MEETING SUMMARY

**WRIA 15 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement**

**Project Workgroup Meeting**

June 29, 2020 | 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

## **Location**

Webex

**Committee Chair**

Stacy Vynne McKinstry

Svyn461@ecy.wa.gov

(425) 649-7114

**Handouts**

Agenda

Water Rights Assessment

Project Inventory

Discussion Guide

**Document Links**

-[Water Rights Assessment](https://ecy.box.com/v/WRIA15WRAcquisitionsAssess)

[-Project Inventory](https://ecy.box.com/v/WRIA15ProjectInventory)

[-Project Ideas and Resources](https://app.box.com/s/c9m6p0j2jy3hz3orro8su83z59u7tghm)

[-Detailed Project Descriptions](https://app.box.com/s/vachq8cvznt8ewmt4aifoe0xeer0b92q)

-[Webmap with Project Locations](https://hdr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d7d02dedb57241aa81dd7eb376c8625a)

-[Project Organization Discussion Guide](https://app.box.com/s/9nuwlkd0vgcq0j2i7exdkqjjypagq8ms)

# Participation

Alison O’Sullivan, *Suquamish Tribe*

Austin Jennings, *Pierce County*

Bob Montgomery, *Anchor QEA*

Burt Clothier, *PGG*

Carin Anderson, *Kitsap Conservation District*

Christian Berg, *Bainbridge Island*

Erica Marbet, *Squaxin Island Tribe*

Greg Rabourn, *King County*

Jon Turk, *Aspect (Skokomish Tribe Consultant)*

Joel Massmann (*Keta Waters, Suquamish Tribe Consultant)*

Joel Purdy, *Kitsap PUD*

John Covert, *Ecology*

Joy Garitone, *Kitsap* *Conservation District*

Kathy Peters, *Kitsap County*

Nate Daniel, *Great Peninsula Conservancy*

Paul Pickett, *Squaxin Island Tribe*

Paulina Levy, *Ecology*

Sam Phillips, *Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe*

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, *Ecology*

# Water Rights Assessment

* Burt Clothier reviewed work completed to date, including the water rights table.
  + *The* [*Webmap*](https://hdr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d7d02dedb57241aa81dd7eb376c8625a) *now has surface water rights mapped (green, brown and red dots). You can click on the water rights to find more information.*
* Stacy requested recommendations on how to develop a short list of water rights. Members will review the list and highlight potential acquisitions, and pull out opportunities with concerns.
* Burt has capacity to analyze 15 water right opportunities.
* Members discussed how to organize these opportunities. There was concern surrounding privacy of water right holders. The group agreed to discuss this prior to publication. Ecology has also been discussing options with the consultants and can provide examples of how to present these projects in the plans once further developed.
* Outreach to the water right holder is not part of the work PGG will conduct, but Ecology may have some limited capacity to do outreach during the planning process on a few priority projects.
* PGG will reorganize the list of water right opportunities based on subbasin.
* Members are interested in seeing the water right locations in relation to salmon critical basins.
* Stacy will send PGG the [priority stream list WDFW and Squaxin](https://app.box.com/s/ukzf5kska6nknozctnfrq95widtrhd6a) developed.

# Additional Recommendations for Projects

* Technical consultants, Kitsap Conservation District, and Squaxin Island Tribe provided updates on project research and development.
* Bob reviewed the Big Beef project idea; upon further research his main concern is that the difficulties may outweigh the benefits of the project.
* PGG will continue researching the Newberry MAR site. These projects would be supplied with water from the Central Kitsap Water Treatment Facility. The water quality could go through advanced treatment for surface release, but Burt believes it does not require additional treatment for infiltration.
* Stacy will share the KPUD streamflow augmentation project update.
* Gig Harbor Golf Course has both habitat restoration and offset potential. Will continue to be pursued.
* City of Bainbridge has multiple sites for MAR. There was discussion regarding this project’s design, but more investigation is needed.
* Port Orchard Airport MAR: it is believed the airport will be developed as a business center in the future. There is stormwater capture and infiltration pond potential. However, a feasibility study is needed.
* KCD provided updated on their projects. A summary of the projects is included in the project inventory and [here](https://app.box.com/s/picwl9rhyp7zldxzk1q8d32wrbfmcnle).
  + Ruby Creek Fish Passage and Stream and Wetland Restoration
  + Grovers Creek and Leyman Wetland Restoration
  + Dogfish Creek Fish Passage and Wetland Restoration
  + Forrester Barrier Removal
  + Kim Dam Removal
* Paul presented a [forest stand age management](https://app.box.com/s/iyc3kqdlq9pgfyua60tcvcq445lm939q) proposal: The proposal could be shortened to “program” language in the plan. Paul does not think the project will be developed prior to plan completion.

The workgroup discussed recommendations for how to address habitat projects.

* Projects that primarily benefit fish and wildlife habitat are critical to meet NEB. We have a lot of projects in our inventory that are developed to varying degrees.
* Members should consider whether to ask technical consultants to develop a select number of habitat projects in more detail. Most agreed that consultant time was best spent developing offset projects.
* Members brought up the WDFW letter and other concerns regarding calculating offset from habitat projects. Most agreed that although an offset benefit could occur, we should limit the time spent calculating it.
* There was interest in having a discussion focused on developing a joint project/policy proposal for beavers. The group will revisit this idea during the next meeting.

# Project List Organization

The workgroup discussed the potential ways to organize the project list for presentation in the watershed plan.

* The group could choose to prioritize, tier, or sequence the projects, or an alternative approach.
* Paul suggested each subbasin have its own list.
* Members suggested sorting projects in a number of ways, including:
  + Based on the scoring criteria previously discussed.
  + Based on project readiness.
  + Based on priorities; organizing by high priority and low priority projects.
  + Based on the offset quantity the project has the potential to provide.
* The approach with the Nisqually (WRIA 11) plan could be considered, in which projects were tiered based on contribution to NEB and reasonable assurance.
* Joy from Kitsap Conservation District will share a matrix her entity uses to help justify project selection and organization.
* The group will continue to consider project list organization for presentation in the plan and continue the discussion at the next meeting.

# Action Items and Next Steps

* Joel, Kitsap Conservation District, GPC, and others will screen water rights opportunities table to refine the potential for plan inclusion.
* Bob and Burt will continue the exploration of the projects they presented today.
* Stacy will send a list of priority streams to PGG.
* Stacy will send the folder with all new project research.
* Members will highlight any habitat projects to consider for consultant development.
* The group will discuss at the next meeting whether to consider a meeting dedicated to beaver projects and policies.