**Meeting Summary**

**Deschutes Watershed (WRIA 13)**

**Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee**

*Please send corrections to Angela Johnson (angela.johnson@ecy.wa.gov) by May 22, 2019.*

[Committee website:](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37325/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_13.aspx) <https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37325/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_13.aspx>

**Next Meeting:** May 22, 2019 9:00 am to 12:30 pm
Tumwater Fire Department Training Room
311 Israel Rd. SW, Tumwater, WA 98501

# **Meeting Information:**

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Tumwater Fire Department

311 Israel Road SW, Tumwater, WA 98501

# Agenda

| Topic | Time | Action | Handouts | Lead |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Welcome and Introduction** | 9:00 am  |  |  | Facilitator |
| **Review of April Agenda and Approval of March Meeting Summary**  | 9:05 am | Decision | -March meeting summary-Agenda | Facilitator |
| **Committee Updates and Announcements** | 9:10 am | Discussion |  | Chair and Committee |
| **City Planning Panel** | 9:15 am | Presentations |  | City of Olympia, City of Lacey, City of Tumwater, City of Rainier |
| **Thurston PUD Data Presentation** | 10:15 am | Presentations |  | Weidenfeller/Oosterman |
| **Break** | 11:00 am |  |  |  |
| **Technical Consultant Introduction** | 11:10 am | Discussion |  | Chair |
| **Workgroup Report** | 11:30 am | Discussion |  | Chair/Workgroup |
| **Public Comment** | 12:15 pm |  |  | Facilitator |
| **Action Items and Next Steps** | 12:25 pm |  |  | Chair/Facilitator |

# Committee Representatives and Alternates in Attendance

| Name | Representing | Name | Representing |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Amy Hatch-Winecka | WRIA 13 Salmon Habitat Recovery Lead Entity | Cynthia Pratt | City of Lacey |
| Allison Osterberg | Thurston County | Charmayne Garrison | City of Rainier |
| Sarah Moorehead | Thurston Conservation District | Linda Oosterman | Thurston County PUD No. 1 |
| Paul Pickett | Squaxin Island Tribe | Dave Monthie | Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team |
| Theresa Nation | Department of Fish and Wildlife | Dan Smith | City of Tumwater |
| Donna Buxton | City of Olympia | Erin Hall | Olympia Master Builders |
| Angela Johnson | WA Ecology | Kaitlynn Nelson | Thurston County |
| John Weidenfeller | Thurston County PUD No. 1 | John Kliem | Lewis County |
| Julie Rector | City of Lacey | Scott Steltzner | Squaxin Island Tribe |
| Jeff Dickison | Squaxin Island Tribe |  |  |

# Other Attendees

| **Name** | **Representing** | **Name** | **Representing** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Josie Cummings | Building Industry Association of Washington | Kevin Hansen | Thurston County |
| Martin McCallum | Citizen Stream Team Volunteer | Amber Stonik | Thurston County |
| Wendy Steffensen | LOTT Clean Water Alliance | Helen Wheatley | Self |
| Chad Wiseman | HDR | Dan Graves | HDR |
| Paula Holroyde | League of Women Voters, Thurston County | Jimmy Kralj |  ESA |
| Gretchen Muller | Cascadia |  |  |

# Decision Items

* March meeting summary approved

# Meeting Summary

## Committee Updates and Announcements:

* HDR has been selected as the technical consultant for WRIA 13 – Angela will share the SOW for their contract which goes through June 30, 2019.
* Ecology’s Net Ecological Benefit guidance will be made available shortly, and Angela will share that with the Committee in a few weeks.
* WRIA 1 Rule Amendment open for public comment – see Ecology’s Streamflow Restoration Website for details.
* May 30th webinar for streamflow restoration projects – contact Angela for more information.
* The committee should think about field trip ideas for the summer.
* Angela will coordinate with Kevin Hansen (Thurston County Hydrogeologist) to arrange a meeting to review technical data (GIS layers, modeling) – Angela will send a meeting invite to the Committee.

## City Planning Panel:

* The committee heard information from City of Olympia, City of Lacey, City of Tumwater, and City of Rainier on their planning processes. The goal of this topic was for the Committee to understand how cities plan for future growth, how to plan for permit exempt wells, where growth will occur, how this information will affect the planning process.
* Donna Buxton, City of Olympia
	+ Committee discussion:
		- City of Olympia is fully in WRIA 13, and has capacity to grow within City boundaries.
		- No current plan for Annexation, however two feasibility plans are being made for two regions in the SE and NE Urban Growth Area (UGA).
		- Are there homes that are hooked up to only some City services? (i.e. homes on City water but with septic systems)
			* Yes, or some homes could be on City water and Lacey Sewer – several variations of how homes are connected to City services. GIS data can identify parcels that fall in this category.
			* Also there may be exempt well inside the city. They are not required to hook up to city water.
		- Consider if City services extend beyond UGA – i.e. City of Olympia has water service that extends beyond the UGA, near Evergreen State College.
			* Homes more than 200 feet from city water are not required to hook up
		- Does the city have a policy that encourages rural properties to connect to City services outside of the UGA?
			* Coordinated Water Service plan for Thurston County. Can only serve within the service area boundary, usually within the UGA.
			* In areas where there are not distribution lines, but with Group A and B and private wells, does the city have plans to put distribution lines in those areas?
				+ Utility will step in if those systems fail.
		- Olympia may have some candidate areas for mitigation
* Julie Rector and Cynthia Pratt, City of Lacey
	+ Committee discussion:
		- Most of the City UGA is provided with City water. Annexation, may increase to make city boundaries more regular and should be directly dependent on the city’s ability to provide, acquire, operate and maintain services.
		- What are the impacts to groundwater recharge from taking people off septic? Has the city done an impact assessment of that?
			* No, but the group could consider this topic.
		- Lacey has prevented connection to city services until annexed by the UGA.
			* Most of the UGA is served, so only small areas where permit exempt wells would be needed.
* Dan Smith, City of Tumwater
	+ Committee discussion:
		- If a home is within a UGA, they are asked to sign a no-protest to annexation.
		- Coordination with Thurston County for permit exempt wells
		- Annexation: Not much more to go, two recent annexations that took up most of the UGA. Annexation does not impact water service, as the City of Tumwater is the preferred service provider per the Coordinated Water System Plan.
* Charmayne Garrison, City of Rainier
	+ Committee discussion:
		- Future needs of water rights for City to supply residents, as well as need for storage capacity.
		- All residents are on individual septic. Sewer plan is in progress –several years out and is subject to testing/approval.
		- New housing developments in progress.
		- The City has exceeded growth/use expectations they had planned for the next 20 years.
* The presentations show the need for a consistent data set of wells inside the UGAs and outside the 200 foot buffer.

## Thurston PUD data presentation

* The Committee received a presentation from John Weidenfeller, Thurston PUD Manager and Linda Oosterman, Thurston PUD Commissioner. The goal of this topic was to introduce the Committee to the work that Thurston PUD does, and how the Committee can use their available data as they move forward with the planning process.
* Committee discussion:
	+ Thurston PUD serves over 5,000 connections in WRIA 13.
	+ 275 water systems in 6 counties, 7,854 connections
		- 73 Group A systems
		- 202 Group B systems
			* Most are on exempt wells (5,000 gallons per day).
	+ Thurston PUD has a growth goal to acquire more systems, and bring them up to standards of water suppliers.
	+ Thurston PUD provided important data for the WRIA 11 plan such as rural consumption, connections, water rights, and resources for metered data.
		- Consumption data for WRIA 13 will be provided in the next few weeks.
	+ Consider if shallow wells can be replaced with deep wells to eliminate surface water impacts. A project of this type is being considered for WRIA 11.

## Technical Consultant Introduction

* Final contract will be shared as soon as possible.
* The consultant team consists of: HDR, Anchor, Pacific Groundwater Group, Lisa Dally Wilson
	+ - Water resource planners, hydrologists, geologists, water rights specialists, water resource and restoration engineers, biologists.
		- Scope covers WRIAs 10, 12, 13, 14, and 15
* Scope covers data acquisitions, subbasin delineation, growth projections, consumptive use estimates, project identification/evaluation, Net Ecological Benefit Determination, and summary reports for inclusion with the plan.
	+ Committee members also noted the need for data to support project development and benefits, such as past unmitigated permit-exempt water use and future cumulative water use, including inchoate water rights.
* Committee discussion:
	+ The group discussed the need for transparency from Ecology on work products.
	+ Ecology is the contract manager, however the consultant will work with and will integrate with the Committee. All work products will be approved by the Committee in alignment with the consensus decision-making approach.
	+ It’s important for the consultant to have as much information as possible. Meeting notes may leave out important information, so discussions should occur with the Committee and workgroups to clarify intent.
	+ Subbasin delineation: take what the group has come up with so far and propose alternatives.
		- Keep in mind: Jurisdictional, other delineations, projected growth, and NEB calculation (how to spatially develop offset projects in regards to subbasin)
	+ Recognize that each group and each plan will be different, there is no requirement to standardize across all the WRIAs. However, efforts will be coordinated when possible for consistency when it is important to do so (i.e. receiving information from entities on multiple

Committees)

## Workgroup Report

* There will be a feedback loop between the workgroup and the technical consultant team.
	+ Want to make sure that the workgroup is guiding the process and not that the process is guiding the workgroup.
	+ The Committee is the decision making group.
* Discussed GIS work to identify parcels outside of the 200-foot range from services, to help identify where wells might need to go
* Data Gaps
	+ The Committee/workgroup will continue to add to this, and the consultant will help identify gaps based on their data acquisition task.
	+ Thurston County data – work with them to get the Committee up to speed on what data is available as a resource
	+ The Committee should prioritize coming up with a number per subbasin for typical water use, particularly outdoor water use.
	+ What are the different methods for estimating consumptive use?
* Tech. consultant should focus their efforts on working with the technical and subbasin workgroups, and should attend the full Committee meetings when discussing SOW or for major decision items.
* Keep in mind Counties’ development process, and how that relates to construction of new wells
* Committee needs to clarify the use of the term “new connections” and how to use that moving forward.
	+ Thurston County tracks connections to wells after the legislation was passed. Much more useful to track connections, not just wells.
	+ Need to differentiate “well” from “connection”
* Subbasins
	+ A draft of proposed subbasins was presented to the Committee based on suggestions from the workgroup. This is a working draft and keeps in mind certain factors:
		- Spurgeon Creek kept separate for fish-bearing reasons
		- East and West side of salt water drainages
	+ Consider how to keep subbasins “reasonably sized” to estimate impacts and recommend projects
	+ Thurston County keeps subbasins larger to add flexibility for offset projects.
	+ Consider how to factor in Black Lake - this is technically in the Chehalis WRIA, but Thurston county would like to include it in WRIA 13 planning because of how it drains to the Deschutes. Angela will look into the possibility for coordinating with the WRIA 22/23 Committee.

## Public Comment

* No public comments.

## Action Items and Next Steps

* Ecology chair will continue to obtain remaining operating principle signature pages
* Ecology chair will schedule next work group meetings
* Ecology chair will continue to coordinate with technical consultant
* Ecology chair will coordinate with Thurston County for data seminar
* Ecology chair will work with Committee to decide on November/December meetings, keeping in mind holiday conflicts.
* Ecology chair will distribute Thurston PUD Data
* Ecology chair will continue to set up presentations for future meetings
	+ Suggestion for presentation on hydrogeological data available
* Ecology chair will look into setting up a data sharing portal

## Parking Lot

Parking lot items will carry over to future meetings until the Committee agrees that they have been addressed. The Committee reviewed these parking lot items at the March meeting.

* 12/12/18:
	+ Is funding available for WRIA 13 studies to support decisions? If so, how much? How will we access it?
* 1/23/19:
	+ How will Ecology determine the timing components of projects (i.e. when mitigation benefits can be seen)?
	+ Include a strategy in the plan to follow up on plan elements.
* 2/27/19
	+ What are the conditions that old water rights need to meet?
* 3/27/19
	+ Can the Committee do studies outside of the scope of work of the technical consultant? If the scope of work includes items/data the group has already completed, is there an option to ask for other work? Does the Committee have funding outside of the technical consultant contract?