Meeting Summary

**WRIA 12 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee**

**Meeting**

February 12, 2020 | 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.| [WRIA 12 Webpage](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37324/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_12.aspx) | [Webmap](https://hdr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9dac3c330fb240889981a7d3fe98ef6b)

## **Location**

Lakewood Community Center

9112 Lakewood Drive SW**Committee Chair**

Rebecca Brown

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

Agenda

Discussion Guide

Project List

**Attendance**

Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Austin Jennings, alternate (Pierce County)

Char Naylor (Puyallup Tribe)

Rebecca Brown, Chair (Ecology)

Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe)

Kris Kaufman (Chambers-Clover Watershed Council)

Kelly Still (WDFW)

Paul Bucich (City of Lakewood)

Calvin Taylor (City of Tacoma)

Renee Buck, alternate (Chambers-Clover Watershed Council)

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

Don Stanley (Lakewood Water District)

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Not Attendance\*

MBA Pierce

JBLM

Pierce CD

Town of Steilacoom

Other Attendees\*

Spencer Easton (ESA, Facilitator)

Madeline Remmen (ESA, Information Manager)

Jeff Johnson (Spanaway Water)

Burt Clothier (Pacific Groundwater Group)

Matt Rakow (Ecology)

Jim Pacheco (Ecology)

Tom Culhane (Ecology)

Mike Noone (Ecology)

Chad Wiseman (HDR)

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

**Welcome, Introductions, and Committee Business**

Committee approved January meeting summary with edits

Updates:

* The 2020 [Streamflow restoration grant](https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Streamflow-restoration-implementation-grants) round is open on EAGL and will close March 31.
* The Ecology Planners met with WDFW habitat biologists and streamflow restoration team to increase communication.
* Rebecca sent out a [draft plan outline](https://app.box.com/s/4tsvkj888jtwv9t9xk6g5l1pqj0kodh4) through Box. It is a standard outline for all the watershed groups and feedback is due by Feb 14.

**Public Comment**

*No comments.*

**Consumptive Water Use Update**

* The committee decided on a working CU estimate at the November meeting.
* GeoEngineers and HDR have analyzed each other’s work on the outdoor irrigation analyses and have determined that the work was done correctly. One finding is that people are not watering their lawns as much as turf is watered, so it is very hard to tell exactly how much of the area was irrigated and a lot was up to the interpretation of the individual analyst leading some differences.
  + [Their analysis](https://app.box.com/s/oljdp1eztlei4khfhigykby3fibuptp7) is available on Box.
* The workgroup will continue discussing CU and develop a recommendation to provide to the committee at the March Meeting.
  + We can have an offset target that is potentially higher than the CU estimate.
* Some committee members expressed interest in looking at other planning efforts throughout the watershed like the Pierce County Unified Sewer Plan Update.
  + The committee can have a background section in the plan that provides context on other planning efforts in the watershed.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe believes that RCW 90.94 requires an estimate of all water use for 20 years. They would like to see total water use described in the plan.
* Ecology noted that the further the committee goes beyond the minimum requirements, the more time it will take to develop the plan, making it more difficult to meet the deadline.

**Implementation and Adaptive Management**

* The legislation does not require the Department of Ecology or local jurisdictions to implement or fund adaptive management. It also does not provide funding for implementation.
  + Can put recommendations forward that Ecology take on adaptive management.
* Suggestions for Adaptive Management included:
  + Interlocal Agreement
  + Meter PE Wells.
  + Track new uses and offsets.
  + Create/implement a data tracking and reporting system for all WRIAs.
  + Create a South Sound Water Master position.
  + Submit coordinated letters to the legislature advocating for adaptive management funding.
  + Document the current status of the watershed to be able to show what implementation of the plan has accomplished and to preserve institutional knowledge.
  + Increase PE well fees to fund a robust implementation program.
  + Create a method to address a situation in which projects are not keeping up with new PE wells.
    - For example, enact stricter regulations.
  + Include a Drought Response Plan, like in WRIA 1.
  + Mechanisms to ensure long-term commitment
  + Rule-making to support implementation
  + Track all projects in the watershed, including projects without offsets but with NEB and habitat benefits.
* The law requires Ecology to provide a status report to the legislature on projects, offsets, etc. in 2021 and 2027.
* Ecology gets quarterly updates on the amount of PE wells checks received by each jurisdiction in the watershed.
  + Ecology does have WRIA specific PE wells, but they don’t have locations and not every jurisdiction is reporting on the same interval.
* It will hard to get approval on plan elements if we include something that commits Pierce County resources to implementation.

**Projects**

* Paul Bucich discussed a potential new project (Clover at Springbrook Park) within the City of Lakewood. It would focus on streambank restoration and improving rearing habitat.
* The committee moved 3 projects forward for the HDR team to advance: South Tacoma Channel, JBLM reclaimed water, and Upper Sequalitchew Restoration.
  + HDR will look at the potential offset and available information for each of these projects
  + HDR is not limited to these projects and will have remaining time to look at other projects the committee puts forward. They are scoped to examine up to 10 projects.
  + HDR will put together a one-page scope for each project discussing what they will analyze, how long it will take, and the estimated cost so the committee can decide if it is worth pursuing.
* The committee is interested in opportunities for water infiltration projects
  + PGG may have a map completed by the March meeting. If so, the committee will discuss potential infiltration project then.
  + Some committee members stated that this is the best opportunity for offsets in the Clover Watershed.
* Committee member pointed out that none of the projects put forward for HDR to advance are located in the Clover Creek Basin, where most of the impacts are.
  + The committee will discuss projects in Clover Creek at the meeting in March.
  + Infiltration study may suggest some potential projects
* Committee members stated that projects with direct offsets should be a priority for HDR.
  + Committee members recommended having HDR work with PGG to identify water infiltration projects.

**Timeline and work plan**

* The goal is to have a plan that is ready to take back to decision makers by October, because some committee members will require three months to obtain local approval.
  + The committee will be reviewing draft plan components as they are available and will review a complete draft of the plan in August. By the October version, the committee will have seen each component of the plan two times.
  + Committee members are responsible for briefing their decision-makers throughout the process and as draft plan components are available in order to identify key issues as early as possible.
* Squaxin Island Tribe asked if Ecology and the facilitators are anticipating some kind of facilitated discussion or negotiation to resolve areas of disagreement.
* The committee does not have a process for interim decision-making, but Ecology will seek resolution of issues, perhaps with side discussions.
* It is still expected that the committee will still vote on a final plan. Approval must be unanimous.
* Committee members would appreciate support from Ecology, such as briefing papers, presentations, etc.
* The committee will continue to meet monthly through the first half of 2020, with workgroup meetings in between full committee meetings.
* We hope to vote on approval of the plan in January 2021.

**Next Steps**

* At the March meeting, we will talk about Clover Creek projects and about potential regulatory or policy changes.
* A write up about the Adaptive Management discussion will be developed and distributed to the committee
* Next meetings:
  + Workgroup Meeting: Monday, February 24, 1pm – 3 pm, WebEx.
  + Full Committee Meeting: March 11, 2020, 12:30-3:30 pm, Lakewood Community Center.