MEETING SUMMARY

**WRIA 15 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement**

**Committee Meeting**

April 2, 2020 | 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | [WRIA 15 Committee Webpage](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37327/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_15.aspx)

**Location**

WebEx

**Committee Chair**

Stacy Vynne McKinstry

Svyn461@ecy.wa.gov

(425) 649-7114

**Handouts**

* Agenda
* Revised subbasin technical memo
* Refined list of policy and regulatory

recommendations

* Refined list of adaptive management

recommendations

* Projects Inventory

# Attendance

Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Joel Purdy (*Kitsap Public Utility District*)

David Winfrey (*Puyallup Tribe)*

StacyVynneMcKinstry *(WA Dept of Ecology)*

GregRabourn *(King County)*

Teresa Smith *(City of Bremerton)*

Allison Satter *(alternate - City of Bremerton)*

Dave Ward (*Kitsap County)*

Dave Nash *(alternate-Kitsap County)*

Jacki Brown (*City of Port Orchard*)

Zach Holt *(alternate - City of* *Port Orchard)*

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

JoyGaritone *(Kitsap Conservation District)*

Brittany Gordon *(WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife)*

Nam Siu *(WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife)*

Shawn O’Dell (*Washington Water Service - ex-officio)*

Austin Jennings (*alternate -* *Pierce County*)

Dan Cardwell *(Pierce County)*

Seth Book *(alternate - Skokomish Tribe)*

Dana Sarff (*alternate -* *Skokomish Tribe*)

Nate Daniel *(Great Peninsula Conservancy)*

Paul Pickett *(alternate - Squaxin Island Tribe)*

Randy Neatherlin *(Mason County)*

Russ Shiplet *(Kitsap Building Association)*

Brienn Ellis *(City of Gig Harbor)*

Sam Phillips *(Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe)*

Mike Michael *(City of Bainbridge Island)*

Christian Berg *(alternate - City of Bainbridge Island)*

Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

City of Poulsbo

Mason-Kitsap Farm Bureau (ex-officio)

Other Attendees

Susan Gulick *(Sound Resolutions, Facilitator)*

Angela Pietschmann (*Cascadia, Info Manager*)

Burt Clothier *(Pacific Groundwater Group)*

Bob Montgomery *(Anchor QEA)*

John Covert *(WA Dept of Ecology)*

Stephanie Potts *(WA Dept of Ecology)*

Angela Johnson (*WA Dept of Ecology*)  
Paulina Levy (*WA Dept of Ecology*)

Mugdha Flores (*WA Dept of Ecology*)

Joel Massmann(*Suquamish Tribe)*

Kell Rowan *(Mason County)*

Erik Steffans *(Great Peninsula Conservancy)*

\*Attendees list is based on roll call and participants signed into WebEx.

# Meeting Agenda and March Meeting Summary

Susan summarized the last meeting and reviewed the agenda. *No revisions to the agenda.*

Stacy reviewed revisions to the March meeting summary, based on feedback from Squaxin Island Tribe. 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:

* COVID-19 plan: WRE committee meetings are deemed essential by Ecology due to the legislative deadline. Ecology will continue to hold meetings remotely as long as there is sufficient participation from committee members. Please let Stacy know if you or your entity is unable to continue participating.
* The competitive streamflow restoration grant round application deadline was extended to April 30, 2020. Stacy will provide an update on applications in WRIA 15 at the May meeting. As of April 2, only two applications are started in WRIA 15.
* The Project Work Group met on March 19th and is scheduling a full day work session on May 21st. The Work Group reviewed PGG’s water rights assessment work, gravel pit assessment, and the project list by subbasin.
* Ecology met with the Squaxin Island Tribe for a quarterly check in and discussed (1) concerns around commitments to implementation across the watersheds the Tribe is involved in; (2) COVID-19 planning; and (3) how Ecology will address disagreement amongst committee members.
  + The Squaxin Island Tribe has an interpretation of the legislation that differs from Ecology’s interpretation of RCW 90.94 ([Policy 2094](https://appswr.ecology.wa.gov/docs/WaterRights/wrwebpdf/pol-2094.pdf)). The Tribe would like to plan for past permit exempt well use as well as all future uses, which is beyond Ecology’s requirements for the planning process. Ecology’s interpretation does not prevent any individual entities from doing additional work, but this approach must be discussed/approved by the committee.
  + The Squaxin Island Tribe has proposed leading a presentation on tribal treaty rights at the WRIA 15 May committee meeting (as they have done in WRIAs 12, 13, and 14). Other Tribes on the committee are invited to add their points of view.
* Ecology met with the Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) to check in on progress within each committee. DFW shared ideas and concerns around (1) quantifying the streamflow benefit of habitat projects; and (2) tracking implementation of projects. Ecology will continue to share information from these conversations at committee meetings.

# Committee Feedback on Technical Memos

Ecology is seeking feedback from the committee on the Subbasin Delineation technical memo and the Growth and Consumptive Use technical memo. These memos will serve as the basis of the WRIA 15 Plan content. These memos were distributed on February 14, but no comments were received. Ecology would like to identify any concerns and address feedback/errors as early as possible.

**Reference Materials**

* [Subbasin Memo](https://app.box.com/s/8yjz3xd30rxwgrlc6t8cg4z64irmapgu)
* [Growth and Consumptive Use](https://app.box.com/s/op9ih55otvyxin604fp18mp98bttcjsr)

**Discussion**

* Ecology updated the Subbasin Delineation technical memo to replace “regions” with subbasins throughout and clarify that “subbasin” is a planning term (does not refer to hydrological / geological term usage).
* The committee will ensure that projects are as close to anticipated growth/impacts as possible.
* Stacy will re-distribute both memos with official deadlines for comment submission (April 24). The committee will review any recommended revisions at the May meeting. Stacy will send the documents as a separate email.

# Decision on Subbasin Delineations

Committee Voting Results: **Approved Subbasin Delineations**

The committee voted on and approved the subbasin delineations (as presented in the Subbasin Delineation technical memo).

*Susan established there was a quorum among committee members before facilitating the vote.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Affiliation** | **Representative** | **Vote** |
| City of Bainbridge | Mike Michael | Approve |
| City of Bremerton | Teresa Smith | Approve |
| City of Gig Harbor | Brienn Ellis | Approve |
| City of Port Orchard | Jacki Brown | Approve |
| Department of ECY | Stacy Vynne | Approve |
| Department of Fish and Wildlife | Nam Siu | Approve |
| Great Peninsula Conservancy | Nate Daniel | Approve |
| King County | Greg Rabourn | Approve |
| Kitsap Building Association | Russ Shiplet | Approve |
| Kitsap County | Dave Ward | Approve |
| Kitsap Public Utility District | Joel Purdy | Approve |
| Mason County | Randy Neatherlin | Approve, with reservations |
| Pierce County | Dan Cardwell | Approve |
| Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe | Sam Phillips | Approve |
| Puyallup Tribe | David Winfrey | Approve |
| Skokomish Tribe | Dana Sarff | Approve |
| Squaxin Island Tribe | Paul Pickett | Can live with it |
| Suquamish Tribe | Alison O'Sullivan | No issues |

# Projects: Status and Needs by Sub-Basin

The committee discussed potential projects within each subbasin to: (1) determine if there are sufficient projects to offset potential impacts; (2) identify gaps; and (3) provide direction to the technical consulting team for further development of projects. The technical consultant team has mapped projects where location data is available in the Project Inventory spreadsheet.

**Reference materials**

* [Water rights assessment](https://app.box.com/s/otryzkxllnsudfqarbgrw7qu3lqrfmxx)
* [Gravel pit assessment](https://app.box.com/s/p9vquryi9w5g9xv0w5z8vc3ece2un27t)
* [Project inventory](https://ecy.box.com/v/WRIA15ProjectInventory)
* [WRIA 15 Webmap](https://hdr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d7d02dedb57241aa81dd7eb376c8625a)

**Discussion**

* Burt Clothier (Pacific Groundwater Group) provided an update on PGG’s water rights assessment.
  + PGG is working with Ecology to collect a complete dataset of water rights within the basin, focusing on surface water, groundwater irrigation, commercial/industrial, and stock water rights. Spring sources can be categorized as surface or ground water.
  + PGG will continue to subdivide / prescreen the large number of rights within the basin and narrow down which rights to investigate in greater detail.
  + PGG is only reviewing active rights, not claims. PGG has also developed a one-page summary for water rights associated with two golf courses in the basin and will present to committee for review.
* Bob Montgomery (Anchor QEA) provided an update on the managed aquifer recharge (MAR) assessment of eight potential gravel pit sites.
  + Bob’s team analyzed these sites with the Project Work Group based upon gravel pit operations, aerial photos, zoning, and geology.
  + Several were active commercial sites with reclamation plans that include filling sites with low quality fill (i.e., pits accept fine-grain fill from developed areas and commercial buildings not suitable for infiltration).
  + Based on the assessment and feedback from the Department of Natural Resources, during the project workgroup call, Bob recommends focus on (1) county owned parcels in suitable geologic areas that are inactive or have not been used recently, (2) or pits that will be residentially or commercially developed which will provide opportunities to incorporate stormwater recharge in development plans. Any sites considered should have stormwater available for recharge.
    - Port Orchard: The Port Orchard Airport could be a good site for collection and infiltration of stormwater into nearby Kitsap County-owned pit.
      * Port Orchard Sand and Gravel (near Silverdale) and Port Orchard Industrial Park are proposed for housing development. If not already required, the committee could consider a project that allows stormwater infiltration as a development requirement.
    - Pierce County: Paul from Squaxin Island Tribe and Austin of Pierce County summarized their discussion of potential County-owned sites. Austin will discuss the more promising sites with the appropriate County division. Parcels owned by the County’s Surface Water Management department in Rocky Creek Watershed are particularly promising.
    - Kitsap County: County has identified an opportunity to restore the natural water cycle in the vicinity of the Kingston Wastewater Treatment Plant by significantly reducing the discharge of treated wastewater into Puget Sound.
* GeoEngineersprepared a methodology for estimating recharge potential/streamflow benefit associated withhabitat restoration projects**.** Ecology technical staff are discussing this methodology with DFW to address their concerns regarding quantifying streamflow benefits from habitat projects. If the committee chooses, there may be an opportunity to estimate streamflow benefit (quantitatively) from some habitat projects such as beaver and beaver dam analogue (BDA) projects.
* The committee is working to identify which subset of projects warrant consultant time for further development.
  + Consider having short-, mid-, and long-term buckets for project implementation.
* Categorical or bundled projects can be noted in the comments section
* Reviews should add comments or questions, not edit someone else’s notes
* There is a WebMap layer with project locations. The spreadsheet will note which have been mapped. Send Bob any information on unmapped or incorrectly mapped sites.

Homework: in each subbasin, committee members should highlight projects with highest [realistic] potential for offset in the short term for further discussion at the May meeting and see if there’s consistency in list.

**Projects by Subbasin Discussion Summary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subbasin** | **Project name** | **Notes** | **Next Steps** |
| North Hood Canal | Big Beef DNR Parcel | Technical consultant time not necessary. Sam is continuing to do some work to develop this project. | Sam will provide information to the committee once further developed. |
| North Hood Canal | Little Anderson Asbury Parcel | Could use technical consultant time (not reviewed as part of gravel pits assessment). Small-scale topsoil businesses with ponds. Looks feasible from first review of geology. | Consider for technical support. |
| North Hood Canal | Gamble Cr Arness Parcel and Gamble Cr Michak Parcel | Could use technical consultant time to identify projects in this area. | Consider for technical support. |
| North Hood Canal | Big Beef Creek Restoration | Fits well with floodplain habitat / headwater wetland restoration project; could probably calculate some storage offset. |  |
| North Hood Canal | Seabeck Holly Road Bridge | Remove from project list; barrier removals have limited offset capacity and are funded through Fish Barrier Removal Board or Salmon Recovery Funding Board. | Stacy to remove from project list. |
| North Hood Canal | Stream Augmentation projects | Joel discussed how the augmentation projects would be treated for water quality and the approximate costs. The augmentation is physically easy to do but will need some refinement on the exact location and timing. There are a lot of details that need to be worked out. |  |
| North Hood Canal | Other potential project ideas | * Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group projects * Timber rotation/forestry projects |  |
| South Hood Canal | General | Although this region has lower growth projection compared with the rest of the WRIA, it has good project potential and is home to ESA listed species. |  |
| South Hood Canal | GPC Projects | Great Peninsula Conservancy (GPC) has proposed multiple projects in other subbasins but not S Hood Canal. GPC staff time is very limited, so they want to strategically pursue projects/funding. |  |
| South Hood Canal | Wastewater reclamation infiltration - City of Belfair | On South Sound project list but may include South Hood Canal benefits too (both watersheds). Mason Count believes there is no South Hood Canal benefit – more discussion needed. Need to avoid double-counting benefit. |  |
| South Hood Canal | MAR Project Tahuya | John Covert (Ecology) identified this project as potential opportunity (based on geology). Source waters nearby are on publicly owned ground (easier to get access to). This project is not developed, but could put some consultant resources towards development if committee sees potential and needs additional offset. | Consider for technical consultant support. |
| South Hood Canal | Bear Creek Protection | Might have potential as there is a single landowner. There is higher development pressure in area (more than rest of South Hood Canal), however we will hold off on requesting time and energy for consultants to work on this one. |  |
| South Hood Canal | Other potential project ideas to consider for this area | * Beaver / BDA projects. * Timber rotation/forestry projects * Gold Creek Golf Course has reclaimed water potential. * Seth Book (Skokomish Tribe) will work with the Tribe’s consultant to generate more of potential project ideas. |  |
| West Sound | Blackjack Watershed Protection & Restoration Feasibility Plan | Opportunity for floodplain restoration / augmentation as needed, but City of Port Orchard is scaling back to feasibility study for this streamflow funding grant round. |  |
| West Sound | Chico Creek Culvert (Golf Club Hill Road) and Floodplain Restoration | Culvert replacement itself is underway (design done by Suquamish tribe). Not as much a culvert project for our purposes as a floodplain project. |  |
| West Sound | MAR Project- Grovers Cr | On GPC owned preserve, good possibility but lower priority for consultant time right now. Nate Daniel (GPC) and Alison O’Sullivan (Suquamish Tribe) to collaborate on projects related to Grover’s Creek. |  |
| West Sound | Strawberry and L. Anderson Creek Parcel with Storage | Quarry project discussed previously. Proposed for land use change (comprehensive plan amendment) and in front of County Commissioners right now to approve the land use change. | Committee should wait to see what happens with the decision by the Commissioners before further pursuing this project. |
| West Sound | Augmentation projects | Recommend change reference for “ephemeral” to “seasonal” on the augmentation projects. | Stacy will make change in spreadsheet. |
| South Sound | Wastewater reclamation infiltration - City of Belfair | Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe) reviewing with Kell Rowan (Mason County). |  |
| South Sound | Port Orchard Airport Stormwater | Don’t see red flags yet and will continue to look into opportunities around this area. | Committee reps and consultants will continue to explore. |
| South Sound | Piercy County Parcels | Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe) looking at 10 Pierce County parcels with Austin Jennings (Pierce County). |  |
| South Sound | GPC Parcels | Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe) looking at GPC parcels with Nate Daniel (GPC). |  |
| South Sound | Other floodplain/wetland projects | Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe) looking at other potential sites for floodplain/wetland projects suggested by Brittany, with support from Kitsap CD. |  |
| South Sound | Horseshoe and Trophy Lake Golf Course Water Use Options | PGG reviewing for opportunities for reduction / transfer of water right. | PGG will present results of assessment to committee. |
| Vashon/Maury |  | The committee did not have time to discuss projects in these subbasins. | Discuss in May. |
| Bainbridge Island |  | The committee did not have time to discuss projects in these subbasins. | Discuss in May. |
| Anderson, McNeil and Ketron Islands |  | The committee did not have time to discuss projects in these subbasins. | Discuss in May. |

# Refinement of Plan Recommendations

The committee discussed the list of (1) policy and regulatory recommendations, (2) climate change considerations, and (3) adaptive management and implementation recommendations, which were refined based on discussion at the March meeting.

**Reference materials**

* [WRIA 15 Policy & Adaptive Management Refinement](https://app.box.com/s/1q1i4n0qiiu81v2qe0f11ajfi3k26es6)
* Squaxin Island Tribe Proposals:
  + [WRE Plan Policy & Regulatory Recommendations](https://app.box.com/s/ca53rjradj93r697qgc0whsqm8r2ac9c)
  + [WRE Plan Adaptive Management & Implementation](https://app.box.com/s/nphdjexxc890z4kolxql5scggqmx76bv)

**Discussion**

* Policy and Regulatory Recommendations
  + Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe) walked through the WRE Plan Policy & Regulatory Recommendations document he prepared.
  + The Kitsap Conservation District is interested in a leading role on a number of items related to incentives and water conservation. KCD wants the committee to consider unintended consequences for any recommendations that move forward.
  + The City of Bainbridge Island could consider elevating native vegetation protection beyond what current stormwater regulations require.
  + Pierce County would like to hold off on engaging on this subject until the list is more refined/pared down and there are funding sources and specific details associated with the recommendations. Once this list is narrowed down, the County would like to identify challenges / obstacles in implementing recommendations. The County is striving for consistent language across the WRIA committees they participate in. The County prefers incentives/voluntary participation over enforcement efforts.
  + Kitsap County notes that developing County code is limited by the public process for developing land use regulations. P15 not applicable within County (already have a stormwater permit/manual that requires a lot of infiltration and LID for new development). Department of Commerce leading a parallel project to incentivize LID in urban areas.
  + Greater Peninsula Conservancyiswilling to remove increasing the building permit fee from the list. Squaxin Island Tribe wants the discussion of funding to continue.
  + The committee would like to pare down the long list of recommendations. Some members participate on multiple committees and are struggling to follow the changes in this list month to month (multiple iterations of same document).
    - Reminder that there is no technical consultant time allocated to these actions and we are relying on enthusiasm from committee members to refine list. Ecology cannot take a leadership role in developing these ideas.
    - The committee may want to consider formal proposals from committee members compared to reviewing a long list with no details. However, there is concern that relying on committee members to bring forward proposals will not identify the best or highest priority policies.
    - Items that one member would like included but another has concerns about may need further discussion to better define the item so it is acceptable.
    - The committee may want to consider reviewing the list by objectives or topic areas instead of reviewing recommendations one by one.
    - The committee may want to consider having a subgroup review these recommendations in detail and bring back a refined list of recommendations to the committee.
    - Stacy and Susan will work on reformatting the list to make it easier for committee members to review and highlight which ideas they would support moving forward.
* Adaptive Management
  + Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe) added additional adaptive management proposals. Paul noted that the plan must include adaptive management, or the Tribe will not approve it.
  + Zack Holt (City of Port Orchard) and Sam Phillips (Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe) are developing monitoring proposals. Zack and Sam are seeking volunteers to assist with this effort (ideally a representative from each entity).
  + The facilitation team is working on generic/consistent adaptive management language to use across committees (for instance, if there are recommendations to Department of Ecology or the Legislature).
  + DFW is working on a project implementation tracking recommendation.

# Public Comment

No public comment.

# Action Items for Committee Members

* Review technical memos and submit comments to Ecology by April 24.
* Complete homework associated with project list review and plan recommendation review (homework forthcoming).
* Let Zach or Sam know if you are interested in developing a monitoring proposal for inclusion in the plan.

# Action Items for Ecology and Consultants

* Stacy will re-distribute the Subbasin Delineation and Growth and Consumptive Use technical memos with deadlines for comment submission (April 24). The committee will review any edits that need discussion at the May meeting. Stacy will send as a separate email.
* Technical consultants will indicate in the project inventory whether a project has been mapped.
* Stacy will follow up with LE staff, HCSEG, and others with the committee’s refined North Hood Canal project list to identify any red flags or additions.
* Stacy, Bob, John to develop rough estimates of project offset values where possible.
* Stacy and Susan will send out homework on the plan recommendations.
* Stacy and Susan will send out homework on the project list review.

# Upcoming Meetings

* Special meeting to discuss Consumptive Use – **April 22, 2020, beginning at 10 a.m**., WebEx Only
* Next committee meeting: **Thursday, May 7, 2020, 9:30 a.m.**, Kitsap County Commissioner’s Chambers, Port Orchard (likely WebEx only)