

WRIA 15 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee

Policy Proposal “Open House” – Agenda, Format for Discussion, and Consideration

September 28, 2020

12:30pm to 5:00 pm

Webex – see below

[Link to WRIA 15 Policy Proposal Survey Results and Consolidated Comments](#)

[Link to Google Slides for Comments and Conclusions](#)

Process and Roles

- ***The key outcome for each policy proposal discussion today: Is there enough agreement on proposed revisions to further committee discussion?***
- We will start each policy proposal at the designated time. We may end early, but we will not go over time.
- The **facilitator** will begin each session with a reminder of the process and the amount of time available for the discussion.
- The **policy proponent** is responsible for leading the conversation to better understand the concerns and seek resolution if possible. The **facilitator** is there to assist the conversation as needed and provide reminders of the considerations for this process.
- The **support staff** will let the group know when 5 minutes is remaining.
- The **facilitator** will summarize the resolution or next steps verbally at the end of each proposal’s designated time, or when the discussion on the proposal concludes (whichever comes first). The **support staff** will capture resolutions or next steps on the google slides so they are visible to all participants.
- Participants should use the google slides to the extent possible to capture comments in writing.
- The facilitator/support staff will not take detailed notes. They will encourage participants to put comments in writing on the google slide, but it is the responsibility of the proposal proponent to capture detailed notes on potential revisions.
- The same webex link is used for all policy proposal discussions. Participants may sign in/sign off at any point in the meeting to join the policy proposal discussions they are most interested in or have feedback on.

WEBEX INFORMATION

Meeting number (access code): 133 416 7694

Meeting password: WRIA15Policies

[Webex Link](#)

Join by phone

+1-415-655-0001 US Toll

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Agenda

TIME	POLICY PROPOSAL	POLICY PROPONENT	FACILITATOR/ SUPPORT STAFF
12:30	Welcome, Reminder of Process and Roles		SVM and SG
12:30	P16 Drought Response Limit . Limit withdrawal of groundwater exempt from permitting under RCW 90.44.050 to no more than three hundred fifty gallons per day per connection for indoor use only. A limited exemption to outdoor water use is allowed for growing food, maintaining a fire control buffer, or supporting an environmental restoration project. Support for drought response will be provided by a water conservation program (separate proposal). This education and outreach program will educate the public about water conservation practices. Ecology will include these requirements in a package for rule-making. Propose legislation to apply this program to all PE wells statewide.	Squaxin Island Tribe (Paul Pickett)	SG/PL
12:50	P44 PEW Withdrawal Limits : Ecology will establish Permit Exempt Well limitations for this WRIA at levels similar to those set in the WRIA 1 rule: indoor domestic water use shall not exceed 500 gallons per day per connection, and shall not exceed a total of 3,000 gallons per day for a group domestic system; and outdoor domestic water use shall be limited to an area not to exceed a total of one-twelfth of an acre, or 3,630 square feet, for each connections, and one-half acre total for all connections in a group domestic system. Outdoor use limits are in addition to indoor water use. Outdoor water use areas may exceed these limits if all outdoor water use is for food production, fire protection, or an environmental restoration project.	Squaxin Island Tribe (Paul Pickett)	SG/PL
1:20	Policies to promote connections (<i>new proposal seeking early feedback</i>): The Plan should encourage the WRIA 15 Counties to review their current ordinances and plans to determine if a new or revised ordinance would improve the ability of Group A system owners to have a “right of first refusal” and prevent new PE wells for their existing customers. If opportunities for improvement are identified, the Counties are encouraged to pass ordinances to implement the identified areas of improvement.	Squaxin Island Tribe (Paul Pickett)	SG/PL
1:40	P28 Revolving Loan and Grant Fund for Small Public Water Systems : Investigate the feasibility of establishing and operating a revolving loan fund for Group A public water systems to offset costs for potential new PE wells to connect to a system.	Squaxin Island Tribe (Paul Pickett)	SVM/PL

	<i>Paul has revised the proposal based on feedback from the survey. He will discuss the revisions during the meeting.</i>		
2:00	BREAK		
2:10	<u>A26 South Sound County Planning Study –Streamflow Restoration Effectiveness:</u> Conduct a study of how planning and permitting in the four south sound counties supports protection and enhancement of streamflow restoration, through protection and enhancement of groundwater recharge and other mechanisms.	Squaxin Island Tribe (Paul Pickett)	SVM/PL
2:30	<u>A23 Water Supply Data for Comprehensive Water Planning:</u> This proposal identifies additional data needs to be developed including past permit exempt domestic water well and water use, all projected water use for the next twenty years and new water rights. The proposal recommends additional screening information to be developed and included in the plan.	Squaxin Island Tribe (Paul Pickett)	SVM/PL
2:50	<u>P45 Instream Flows and Trust Water Rights:</u> Review and update the WRIA 15 Instream Flow Rule (WAC 173-515) as needed to assure that instream flows are adequately protected.	King County (Joe Hovencotter) and Squaxin Island Tribe (Paul Pickett)	SVM/PL
3:20	<u>South Sound Water Steward and Protection of Instream Rights:</u> Develop administrative capacity to fully account for instream flows; to support management of instream flows and implementation for the plan, create a new position of a “South Sound Water Master.” <i>Paul and Joe have revised the proposals (and combined) based on feedback on the survey. They will discuss the revisions during the meeting.</i>	King County (Joe Hovencotter) and Squaxin Island Tribe (Paul Pickett)	SG/PL
3:40	<u>P47 Enable Ecology to Fully & Comprehensively Administer State Water Laws:</u> Ecology should be funded, staffed, and equipped adequately so that it can stand up and maintain a robust program to: measure and report water use to the full extent of the law; identify and document illegal water use; enforce against illegal water use and collect penalties; enforce standards for beneficial use and waste; ensure that water dedicated to instream flows actually remains instream; and ensure that land use, shoreline management, and stormwater programs respect and implement instream requirements.	King County (Joe Hovencotter)	SG/PL
4:00	Beaver Package. (see below): A five part package developed by a WRIA 15 Beaver Taskforce that includes 1. WDFW Priority Habitat Species (PHS) List; 2. Develop local	Beaver Taskforce Rep	SVM/PL

	beaver habitat management plans; 3. Map and protect likely beaver habitat; 4. Education & outreach; and 5. Monitoring & research.		
4:30	END		SG

Draft Beaver Package:

1. WDFW Priority Habitat Species (PHS) List

Support adding the American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) as a priority species to the PHS list and develop management recommendations. Provide guidance and implementation recommendations for Critical Areas Ordinance 2025 update (Kitsap, Pierce, King Counties). Explicitly highlight overlapping benefits with existing planning processes and similar policies.

2. Develop local beaver habitat management plans

Local governments would have to present plan to WDFW, consistent with WDFW's recommendations. Potentially create a template for homeowners to facilitate completion of plans (rather than hiring a technical consultant).

3. Map and protect likely beaver habitat

Identify potential easements to purchase and protect as beaver habitat. Combine mapping and modeling to understand both the water holding potential and beaver habitat suitability of selected areas.

4. Education & outreach

Connect with existing partners (e.g., KEEP, Conservation Districts, WSU Extension, West Sound Wildlife Shelter, KPS, Salmon Enhancement Groups, Local Nonprofits). Reach out to building community, homeowners, realtors, developers, KPA, property rights org, farm bureau, Kitsap Builders Association, lake districts, etc. Address known concerns (e.g., tree loss, hazard trees, encroaching on farmland, change of vegetation, flooding).

5. Monitoring & research

Monitor fish passage, groundwater levels, vegetation types, permits, BDA vs natural beaver habitat. Quantify where possible and define benefit from surface water / habitat perspective (e.g, temperature, streamflows, salmon, riparian vegetation, etc.).