MEETING SUMMARY

**WRIA 15 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement**

**Committee Meeting**

September 5, 2019 | 9:30 a.m.-12:30p.m.|[WRIA 15 Committee Webpage](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37327/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_15.aspx)

## **Location**

Kitsap County

619 Division Street

Port Orchard, WA

**Committee Chair**

Stacy Vynne McKinstry

Svyn461@ecy.wa.gov

(425) 649-7114

**Handouts**

Agenda

Kitsap County Heat Map

# Attendance

Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

David Winfrey (*Puyallup Tribe)*

Nathan Daniel *(Great Peninsula Conservancy)*

StacyVynneMcKinstry *(WA Dept of Ecology)*

GregRabourn *(King County)*

DaveNash (*alternate) (Kitsap County)*

SamPhillips *(Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe)*

TeresaSmith *(City of Bremerton)*

Mike Michael *(City of Bainbridge Island)*

Dave Ward (*Kitsap County)*

Jacki Brown (City of *Port Orchard)*

Larry Boltz *(ex offio)(Mason-Kitsap Farm Bureau)*

Brienn Ellis (*City of* *Gig Harbor)*

Josie Cummings (*Building Industry Association of Washington)*

Alison O’Sullivan (*alternate) (Suquamish Tribe)*

Leonard Forsman (*Suquamish Tribe)*

JoelPurdy *(Kitsap Public Utility District)*

DanaSarff *(alternate) (Skokomish Tribe)*

JoyGaritone *(Kitsap Conservation District)*

RandyNeatherlin *(Mason County)*

Paul Pickett *(alternate) (Squaxin Island Tribe)*

AustinJennings *(alternate) (Pierce County)*

JohnO’Leary *(alternate) (Suquamish Tribe)*

Committee Representatives Not In Attendance\*

Washington Water Service (ex offico)

City of Poulsbo

Other Attendees

Susan Gulick *(Sound Resolutions, Facilitator)*

Paulina Levy *(WA Dept of Ecology)*

Jimmy Kralj (*ESA, Information Manager*)

Chad Wiseman (*HDR)*

\*Attendees list is based on sign-in sheet.

# Meeting Agenda and Meeting Summary

Susan reviewed the agenda.

*No revisions to the agenda.*

Susan acknowledged minor revisions to the August meeting summary, including editorial and additions to some of the discussions. No concerns were shared with the revised version. Ecology will post the final meeting summary on the committee webpage.

*No further refinements to the meeting summary provided.*

# Updates and Announcements

Stacy provided updates from Ecology.

* Brienn Ellis is the new primary representative from Gig Harbor.
* Paulina Levy recently started with Ecology and will support the Water Resources Program.
* The public comment period for the draft Streamflow Restoration Funding grant guidance closes September 8. Ecology anticipates issuing final guidance in October and opening the application period in 2020.
* Stacy met with West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery (WSPER) about engagement in the project selection process.
	+ They are hosting an ecosystem recovery fair on October 12 for citizens to learn about West Sound ecosystem recovery. More information and registration available: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/west-sound-ecosystem-fair-tickets-68353706777>
	+ Space is available for committee members/organizations to set up a booth. Interested committee members can contact Brittany Gordon.

# Workgroup Updates

David Nash provided an update on the August 21 Technical Workgroup discussion.

* + HDR presented the growth projections methods and analysis based on county information.
	+ Workgroup is now seeking input and feedback from other committee members.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe provided a summary on the steps for different growth projection scenarios, assumptions, and potential “safety factor” to make assumptions more conservative.
	+ Some committee members expressed interest in a detailed walkthrough of the growth projection data and heat map with HDR staff. Stacy will work with HDR and interested members to schedule.
	+ Some committee members would like to see an overlay of the heat map and a map of historical wells.
	+ Committee members raised the need for refinement of the heat map as projections may be inflated for some areas and not represent what is likely to occur.
	+ For consumptive use, the workgroup will need to review potential assumptions. The workgroup discussed ensuring that any application of a safety factor is based in reality.

Stacy provided an update on the WRIA-Wide Project Subgroup. Members of the subgroup are looking at project ideas across the WRIA. HDR and Ecology are looking at existing projects lists to identify potential streamflow components; Kitsap County is talking with the public works department; and KPUD is looking at opportunities for streamflow augmentation, storage and reclaimed water. The subgroup discussed the importance of having a “live” project list that committee members can access at any time.

Paul Pickett provided an update on the South Sound Subgroup. The group discussed some specific project opportunities (e.g. Port Orchard Airport) as well as some general project types to consider across the area. Great Peninsula Conservancy owns some properties that could lend themselves to a natural storage project (e.g. floodplain reconnection or Beaver Dam Analog). The group discussed concerns and opportunities associated with beaver management. Kitsap Conservation District offered to provide support for local landowner outreach on beavers.

The West Kitsap, North Kitsap and Vason-Maury subgroups will meet in mid-September.

A concern was raised about consistency between the screening criteria HDR is working on and the grant scoring criteria. Chad from HDR noted that they are working on the screening criteria and trying to align them. Stacy noted that the grant program is statewide, but the Plan will focus on what’s good for the watershed, so they may differ.

The committee discussed the best approach for reviewing and approving projects. The project workgroup will brief the committee regularly with short summaries of project ideas and status (time for this will be allocated on each committee agenda). The project workgroup will also have dedicated meetings for diving deep into project details. Stacy will bring a proposed schedule forward to the next committee meeting. Committee members requested Ecology develop a one page summary of the project needs that can be shared with partners to generate ideas.

The committee discussed the need for clarity on the role of the project subgroups, workgroup and the role of HDR in developing and reviewing projects. Stacy will develop a proposal for the next project workgroup meeting. The committee requested the project workgroup think large scale about the types of projects needed for WRIA 15 (e.g. storage, etc.).

# Net Ecological Benefit Guidance and Plan Components

Stacy provided an overview presentation on the final net ecological benefit guidance, which was released on July 31. Stacy provided an overview of the components of the plan, based on the legislation and NEB guidance.

Reference Material

* NEB Presentation (on committee webpage—link is at the beginning of this document)
* Final NEB Guidance (<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1911079.pdf>)

Discussion

* Committee members raised questions about inclusion of the Foster pilot projects in the plan. Stacy will bring an answer to the committee.
* Committee members discussed whether there is a prioritization of wild vs hatchery fish and that the NEB guidance is not explicit on this topic. The committee will need to discuss and determine if they want to prioritize certain areas or projects that benefit different fish populations.
* The committee will need projects that offset water use as well as projects that help improve streams for fish. Projects in the same place as the projected impact are not required, but are a higher priority. The committee will need to determine what types of projects and what locations make the most sense for meeting the needs of this watershed.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe reminded the group that, because of Tribal treaty rights, the plan will need to be good for fish. The Tribe is concerned that just meeting the required minimum for offsets and NEB isnot enough – the plan needs to provide broader benefits.
* The committee has differing opinions on whether the plan should meet the minimum requirements or go “above and beyond”. The committee needs to keep in mind the limited time and resources for completing the plan as well as the need for all members of the committee to approve the plan.
* A timeline of plan elements was presented. Members of the committee recognize that adaptive management will be a necessary component to ensure implementation and effectiveness. However it was noted that adaptive management would need to be part of a broader implementation strategy.

# Growth Projections

Chad Wiseman from HDR presented on the growth and permit exempt well projection methodologies used for each county as well as alternative scenarios to consider in developing a range for projections.

Reference Material

* Growth Projections presentation (on committee webpage)
* Kitsap County heat map (on committee webpage)

Discussion

* The committee discussed whether the historical growth pattern was expected to continue into the future. There is interest from some committee members on seeing multiple scenarios in order to see the range of potential growth.
* Some committee members expressed concern about a deviation from the workflow and what was agreed upon for the growth projections process.
* Counties expressed that there are safety factors/margins of error already included in the growth projections. These are the numbers that they are managing towards.
* Concern was expressed by counties about deviating from the OFM numbers which are used in comprehensive planning (e.g. using a “low” and “high” OFM growth scenario). County electeds would unlikely be able to support a plan that alters the established county method for estimating growth.
* Some committee members expressed the need to ensure HDR has enough time for project development and not to spend too much time on growth projections.
* Some committee members feel that a high growth estimate helps to ensure that the plan is robust and that projects are more than adequate.
* Committee members expressed a desire to refine the permit-exempt well projections based on local knowledge (e.g. especially for Bainbridge Island). HDR and the counties will work with jurisdictions and partners to make refinements.
* The committee recognized that consumptive use will have a large influence on the amount of water that needs to be offset as well.
* A question was posed about what happens if we cannot come to agreement on the method to move forward and how to direct the work of the technical consultants. We need to aim to get to agreement, and Ecology will need to decide what work is needed to get there.
* Stacy will share the population and well projections in spreadsheet form.
* There was a question about how the operating principles apply if there is disagreement. The operating principles discuss reaching consensus, so Ecology will need to determine what is necessary to get to consensus. Stacy noted that the technical workgroup will pick up the conversation on a path forward, and decisions would be made at a future meeting.

# Public Comment

No public present.

# Action Items for Committee Members

* Next meeting: October 3, Kitsap County Commissioner’s Chambers, Port Orchard.
* Technical workgroup will meet in September to identify a path forward for growth projections and begin discussions on consumptive use.
* Project workgroup will meet in October to discuss project development roles (HDR, workgroup, and committee), big picture project types, and project criteria.
* Provide input on permit exempt well projection refinement to counties or Stacy.

# Action Items for Ecology and Consultants

* Ecology will work with the consultant to provide access to GIS layers from webmap. (carryover from June)
* Ecology will respond to questions regarding offset “credits” for different projects. (carryover from June)
* Ecology will distribute documents shared by committee members via Box once available. (carryover from June)
* Ecology will develop a proposal for the 2020 meeting schedule.
* Ecology will develop a 1 pager on projects for partners.
* The consultant will distribute population growth heat maps for King and Kitsap counties once available. They will also look into posting heat maps on their webmap application.
* Ecology will distribute the detailed growth projection and consumptive use spreadsheets.
* HDR and the counties will work with jurisdictions and partners to make refinements to well projections.
* Ecology will work with HDR and interested members to schedule a deep dive into growth projection and well data.
* Ecology will work with the project workgroup to discuss the different roles for project identification and development.