# WRIA 13 Technical Workgroup Draft Summary

September 13, 2019 1:00 p.m. –3:00 p.m.

**Department of Ecology – 300 Desmond Dr. SE, Lacey, WA 98503**

# Data Needs

* Discussion on water rights assessment for WRIA 13. Angela is working on developing a draft SOW to start this process, and will have it for workgroup review in the next couple of weeks. The group may want to consider focusing on specific locations within the WRIA where more effort should be spent identifying opportunities, rather than a WRIA-wide assessment. Angela will have more information on this for a discussion at the next workgroup meeting.
* Paul Pickett provided the workgroup with a spreadsheet that he created to show the salmon streams in WRIA 13 in order to identify critical areas for protection when thinking about project identification. He is seeking workgroup/committee review for accuracy. Angela will distribute this spreadsheet to the committee.

# Growth Projections Update

* HDR provided an update on the initial growth projections for Thurston County. Comments were received and reviewed by HDR on the methodology for these projections, and the group discussed the revisions. Michael Amrbrogi from TRPC joined the discussion briefly to answer some questions on the methodology.
* Some suggestions were discussed to consider for changes to the methodology to identify how many connections to PE wells might occur within a water service area. The group is interested in discussion this further in order to develop an alternative scenario. Angela and HDR will discuss with Thurston County, the cities, and the PUD. Some possibilities for looking within a water system to define parcels served by public water versus PE wells may be:
  + Bringing in water line GIS data and buffering off of that
  + Ratio of public water hookups available versus not in a sample of water systems
  + Ratio of parcels served by sewer versus not
  + Water system data of actual hookups versus denial of service for a certain time period

Consideration that looking at past connections in an annexation may lead to erroneous assumptions on future connections – looking at a specific historical range (suggestion 5 years) might provide insight into a more realistic assumption for the future. There was a suggestion to request customer information (addresses only) from the cities for a potential analysis by Kevin Hansen (Thurston County).

* The group discussed that looking at a “low growth” scenario would likely not provide additional information. Angela suggested that the group focus on information that can give the group a range from the initial analysis to a “high growth” assumption of new connections over the next 20 years. The group discussed what information, in addition to the discussion above, might provide that range. Suggestion to also look at changing the assumption that there is 100% connection in a water service area, as the TRPC analysis is based on. Angela will discuss with Thurston County to discuss the feasibility of this, as it would require additional analysis from TRPC.

# Consumptive Use

* HDR provided an update on the methods for the consumptive use calculation. An initial analysis based on Ecology’s recommended methodology will be done to provide the group with a draft for review. From this initial analysis, HDR can work with the group to develop additional scenarios.
* HDR showed a preview of a consumptive use analysis spreadsheet for a water system – Angela will send this out to the group as an example.
* HDR presented the specific methods for determining outdoor irrigation, which would provide a more realistic number on outdoor water use (acre size) instead of the ½ acre assumption in Ecology’s methodology. HDR will be completing a GIS exercise to identify 80 parcels in WRIA 13 for analysis. Angela will distribute HDR’s presentation for reference. Additionally, HDR is preparing an in-depth methods document for the workgroup’s review.

# Projects

* The group raised the issue of where we should be looking for projects, and how to concentrate project benefits.
* Important to consider how to coordinate with project partners (i.e. local land trusts) before getting too in-depth on specific projects.
* Kevin Hansen (Thurston County) mentioned that he is working on a project list that he will share with the workgroup over the next few months.
* Angela suggested that the workgroup start a subgroup (led by a workgroup member) to start discussing project-related issues, if any workgroup members are interested. No decision was made, and it will be brought up at the WRIA 13 Committee meeting on 9/25/19.

# Next Steps for Workgroup

* Angela will distribute slides and spreadsheets presented by HDR.
* Angela and HDR will reach out to the cities, counties, and PUD to discuss the water system analysis suggested for growth projections.
* Angela will ask the WRIA 13 committee if they would like to form a project subgroup.