Meeting Summary

**WRIA 12 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee**

**Meeting**

March 11, 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**

WebEx**Committee Chair**

Rebecca Brown

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

Agenda

Discussion Guide

Project List

Consumptive Use Recommendation

**Attendance**

Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Austin Jennings, alternate (Pierce County)

Dan Cardwell (Pierce County)

Rebecca Brown, Chair (Ecology)

Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe)

Kris Kauffman (Chambers-Clover Watershed Council)

Ryan Mello (Pierce CD)

Jessie Gamble (MBA Pierce County)

Liz Bockstiegel (WDFW)

Paul Bucich (City of Lakewood)

Calvin Taylor (City of Tacoma)

Renee Buck, alternate (Chambers-Clover Watershed Council)

Don Stanley (Lakewood Water District)

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Not Attendance\*

JBLM

Puyallup Tribe

Town of Steilacoom

Other Attendees\*

Spencer Easton (ESA, Facilitator)

Madeline Remmen (ESA, Information Manager)

Chad Wiseman (HDR)

Burt Clothier (Pacific Groundwater Group)

Sarah Colleen Sotomish (Pierce County Senior Counsel for Tribal Relations)

Matt Rakow (Ecology)

Mike Noone (Ecology)

Stacy Vynne (Ecology)

\*Attendees list is based on WebEx Call attendance

**Welcome, Introductions, and Committee Business**

**Approval of February meeting summary:** considered final version

* Some edits from Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe).

**Updates**

* Received comments and edits on the draft outline from the Squaxin Island Tribe, which are [posted on Box](https://app.box.com/s/kn5i95xycrislzjc47xqv2bk5u4uszba). Since the outline is for all 8 watersheds we may not incorporate all of the suggested edits, but we can incorporate them into individual plans if necessary.
* Spencer developed a [summary of last month’s adaptive management discussion](https://app.box.com/s/xmw0t73pq79efkt410291dq77bk6tuzl). It is available on Box and was included in the meeting packet.
  + If anyone would like to be the point person to further develop an adaptive management section, let Rebecca or Spencer know.
* A committee brochure was included in the meeting packets; this is to help brief your supervisors/management/decision makers on the work the committee is doing in preparation for plan review.
  + The [brochure](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/2011072.pdf) can be found on Ecology’s website. [Printing tips](https://app.box.com/s/io9mqs2f84f3inc3ug69vkgoz78phf80) are available on Box.

**Public Comment**

* N/A

**Consumptive Use Update**

* Rebecca walked through the consumptive use document. The workgroup met on Feb 24th and recommends a consumptive use estimate of 0.08cfs and 57.4 acre feet per year, which is a moderate estimate.
* The workgroup also suggested that the committee consider a high growth scenario in which the consumptive use would be 0.12 cfs and 89.9 acre feet per year, to address uncertainty in the consumptive use calculation. Moderate growth is what we expect as the most likely future scenario, but due to uncertainty we should offset 0.12 cfs which is the high growth scenario.
  + The Squaxin Island Tribe noted that how numbers are used may depend on other factors in plan. Adaptive Management and Policy/Regulatory approaches may also provide a margin of safety.
* The committee was comfortable with this approach.
* **Ecology asked the committee members to brief their decision makers on the consumptive use estimate and to identify any red flags. If there are any red flags, we will discuss them at the next meeting. If not, we will move on to other parts of the plan**.
* Using the higher estimate could also be helpful for showing NEB, by exceeding the consumptive use estimate, and for adaptive management measures.

**Projects**

Burt from PGG provided an update on the water rights and surficial geology analyses

* There are a large number of widely spaced water rights across the basin.
* The screening process will be based on the location, type of rights etc. and will include surface and groundwater rights as well, all claims, trusts, applications etc.
* Irrigation water rights could be good offset if located in the correct area and valid.
* A committee member suggested putting a minimum of 0.1 cfs filter on claims to help prioritize ones to investigate.
* Committee members asked if it was possible to look at well depths because it is better to retire water rights with a shallower source.
  + This is something that PGG will look at when they are investigating individual water rights.
* PGG will focus on upper end of the basin and pull out water rights to examine further.
* Retiring a water right at the upper end of the Sequalitchew would be very beneficial for fish, however this area is mostly federal land and there may not be many available.
* Upper basin (Clover) is where most PE well growth is occurring, so that is the ideal location to identify rights.
* The committee wants industrial and stock water rights to be explored further as well as exploring water rights in the Fredrickson Area.

Burt from PGG went over the superficial geology map, which identifies soil types that are conducive capturing water for potential infiltration projects.

* Committee members pointed out that knowing the hydrologic conductivity of the mapped areas will be important because the timing and direction of water movement are very key to knowing the impacts of a potential infiltration project.
* Add major perennial and intermittent streams to the map.
* The contour lines on the map act as the flow direction.
* HDR and PGG will continue to refine and add features to the map.

Rebecca gave a presentation on four tasks put forward by the workgroup for HDR to work on, they are:

1. Develop GIS layer of publically owned land and trust-owned land
2. Looking at aerial photos and use LIDAR to identify areas that used to be wetlands, floodplains and where streams where straightened to find habitat projects
   * + The idea is to find floodplains were streams have been straightened or wetlands that have been disconnected from streams.
     + Find potential projects where a floodplain could be reconnected to the stream.
3. Provide a range offset that would be seen from different sizes of satellite treatment plants, identifying wastewater discharge points and include coverage map of waste water treatment.
4. Develop GIS layer of underutilized sites in the WRIA.

The Committee was comfortable having the HDR team move forward on those actions.

**Policy and Regulatory Considerations**

* Including policy recommendations for Pierce County would push out their review process.
* Paul Pickett (Squaxin Tribe) sent a [regulatory and policy approach and adaptive management document](https://app.box.com/s/ka75eys94wrhx7k6ww3ewj7h2d57jqfa) (saved to Box) and gave a brief overview, which included a brainstorm and some other ideas from other watershed rules and previous court cases. This is Paul’s/Squaxin Island Tribes ideas, Paul asked for feedback from the committee.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe recognizes that Ecology and Local Governments have their own process for decision-making and the plan cannot supersede those processes, but are wondering if there is anything else Ecology/ local jurisdictions can put on the table to offer resources or demonstrate commitment, perhaps in the short term to help begin implementation of the plan.
* Pierce County is taking each of the WRIA plans to council for approval, and even if they approve something that has a recommendation they cannot commit future councils to it.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe is concerned that the plan will end on a shelf and hopes that the committee will keep thinking about and discussing adaptive management. The WRIA 11 planning unit provides an example of how implementation might proceed: leadership, review projects, track success, look for resources. However, this WRIA needs to start from scratch – Nisqually has decades of experience.
* Ecology asked committee members to look at Paul’s list and to consider their own ideas, and send them to Ecology by March 27. We will use those ideas to structure a conversation at the next meeting.

**Addressing Resiliency**

* Due to the nature of the meeting on WebEx, this agenda item will be put on a future agenda to be discussed in person.
* Squaxin Island Tribe did state that they believed a drought response plan is a key piece for climate change and that the committee should continue to think about climate change resilience when developing projects.

**Plan Review Process**

Rebecca gave a [presentation on plan development and review process](https://app.box.com/s/fbz9479itac9m9j5esgx1b2fpbzlquv5). The strategy is to begin releasing individual chapters in the spring and summer. In early fall (October) a full draft plan will be released for committee review with a final approval goal of January 2021.

* Rebecca shared a [memo](https://app.box.com/s/datekxwbn817p5rsyv1y9p82d6jhya89) with this information with the committee after the meeting.
* Ecology is expecting plan approval at our January 2021 meeting, which is 1/13/2021.
* We may change the approval date based on local review needs.

**Next Steps**

* Advance plan with moderate and high growth scenarios.
  + **Committee Members:** brief your decision makers on the consumptive use estimate and identify any red flags.
* PGG will do next screening of water rights with Burt’s criteria, but also include stock and industrial water.
* PGG will work on the infiltration map with HDR.
* HDR will start on the tasks the workgroup suggested.
* On policy and regulatory considerations, Rebecca sent [Paul Pickett’s document](https://app.box.com/s/ka75eys94wrhx7k6ww3ewj7h2d57jqfa) and posted the [brainstorm document](https://app.box.com/s/dvi3vhra283r3t43i5vzo36mxbj1ec6f) from other watersheds on Box.
  + **Committee Members:** Please send Rebecca your top policy and regulatory considerations as well as ones that could not be supported by your entity by **3/27/20.**
* Addressing resiliency will be put on a future in-person meeting agenda
* There will be no meeting in April. The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2020 at the Lakewood Community Center.
* Workgroup Meeting schedule (on WebEx):
  + Tuesday, March 24, 10 am – 12 pm.
  + Wednesday, April 8, 1 pm – 3 pm.
* Rebecca will send a link to the committee brochure: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/2011072.pdf>