Meeting Summary

**WRIA 12 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee**

**Meeting**

October 14, 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

[Presentation](https://app.box.com/s/wnflzyncqu6oeqiyae9emuzl0s6f36c2)

[Google Slides](https://app.box.com/s/b8yvchw9pehy34zdnllgsah0rbcpshk4)

**Attendance**

Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Dan Cardwell (Pierce County)

Austin Jennings (Pierce County)

Rebecca Brown, Chair (Ecology)

Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe)

Kris Kauffman (Chambers-Clover Watershed Council)

Renee Buck (Chambers Clover Watershed Council)

Char Naylor (Puyallup Tribe)

Cal Taylor (City of Tacoma)

Ryan Mello (Pierce CD)

Paul Bucich (City of Lakewood)

Jessie Gamble (MBA Pierce County)

Don Stanley (Lakewood Water District)

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)

Matt Rakow (Ecology)

Stacy Vynne-Mckinstry (Ecology)

Mike Noone (Ecology)

Jeff Johnson (Spanaway Co-Op Pierce County)

Josie Cummings (Building Industry Representative)

\*Attendees list is based on WebEx Call attendance

**Meeting Summary**

The September meeting summary was approved.

**Welcome, Introductions, and Committee Business**

* Ecology staff will be working remotely until June 2021, which confirms that the remaining meetings and final vote will be virtual.
* The meeting packet included a link to an online survey that gives committee members the opportunity to update their local review process.
  + The survey will be open until November 2, 2020 and it includes an option to select that you are on multiple committees.
* Streamflow grant winners were announced on October 7, 2020. A feasibility study for the South Tacoma Channel project received grant funding.
* Joint Base Lewis-McChord is in the middle of an emergency response to a failure in the culvert under the JBLM-McChord Field airfield complex. The base will be constructing a new bridge with benefits to fish passage and capacity accommodate a 100-year storm event.
* The Chambers-Clover Watershed Council is hosting a virtual watershed issues forum on Stormwater on November 18, 2020 from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

**Public Comment**

* N/A, no members of the public present on the phone

**Project Descriptions**

* Rebecca ran though comments received on the project descriptions. The Chambers Clover Watershed Council had a number of helpful edits and comments on the [Sequalitchew Restoration project](https://app.box.com/s/48w80vjley0byzv5ofpx7f6r9l5klzrt).
  + Chad and The CCWC will work together to make a number of edits to the project description including:
    - Edits to the figure to update the symbols for the drainage canal and connection between American and Sequalitchew Lake.
    - Adding more photos or existing conditions/ a photo appendix
    - Adding streamflow information to the Sequalitchew Creek description.
* The Committee also discussed edits and questions related to the [Floodplain Restoration project](https://app.box.com/s/avya7pie8xqfxh21p3nbzeu5fvei4fio) description, especially if they were comfortable listing potential project locations alone or if more details needed to be added.
  + The Squaxin Island Tribe expressed concern that none of these projects have been quantified, so there are no quantified projects in the upper basin. They would like to see the county do more to identify and sponsor projects.
  + Committee members suggested a drive-by survey, checking ownership and overlaying with MAR.
  + Lisa Spurrier, the WRIA 12 Salmon Recovery Lead Entity may have some for information about the EDT update for the basin, which could help to identify areas with the most potential for restoration. Chad noted that it might be good to have HDR evaluate them.
  + Clover Chamber Watershed Council suggested looking at Coffee and Spanaway Creeks for projects.
  + The Brookdale Golf Course project was removed from the list.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe suggested that the project template be modified to show the project sponsor and landowner information prominently at the top

**NEB Evaluation (Chapter 7)**

* Rebecca went over the NEB guidance; the workgroup recommends that the committee include a NEB evaluation in the plan.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe suggested Ecology’s guidance was a good start, but the Number One goal of NEB should be restoring and enhancing streamflow. Also, base the analysis in ecological functions and how the elements of the plan improve or impair them.
* Spanaway Co-Op noted that NEB should address the concern that projects are in areas more important to fish, rather than in areas with PE well impacts.
* Squaxin Island Tribe agreed, and noted that fish habitat is important, not just quantities of water. This could be done simply using knowledge easily available to the consultant and Committee members.
* Clover Chamber Watershed Council noted that fish migration corridors and water quality were important aspects of NEB.
* The committee suggested to include language on how the plan is expected to result in restoration of streamflows/references to ecological functions where appropriate in Chapter 2.
  + Committee members to comment where they would like to see more detail or language when reviewing the draft.

**Plan Review**

* Rebecca ran through the comments received on the plan.
* The committee discussed that there are disagreements with Ecology’s interpretation of 90.94.030 around the focus on consumptive use and new PE wells. Ecology will not be changing its interpretations of the law.
* The committee agreed to include direct quotes of 90.94.030 with the plan.
  + A committee member suggested putting the quotes into side-bar boxes, then pointing to them in the main narrative.
* Add additional clarity to statements around the parcels available for future development outside of Group A service areas.
  + Rebecca will run the updated language by the County to confirm that it makes sense to them.
* The committee decided not add the list of water rights as an approach to adaptive management.
* The committee discussed changing the timeline of the Ecology’ first report to the legislature.
  + Some committee members suggested pushing back the report for one year, but no change to the reporting timeline occurred during the meeting.
  + A committee member expressed concerns that adjusting the project list after the first report in 2025 may be premature. Instead committee members suggested to add a statement to section 6.1.2 that states the first report to legislature will be a progress report and discuss unforeseen opportunities and challenges.
* Several committee members had concerns about the Statewide Mandatory Water Conservation measures.
  + The Squaxin Island tribe stated that they liked the idea of having an overall statewide conservation program for PE wells.
  + The committee discussed including a statewide recommendation education/technical assistance programs for PE well water conservation
    - Would not be mandatory and would not include rule making.
    - Could also include a legislative request
  + Rebecca will work on having a new draft for sections 6.2.4 and 6.2.5.
  + Rebecca will check in with Jessie about Pierce MBA’s concerns on rulemaking.
* The committee also discussed using the WRIA 10 language in section 6.1. A committee recommended this so the plans would be consistent, but also because there are some phrases in the WRIA 12 section that conflict with Ecology’s policy interpretation.

**Next Steps**

* Chad from HDR will work with Renee from CCWC to address comments on the Sequalitchew Creek Restoration project.
* HDR will pull together more desktop information about the Floodplain Restoration projects and check in with Lisa Spurrier about the preliminary results from the EDT modeling.
* Rebecca will work on having a new draft for sections 6.2.4 and 6.2.5.
* Rebecca will check in with Jessie about Pierce MBA’s concerns on rulemaking.
* Rebecca will send out a survey to committee members on the remaining plan review topics.
* Rebecca was unable to find a time suitable for the full committee to meet in November.
  + The next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2020.
  + The workgroup will meet on November 5 from 1 pm – 3 pm on [WebEx](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwatech.webex.com%2Fwatech%2Fj.php%3FMTID%3Dmdb9641d9da3c8f3febc495bebca03f5c&data=04%7C01%7Crbro461%40ecy.wa.gov%7C4f40e4de5f724eebd7a108d87521e6f1%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C637388135761115583%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=R%2BbZNZTtUL3GdneE4t4lvmc5fOOtyIY8dbBQeTMnnnE%3D&reserved=0).
  + Committee members may have materials to review and comment on between meetings.