Meeting Notes

**WRIA 15 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement**

**Project Workgroup Meeting**

August 10, 2020 | 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## **Location**

Webex (see next page)

**Committee Chair**

Stacy Vynne McKinstry

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**Handouts**

Agenda

Water Rights Assessment

Project Inventory

Detailed Project Descriptions

**Document Links**

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

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

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

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

# Participants

Bob Montgomery (Anchor QEA), Burt Clothier (PGG), Stacy Vynne McKinstry (ECY), Joel Massmann (Keta Waters/Suquamish Tribe), Sam Phillips (PGST), John Covert (ECY), Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe), Seth Book (Skokomish Tribe), Austin Jennings (Pierce Co), Brian Stahl (KCD), Jon Turk (Aspect/Skokomish Tribe), Brenda Padgham (BILT), Erik Steffens (GPC), Greg Rabourn (King Co), Kathy Peters (Kitsap Co), Alison O’Sullivan (Suquamish Tribe), Joy Garitone (KCD), Dana Sarff (Skokomish Tribe)

# Update and Discussion on Water Rights Assessment

* Stacy shared a potential 3 tiered approach for how to present water rights projects in the plan.
  + 1st tier – water rights that have high reasonable assurance as we’ve completed initial research and outreach and there are no privacy concerns for showing in the plan. Provide brief summaries of the water rights in the plan and likely include their full offset value.
  + 2nd tier- water rights that have potential, but we have not been able to conduct outreach or there are privacy concerns; therefore there is a lower reasonable assurance that the water rights can be acquired. We will provide a more generic summary of the water right or groups of water rights to protect privacy, but the list of details will live with an entity (e.g. KCD). We may be able to include a small portion of the water right towards our offset need.
  + 3rd tier- general description of high priority areas (near anticipated growth “hotspots” or important stream reaches) where we want to pursue any water right opportunities that arise. While there is no reasonable assurance that water right acquisitions in these areas would move forward, there is value in including them in the plan to allow the projects to be considered a priority as they arise.
  + We will need to balance the amount of reasonable assurance we have for the water rights to move forward with how much of their offset value is considered in the plan. Committee will need to discuss and agree to the offset value to include in plan.
* KCD and PGG met a few weeks ago.KCD interested in managing the water rights list. Good inventory of agricultural water rights, but they are interested in looking at other water right opportunities.
* Burt walked through the water rights where we’ve received comments to date. Burt has done some additional tiering / ranking based on feedback – we are depending on committee feedback on the water rights and his work is all based on opinion.!
  + [Comments received on WS and BI water rights](https://app.box.com/s/h8gkxk2fcadeorod5awilt78q02w330e)
  + Stacy will post Burt’s spreadsheet with further refinement to Box as well as the sample water right description. We are seeking feedback on the water right description template.
  + Stacy will send Burt the VM water rights to consider.
  + Why are some water rights recommended to pursue or not? Based on committee member feedback – opinion that those uses won’t be available for other uses. If other folks have additional information or conflicting information, we need that!
  + List is evolving – can maintain list but also need to balance what projects can move forward now for inclusion in the plan vs live on a list for future considerations. KCD is interested in the entire water rights data set.
  + Who will pursue the project when the plan is approved? To the extent possible, we need to identify proponents for the water rights as we are doing with other projects.
  + Burt presented an example that would be used for internal discussions, not necessarily for inclusion in the plan. Stacy will share the sample for any feedback on other critical details to include. A little behind schedule with the summaries but hoping to move forward over the next few weeks.
  + Burt and Seth to connect on South HC.
  + Not ready to assign offset value to the water rights yet- will need to discuss with committee with a focus on Tier 1 projects. Work with proponent and Ecology and input from the committee to decide on offset vale.

# Updates and Additional Recommendations for Projects

* Bob provided an overview of each of the projects with detailed descriptions completed or in the works. [Detailed descriptions](https://ecy.box.com/v/WRIA15DetailedProjectDescr) are posted to Box as developed.
* The projects presented in the [summary offset by subbasin tracking sheet](https://app.box.com/s/5ednny272a3q8aq2pjc13nl611rleydx) are only the projects where we have quantified their offset value. It does not yet include water rights. The intent is for the plan to include all projects on the current project inventory unless a project is flagged for removal by committee members.
* Many detailed project descriptions updated/posted last week. HDR is continuing to work on some detailed descriptions (e.g. Mason Co rooftop infiltration – hoping to have early next week). Belfair and Winslow WWTP – very short summaries of where they are with these projects.
  + [Kingston WWTP](https://app.box.com/s/4471br18fksmdrz0cb01zxy90ex648j0) – expensive recycled water and infiltration project, but potential large impact.
  + [Central Kitsap WWTP](https://app.box.com/s/q2i20mj19dbv83qzb0gcxjllkfnwijrg) – some infrastructure in place, looking for extension. Benefit across subbasins. May need to look at GW model to look at impact of recycled water. Pretty involved study, which would likely be part of a feasibility study component for the project.
  + [Kitsap PUD Augmentation](https://app.box.com/s/g8y3jfs0dfsqbu5jrztrildnll6ag4mm) – potential to benefit many streams; scaleable. Squaxin Is Tribe uncomfortable with augmentation, concerned about widespread impact on other creeks. Opportunity is that these are water rights that have municipal purposes and can be used for augmentation activities. Water would not be available for other uses. Water rights are in good standing and KPUD is allowed to grow into them. May be some impacts – spread out, small – but would need to consider. Authorized and allowed. Benefit would be during low flow, but impact would be during the year. Concern expressed that the inchoate water may be large enough that would never grow into, would be additional hit on the water system. What is the cost? KPUD would seek funding for infrastructure and some of the process for discharge (de-chlorination).
  + Need to move discussion on the streamflow augmentation project to the committee – not agreement on whether or not to include as there are some concerns. Will need decision on whether or not to include in the plan. Stacy will touch base with Joel.
* Detailed project description on Mason Co rooftop project should be ready next week.
* [Belfair WWTP](https://app.box.com/s/qgqfhg2r64ykkbdd8i5b45jh7x70d8e6) –Project is permitted and operating at ½ capacity. Believe that this project is considered as already built/operating. Benefits may be long term. May be conceptual and multiple ways to address with different types of projects – possibly 10 years out. How much more evaluate the alternatives? How much more energy do we want to put into this project? Spend a couple more hours on phone with Squaxin, Mason Co to explore and then decide if worth spending more resources. Some gravel pits in area. Some potential for South HC and South Sound offsets.
* Bainbridge Island – 3 write ups on the storage projects ([Johnson Farm](https://app.box.com/s/csx93br20ew5sk94omnial729k4zyacw), [M&E Farm](https://app.box.com/s/6l29ui3m4tbccpent5vcv441ola3dht7), [Miller Rd](https://app.box.com/s/ekhxkfp47zrtfm7ho5g3giao3fw1tpiu)). ECY reviewing for Foster Decision implications. Brief project description on [Winslow WWTP](https://app.box.com/s/yarh6jgov889kt4a58o4rfvqgxreuvyy) available- golf club could potential be served with recycled water. COBI and Bob making calls to golf club to see if interest. Likely long term (10 years out). Would need to be cautious in how present.
* South Sound – [Port Orchard Airport MAR](https://app.box.com/s/hsq6k0555mnruk4t31t5dmx4ljvnk2s2). Also a long range project, based on future stormwater needs for the airport which is zoned as a business center. Would need additional HG work to look at infiltration capacity and where water would go to ensure no adverse impacts.
* [Gig Harbor](https://app.box.com/s/6otk187e8filc1vtye1f6lnpsihrqqnr) Golf Course – would have an immediate impact on Artondale Cr with a source switch, but potential Foster decision implications with source switch.
* Stacy and Bob will work on updated offsets by subbasin tracking sheet for September 3 Committee meeting.
  + If there are gaps, do we want to start looking at the MAR projects that John identified? They are available on the webmap[. John’s presentation on MAR and potential sites is on Box.](https://app.box.com/s/9rmloinrxr4zdv4i1bylikfw04jey8tl)
    - One up near Kitsap – MAR – may not be worth it, since near Kingston WWTP.
  + Need for fish bios to properly evaluate projects and look at benefit and impact on habitat. Please review these summaries and provide feedback.
* Recommendations for additional projects to develop in detail
  + Stacy will follow up with Brittany on Burley Creek and see if she has more ideas about specific projects.
  + For forest stand age, if GPC has a forested property that they are planning to turn into conservation and allow for longer rotation, could potentially link to water benefit. If specific projects now, could identify, otherwise a placeholder.
    - GPC has more conservation corridors – could potentially expand projects to include more upload forest and a better fit for the stand rotation. What about Rocky Creek corridor? There is a patchwork of properties with county ownership.
    - Stacy follow up with GPC.

# Refinement of Project Inventory

* We still have a very long list, which is fine, but want to make sure the committee is comfortable with all projects in the list. Stacy will plan to include the inventory in the draft plan for another review.
* People like big lists as adds flexibility if projects fall through.
* Organize by subbasin and project stage.
* Ask for review and revisions through the draft plan.

# Action Items and Next Steps

Workgroup action items:

1. Review the draft detailed project descriptions and let Stacy or Bob know if you have questions or concerns.
2. Review the latest water rights info and provide feedback.
3. Let Stacy know if you have concerns about any projects in the project inventory.
4. Let Stacy or Bob know if there are other projects that you’d like developed in detail.
5. Seth and Burt to connect to discuss South HC water right opportunities.
6. Squaxin Island Tribe to connect with Bob and Mason Co to discuss Belfair WWTP.

Stacy’s action items:

1. Send out a doodle poll to schedule a meeting for mid-September.
2. Check in with GPC about forest stand age rotation projection locations.
3. Check in with WDFW about Burley Creek restoration projects.
4. Post the new water rights info (inventory and sample descriptions) for workgroup feedback.
5. Provide Burt with the VM priority water rights to consider.
6. Share write ups on Belfair and Winslow WWTPs.
7. Work with Bob to update the “ledger” to share with the committee in September.
8. Work with Susan to incorporate a conversation on the KPUD streamflow augmentation project for the September committee meeting.

**WEBEX INFORMATION**

Meeting number: 133 959 6440

Password: WRIA15projects

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