Meeting Summary

**WRIA 12 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee**

**Meeting**

June 10, 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

Dot voting outcomes

**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)

Char Naylor (Puyallup Tribe)

Ryan Mello (Pierce CD)

Paul Bucich (City of Lakewood)

Calvin Taylor (City of Tacoma)

Renee Buck, alternate (Chambers-Clover Watershed Council)

Don Stanley (Lakewood Water District)

Rebecca Kowalski, ex officio (JBLM)

Jessie Gamble (MBA Pierce County)

Liz Bockstiegel (WDFW)

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Not Attendance\*

Town of Steilacoom

Other Attendees\*

Spencer Easton (ESA, Facilitator)

Madeline Remmen (ESA, Information Manager)

Chad Wiseman (HDR)

Burt Clothier (Pacific Groundwater Group)

Matt Rakow (Ecology)

Mike Noone (Ecology)

Jeff Johnson (Spanaway Co-Op Pierce County)

\*Attendees list is based on WebEx Call attendance

**Meeting Summary**

The May meeting summary was approved.

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

**Welcome, Introductions, and Committee Business**

* The committee will continue to meet online due to COVID-19. Some committee members’ ability to participate has been impacted due to the pandemic. If you are unable to participate let Rebecca know; Ecology is tracking committee members impacted by COVID-19.
* Ecology planner has meetings with the Puyallup and Squaxin Island Tribes.
  + The meeting with the Puyallup Tribe was regarding coordination between the three WRIA’s they participate in.
  + The Squaxin Island tribe discussed the WRIA 1 rule.
  + In both meetings, the tribes and Ecology discussed plan implementation.
* Rebecca gave an update on the grant round. There were a total of 63 applications and $88 million in requests. One of the requests was located in WRIA 12.
* Rebecca presented a status summary of where the committee is in the planning process and a handout with the information was included in the meeting packet.
* Rebecca walked through the WRIA 1 rule amendment.

**Public Comment**

* None.

**Projects**

Rebecca gave an overview of the WDFW letter (included in the meeting packet) regarding the quantification of streamflow contributions from habitat restoration projects. Burt from PGG gave an update on the water rights assessment and Chad from HDR gave an update on projects.

* A committee member stated that they believed it is important that they mitigate water use as close to the impact area as possible.
* PGG is working to finalize a short list of opportunities. They will provide one page for each water right including information on the potential offset or the next steps to figure out the offset in the future.
  + In response to a question about Tribal water rights, Tribal representatives noted that quantification of Tribal rights would require adjudication, which has not occurred in WRIA 12.
* Chad from HDR provided an update on the following projects:
  + Sequalitchew Creek, JBLM project
    - Several different data sources for the flow of the creek, so HDR is proposing to add a monitoring component to this project, which will verify the flow going back into Sequalitchew.
  + Potential for reclaimed water through JBLM purple pipe
    - Discuss in the plan as an action that could potentially occur in the future.
  + South Tacoma Channel
    - Average stream flow benefit of 0.8 to 1.1 cfs per month
    - HDR will work to make sure the offset of this project is calculated as consistently across projects (average annual benefit over 20 years).
  + Low water landscaping memo is finalized.
    - There will be meeting notes and a draft document developed from an earlier discussion by a Puget sound-wide group, which might be useful for this WRIA committee.
  + Pierce County package plant/ satellite wastewater plant
    - This project is not likely to be implemented within the planning horizon of the plan, so the committee chose to include a general statement about this project (without quantification of offsets) in case it was implemented sooner.
  + Floodplain Reconnection projects
    - [Paleo-mapper](https://hdr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1dee835ba6484879926b1798c60f300e) is now available for committee use, which shows whether the land is public or private, structures, fish use, flooding etc.
    - The committee stated it would be useful to add which stream go dry in the summer and have a comment field for local knowledge to be added.
    - [WDFW map](file:///C:\Users\ppickett\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\L4CB03B6\o%09https:\wdfw.maps.arcgis.com\apps\AttachmentViewer\index.html%3fappid=a835d66c50ed46698089ce2385809a5f) displays dry stream reaches and other watershed features: <https://wdfw.maps.arcgis.com/apps/AttachmentViewer/index.html?appid=a835d66c50ed46698089ce2385809a5f>
    - The committee will discuss potential project locations at the next meeting

**Policy, Regulatory, and Adaptive Management Recommendations**

The committee participated in a dot voting exercise to see which policy and regulatory considerations were the most widely supported and which ones had less support.

* Spencer reminded the committee that these are just recommendations and do not obligate Ecology or any other entity to implement them.
* Ecology and the facilitation team are tracking recommendations that are common to all WRIAs
* The following ideas and next steps were identified:
  + Update Ecology’s well log database.
    - Ecology is already working on this, but it would be beneficial to have in the plan because it would show there is support for the idea.
  + Secure ongoing funding for adaptive management and implementation from the legislature.
    - There was committee support in concept. As the committee continues with plan development the focus of this proposal and its place in the plan should become more clear.
  + Track projects and offsets through a centralized database, such as the Salmon Recovery Portal as presented by WDFW.
    - General committee support in concept.
    - Need to mindful of the long-term maintenance of the database and have and have plan for it.
  + Track wells that are decommissioned through land acquisition projects.
    - Issue came up in WRIA 11 about when these could count as offsets
    - Potentially provide incentive for decommissioning wells
      * Pierce CD provides incentives to encourage people to be better stewards of the land, potentially include well decommission in their program.
    - General committee support if kept open-ended
  + Education programs on native plant landscaping that is drought-resilient and has low water needs.
  + Ecology rule-making to implement key elements of the plan
    - Squaxin Tribe has some specific needs, such as PE well flow limits. The Committee may also want to add an exemption to closures for habitat projects.
    - Not ready to write up for the recommendations section yet. See where the committee ends up and then determine if rule-making will be required.
  + Identify and describe in the Plan mechanisms that document commitment to implement the plan, such as: past practices; established policies and procedures; and linkage of the plan to existing County codes and plans, such as the comprehensive plan.
    - Requires more development before inclusion of the plan.
  + Develop and implement voluntary water conservation programs.
    - The committee is waiting to see what comes out of the cross-WRIA work group to determine if this proposal would work in WRIA 12.

**Plan Chapter Review**

* Rebecca sent out [chapters 1-3 of the draft plan](https://app.box.com/s/5hapm7feojbjyp9gia9j9fn4qxx0w060) for committee review. Feedback is due June 19.
* Entities in multiple WRIA’s do not need to submit the same comments on the plan chapters.
* Committee members stated that they would prefer if flagged comments were brought to the full committee first.
* All of the comments will be available for the committee to review, allowing for committee members to flag comments.

**Next Steps**

* The water rights analysis was added to the [WebMap](https://hdr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9dac3c330fb240889981a7d3fe98ef6b). Send Burt/Rebecca any feedback you have on the water rights.
* The HDR team and Cal from the City of Tacoma will work together to make sure the offsets for the South Tacoma Channel is calculated using common offset units.
* Rebecca will send the [low water landscape memo](https://app.box.com/s/j4damqfo6ca569ijxfe72rp3mkq83zzl) to the full committee.
* HDR is putting together a project framework for the workgroup to review at their next meeting.
* Ecology and the facilitation team will begin drafting the policy and regulatory recommendation section for the plan. The document will be posted on Box for committee members to review.
* The workgroup will continue to discuss the [policy and regulatory recommendations](https://app.box.com/s/mib4nuuv94isjosc4bzhx10as7n1rosq) the committee did not get to today. The table of recommendations will be shared for on-going committee review.
* Flagged comments from plan chapters 1-3 will be discussed with the full committee members and committee members will have access to the full set of comments.
* The committee will debrief about the review process of chapters 1-3.
* The next full committee meeting will be on July 8, 2020 from 12:30 to 3:30, plan for this meeting to be via WebEx.