Meeting Notes

**WRIA 15 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement**

**Project Workgroup Meeting**

July 13, 2020 | 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

## **Location**

Webex

**Committee Chair**

Stacy Vynne McKinstry

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**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 Homework](https://app.box.com/s/25amrq2ra473ze3cjz6hj40f50c88lgc)

-[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*

Brenda Padgham, *Bainbridge Island Land Trust*

Brittany Gordon, *WDFW*

Christian Berg, *Bainbridge Island*

Erik Steffens, *Great Peninsula Conservancy*

Erica Marbet, *Squaxin Island Tribe*

Greg Rabourn, *King County*

Joel Massmann, *Keta Waters – Suquamish Tribe Consultant*

Joel Purdy, Kitsap PUD

Joy Garitone, *Kitsap Conservation District*

Jon Turk, Aspect – *Skokomish Tribe Consultant*

Kathy Peters, *Kitsap County*

Paul Pickett, *Squaxin Island Tribe*

Sam Phillips, *Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe*

Nam Siu, *WDFW*

Stacy Vynne, *Ecology*

Paulina Levy, *Ecology*

John Covert, *Ecology*

# Update and Discussion on Water Rights Assessment

* Stacy requested that workgroup members review the refined list of water rights. It is important that members provide input, expertise, and recommendations on water rights to further develop. Joel has provided feedback on a number of opportunities (except South Sound). PGG will prepare a summary of all of the feedback.
* The workgroup discussed the option of presenting a general package of water rights for the plan. There is also potential for specific outreach to water right holders if any of the opportunities look promising.
* Stacy will send the list again, and inquire about the Vashon Maury (and other island) water rights.
* Joel Purdy highlighted the potential the McCormick Land Company water right holds.
* Joy is still working on overlaying active layers with the water rights data, and the County’s data for agriculture corridors.
* Members agreed that the personal details of water right holders could only be included if outreach is conducted. Members would prefer that water right project descriptions contain only generic descriptions and that we may want to consider a “package” of opportunities for specific streams.

# Updates and Additional Recommendations for Projects

* Bob provided updates on project research
  + The Big Beef project has seasonal and instream flow stream closures. This means that the project would be available for storage during less than half the years of the planning horizon. Furthermore, implementation will have permitting challenges. The project lacks reliability and shows a high cost.
    - Members agreed with the consultant recommendation to stop pursuing.
    - Bob’s memo on the project and recommendation not to continue pursuing [is here](https://app.box.com/s/c0oz1on7fhimd1wnuz3iw8w4fu3hkms8).
    - Bob noted that there are other projects that are close to the same creek that offer more potential.
  + [Gig Harbor Golf Course project](https://app.box.com/s/frjdft71963yo2sqge1kltkz9vo1hz5o): Bob will continue developing and will reach out to Nam and Alison regarding value to Artondale Creek.
  + [Newberry storage project](https://app.box.com/s/1ib5h3jfcjy9bqavn40twsh5eepomc36): Bob is working on detailed description.
  + Stream Augmentation: Joel Massmann expressed concerns regarding chlorine levels and the “pumping and dumping” nature of the project. Paul voiced the same concern. Anchor QEA will conduct more analysis. Ecology will review projects for any water right concerns.
  + [Bainbridge Island storage projects](https://app.box.com/s/mvkpqrgsum4aeuqwvl79qtjqhu22d4id): Bob is working on detailed descriptions.
  + Belfair and Winslow WWTP: HDR is still looking into.
  + Mason County Rooftop Offset: HDR is working on analysis (coordinated method with Mason County and Ecology technical staff).
  + Bob walked through [a ledger](https://app.box.com/s/5ednny272a3q8aq2pjc13nl611rleydx) that shows the current projects being developed for PEW offset (direct streamflow benefit) and an estimate of consumptive use needs by subbasin.
    - Paul highlighted the subbasin transfer that would occur in the Belfair WWTP project. Although located in South HC, the water goes over the divide from the city, which is in SS.
    - Members discussed the [Schoolhouse Creek project](https://app.box.com/s/z75qx25kpf9t8xagi5g9cl8cnac0gkem), the only project on Anderson Island. Members would like to continue pursuing water rights or MAR opportunities on the island. However, if no offset projects are found, Paul requested the quantification of the habitat project be considered for offset as it contains a floodplain component.
    - No outreach has been conducted on the Port Orchard airport stormwater project. However, it seems that there are gravel reclamation plans, so using the pits and the area around it would not be conducive for stormwater collection. Paul is interested in transferring the captured stormwater. Bob will continue to look into opportunities with this project.
    - Paul proposed meeting offsets by subbasins (e.g. enough offset projects to meet the anticipated consumptive use from PEWs). Meaning that all the consumptive use for each subbasin must be met within the subbasin, not WRIA wide. Members agreed that given the WRIA’s geography and separation, spreading projects as such would be beneficial. However, John noted the concern that it could lead to the committee not approving the plan even if we exceed our offset need. Stacy will introduce this topic to the committee on 7/14 and tee up for decision/agreement at the August meeting (if appropriate).
    - Christian brought up the possibility of a source switch for a golf course in Bainbridge Island. There are no details at this time.
* Beaver project and policy focused meeting to prepare management recommendation and project package. WDFW has started internal talks, and Brittany brought up the possibility of having a general policy proposal included in the plan. Brittany, Sam, Alison, Kathy, Nate and Erik were interested in creating the WRIA 15 Beaver Task ForceTM. [Paulina thought we needed a cool name ☺] Stacy will raise with the committee and then schedule a meeting. We anticipate a 2 hour meeting in late July or early August to brainstorm a proposal package.
* Stacy requested members continue to bring forward recommendations for additional habitat or offset projects to develop in detail. There is potential interest in providing support to further development of land acquisition projects and possibly Schoolhouse Creek.
* Squaxin Island Tribe brought forward a revised [forest rotation proposal](https://app.box.com/s/98rgsj14yxzhakbmkl7y1j4euminkp0b) as a concept/feasibility study project. They received some feedback but will recirculate for consideration. Members did not bring up major concerns about including as a concept for future identification of studies or projects.

# Project List Organization

* The workgroup continued the discussion on project list organization and presentation in plan.
  + Ideas that were discussed at last meeting: organize by subbasin, organize tables based on level of detail and likelihood of implementation, and retain all project ideas in appendix.
  + Ideas that were discussed at this meeting: separate into two lists, one for offset projects and another for NEB projects; show offset contribution; organize by project stage; show funding; organize by expected implementation, long term and short term; show low hanging fruit.
  + Members requested that the list be presentable in another electronic format for electeds and decision makers as well. For example, a spreadsheet that can take all suggestions into consideration.
  + Members requested offset quantity, project sponsors, and project stage be included.

# Action Items and Next Steps

* Summary of action items for members:
  + Review water rights list and provide feedback to Burt.
* Summary of action items for chair and consultants:
  + Talk to PGG about water rights for islands.
  + Continued development of detailed project descriptions.
  + Schedule Beaver Task Force meeting.
  + Schedule next workgroup meeting (mid August).
  + Summarize project list organization ideas.
  + Prepare discussion guide for committee on several topics discussed by the workgroup.
  + Reach out to Nam and Alison regarding the Gig Harbor Golf Course project.