + HDR will corroborate with Group B parcels (metered data) and compare estimates with actual consumptive use.
  + HDR will consider local soil types and local variation in rainfall.
* Ecology recommends that the consumptive use is averaged across the full sub-basin over the course of a full year.
  + Conceptual groundwater models can help identify impacts of wells on streams based on location and time. These estimations are highly complicated. There is an existing USGS model for WRIA 12, currently being updated. Ideally this will be updated by next summer.
* HDR is planning to work on consumptive use estimates during the remainder of September and wrap up in early October.

# Projects

Rebecca presented on HDR scope for project development and next steps. The full presentation is available on the [WRIA 12 Webpage](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37324/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_12.aspx).

* At this point, HDR has compiled the plans from Habitat Work Schedule. The Chambers Dam removal project is on this list.
* HDR recognizes that it is important to leverage the expertise in the group. The jurisdictions are willing to assist with identifying these projects in existing plans. Other plans to consider include:
  + The Salmon Recovery Plan.
  + Shoreline Master Program for local jurisdictions.
* Committee member expressed interest to have historic context incorporated into the plan.
* Question raised on how to address projects on multiple project lists or with multiple benefits. Concerns raised on projects developed to address different issues, and now the PE wells adds new/different pressure.
  + Concerns that certain jurisdictions are required to complete projects on existing plans. For those projects to be included in this plan, they may need to be augmented. The debits and credits need to be tightly managed when projects on other plans or project lists are being considered for this plan.
  + Request for HDR to establish debit and credits for habitat restoration projects, regarding obtaining funding. Committee members who have experience with water accounting should contribute to this process.
  + These concerns are flagged for future discussion/consideration.
* HDR is developing a project selection criteria that is a point system based off of water, habitat value, and other characteristics. It is meant to be comprehensive and iterative.
  + One of the HDR criteria is evaluating whether or not projects are required by other laws or regulations.
  + The project selection criteria will be provided to all committees, and it will be the same, but each committee has the ability to customize it based on the needs and interests of the committee.
  + This project selection criteria is different than the grant scoring criteria. This criteria is a tool to help the committee determine which projects should be included in the plan.
* Discussion on grant program:
  + Projects do not have to be included in a WRIA plan to be considered for the Ecology Grant Program. However, projects that ARE included in an adopted plan and planning basin are prioritized for funding.
  + The funding criteria and project selection criteria will be very similar. The grant criteria will be a bit more specific.
  + However, it is very important to note that this is a 15 year grant program, and during that time, Ecology’s guidance for reviewing grant applications will change. The committee is cautioned to not perfectly align its project selection criteria to the grant criteria for this reason.
  + Ecology indicated that there would be no guarantee of funding for every WRIA.
* Debrief from site visits:
  + Puyallup Tribe has been working with the City of Tacoma on the South Tacoma Holding Basin.
  + The tribe had initial concerns, but has agreed to support the City of Tacoma and support this project. It’s an innovative way for a jurisdiction to manage its storm water.

# Action Items and Next Steps:

* Hosting a joint meeting with WRIA 10 on October 9, from 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm at the Puyallup Public Library. Meeting topics will be relevant to both committees.
* HDR will be looking at initial consumptive use numbers.
  + They will carry forward the three rates (high, medium, low) for consumptive use calculations.
  + HDR will share the consumptive use calculator with the Committee.
* Expect a project workshop in November or December. Rebecca will send an updated work plan that includes the project workshop.
* Next workgroup meeting is September 23 from 10:00am to 12:00pm on WebEx.

# NEB and Plan Outline

Rebecca provided an overview of key components of the NEB Guidance. The full presentation is available on the [committee webpage](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37324/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_12.aspx).

* The Ecology chair is currently in communication with Ecology technical staff about the specifics behind NEB and other planning considerations, and will raise any concerns about the direction the committee is taking in terms of NEB evaluation.
* Committee members noted that it is Important to consider the role of adaptive management and the committee after a plan has been adopted. Questions came up about whether there was funding for adaptive management/continued meeting, who carries it out, etc.
  + Ecology will return to the committee with more detailed information about this component.

**Next meeting: October 9, 12:30-3:30 pm, at the Puyallup Public Library (324 S. Meridian, Puyallup).**