

**Kitsap Peninsula (WRIA 15)**  
**Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee**  
**DRAFT April Meeting Summary**

*Thursday, April 4, 2019 - 9:30am to 12:30pm*  
*Kitsap Conference Center, 100 Washington Ave, Bremerton*

Please send corrections to [Stacy](mailto:Stacy.Vynnemckinstry@ecy.wa.gov) (Stacy.Vynnemckinstry@ecy.wa.gov) by April 24, 2019.

**Committee webpage:**

[https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1962/37327/watershed\\_restoration\\_and\\_enhancement\\_-\\_wria\\_15.aspx](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1962/37327/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_15.aspx)

**Agenda:**

|     | Topic   | Time    | Action                      | Handouts                                     | Lead  |
|-----|---|---------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 1.  | Welcome and introductions   | 9:30am  |                             |  | Chair   |
| 2.  | Approval of agenda and March meeting summary  | 9:35am  | Decision                    | - Agenda<br>- March summary (limited copies) | Facilitator and Chair                                       |
| 3.  | Updates and Announcements   | 9:40am  |                             |  | Chair and All   |
| 4.  | Ex-Officio Nominations<br><i>-consideration for including Washington Water Service and the Mason-Kitsap Farm Bureau as ex officio members</i>   | 9:50am  | Decision                    |  | Facilitator   |
| 5.  | Groundwater Models  | 10:10am | Presentation and Discussion |  | USGS and King County  |
| 6.  | Break   | 11:10am |                             |  |   |
| 7.  | Water Purveyor Panel Discussion   | 11:20am | Presentation and Discussion |  | Kitsap Public Utility District and Washington Water Service |
| 8.  | Public Comment  | 12:00pm |                             |  |   |
| 9.  | Debrief and Recommendations –<br><i>Reflection on panel discussions from March and April and discussion on approach to subbasins and growth projections to inform the workgroup and consultants</i> | 12:10am | Discussion                  |  | Chair, Facilitator  |
| 10. | Next Steps and Action Items   | 12:40pm |                             |  | Chair   |
| 11. | End   | 12:45pm |                             |  |   |

**Scheduled 2019 Committee Meetings:**

- Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:30am Eagles Nest Community Center, Bremerton
- Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 9:30am Eagles Nest Community Center, Bremerton
- Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup> Location TBD (brief meeting followed by example site visits)
- Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am Kitsap County Commissioner Chambers, Port Orchard
- Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:30am Kitsap County Commissioner Chambers, Port Orchard

- Thursday, November 7th, 9:30am Kitsap County Commissioner Chambers, Port Orchard
- NO COMMITTEE MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR JULY OR DECEMBER

#### Committee Representatives in Attendance\*

| Representative         | Entity Representing                         | Representative    | Entity Representing                      |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| Christian Berg         | City of Bainbridge (alternate)              | Brian Stahl       | Kitsap Conservation District (alternate) |
| Teresa Smith           | City of Bremerton                           | Dave Ward         | Kitsap County                            |
| Trent Ward             | City of Gig Harbor                          | Joel Purdy        | Kitsap Public Utility District           |
| Thomas Hunter          | City of Port Orchard                        | David Windom      | Mason County (alternate)                 |
| Becky Erickson         | City of Poulsbo                             | Dan Cardwell      | Pierce County                            |
| Stacy Vynne McKinstry  | Department of Ecology                       | Sam Phillips      | Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe              |
| Brittany Gordon        | Department of Fish & Wildlife               | David Winfrey     | Puyallup Tribe                           |
| Sandra Staples-Bortner | Great Peninsula Conservancy                 | Dana Sarff        | Skokomish Tribe (alternate)              |
| Greg Rabourn           | King County                                 | Paul Pickett      | Squaxin Island Tribe (alternate)         |
| Russ Shiple            | Kitsap Building Association                 | Alison O'Sullivan | Suquamish Tribe                          |
| John O'Leary           | Suquamish Tribe (alternate)                 | Austin Jennings   | Pierce County (alternate)                |
| Nam Siu                | Department of Fish and Wildlife (alternate) |                   |  |

#### Other Attendees\*

| Name               | Affiliation                       | Name           | Affiliation                     |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Stephanie Potts    | Ecology                           | Lonna Frans    | USGS                            |
| Gretchen Muller    | Cascadia Consulting (facilitator) | Steve Hirschey | King County                     |
| Angela Pietschmann | Cascadia Consulting (note-taker)  | Bob Hunter     | Kitsap Public Utility District  |
| Larry Boltz        | Mason-Kitsap Farm Bureau          | Melina Knoop   | Kitsap Public Health District   |
| Shawn O'Dell       | Washington Water Service          | Cami Apfelbeck | City of Bremerton               |
| Burt Clothier      | Pacific Groundwater Group         | Megan Kernan   | Department of Fish and Wildlife |

\*based on sign in sheet

#### Approval of Agenda and Meeting Summary

Gretchen requested changes to the agenda. No changes were proposed by Committee members. Stacy made requested revisions to the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting summary. Gretchen requested any additional changes to this summary. No changes received and the summary was approved.

#### Updates and Announcements

**Operating principles:** WRIA 15 Committee will continue to operate under approved operating principles while waiting on signatures from Skokomish and Squaxin Island Tribes. Once these signatures are received, Stacy will re-distribute the executed operating principles with full signatures.

**Outreach to health districts:** Stacy reached out to the health districts within WRIA 15. Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department will participate in workgroup meetings on an ad hoc basis depending on the workgroup topic. Stacy reached out to Kitsap but has not heard back yet.

**Technical support:** Ecology is negotiating a contract with [HDR](#) (based Olympia, WA) as well as [PGG](#) for a small portion of work. The team will cover WRIAs 10, 12, 13, 14, and 15. Ecology selected GeoEngineers to cover WRIAs 7, 8 and 9.

**Kitsap Building Association presentation:** Stacy presented to the Kitsap Building Association (KBA) Development Council on April 4<sup>th</sup> to introduce them to the new legislation and the work that the Committee is undertaking.

**Net Ecological Benefit (NEB) guidance:** Draft NEB guidance is anticipated for release right after the WRIA 15 May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Upon release, the public comment period will open for 30 days. Stacy will share information as it becomes available. Stacy will offer a WebEx in May to walk through the draft NEB guidance, focusing on what has changed since the interim guidance and offering an opportunity for Q&A. Any comments will need to be submitted via the formal public comment process. Final guidance is expected by July 31<sup>st</sup> and John Covert (Ecology Hydrogeologist and member of the Streamflow Restoration technical team) will give an in-depth presentation to the Committee after its release.

**Committee member updates:** There were no updates from Committee members.

### Ex Officio Nominations

Gretchen introduced two entities interested in joining the Committee as ex officio members:

**Larry Boltz, Mason-Kitsap Farm Bureau:** Larry is the Vice President and Board Member of the Mason-Kitsap County Farm Bureau and the Vice-Chair of the Mason Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Refer to Mason-Kitsap Farm Bureau's ex officio [proposal](#) on the Committee website for details. Committee members asked questions and discussed the Farm Bureau's participation on the WRIA 15 committee.

**Decision:** Stacy requested that the Committee postpone the decision on whether to approve the Farm Bureau as an ex-officio member until the May meeting. Stacy reminded the group that full Committee approval is needed to add ex-officio members.

**Shawn O'Dell, Washington Water Service:** Shawn is the Operations Manager at the Washington Water Service (Washington Water). Refer to Washington Water's ex officio [proposal](#) on the Committee website for details. Committee members asked questions and discussed Washington Water's participation on the WRIA 15 committee. The following organizations were mentioned during discussion.

- [WaterPAK](#) (Water Purveyors Association of Kitsap County)
- [Rural Water of Washington](#)

**Decision:** The Committee approved Shawn's ex-officio membership by consensus. Stacy will provide Shawn with operating principles for signature.

## Groundwater Model Presentations

### USGS Kitsap Groundwater Model:

Lonna Frans, Hydrologist at the Washington Water Science Center, provided an overview of the USGS Groundwater model and considerations for the Committee. See [presentation](#) on Committee webpage.

#### Questions and Discussion:

- Lonna explained that the ability for the model to predict water outcomes for specific mitigation project would depend on the scale. Site-specific scenarios often require local refinement in specific areas. This information could inform a smaller scale model. While models typically answer bigger questions, they can be converted to local areas.
- Lonna explained that to estimate recharge from septic systems, they look at outdoor consumptive use estimates and break out water use by month. They also look at average indoor water use. Outdoors there is a 90:10 split (consumption to recharge). Indoors there is an 80:20 split.
- Lonna clarified that the model's scale is a grey area. They typically model larger changes to the system, for example, "if we predict 1,000 new wells in this basin, on average, what impacts are we likely to see?"
- Whether the land changes associated with development are considered alongside estimates about new wells, depends on the scenario. USGS did take land use changes into account. Low impact development (LID) has greater recharge.
- Sea level rise can be factored into the model, but it may not have a big influence for this Committee's purposes.
- Sub-basins can be incorporated into the model. Lonna clarified that the model is free and available to anyone. The Committee can add a well wherever they want and see what the effects are (if any). She noted that shallower aquifers show more local effects and deeper aquifers have longer flow paths.

### King County Water Availability and Permitting Study

Steve Hirschey, King County Water Quality Planner, presented on the model King County used as part of their Water Availability and Permitting Study. See [presentation](#) on Committee webpage.

#### Questions and Discussion:

- It is challenging to predict 20 years out. Many areas will choose not to develop and there is a lot of variation. They did not put down a projected range of permit-exempt wells and used a 100% build-out assumption.
- There is specific information on Vashon-Maury Island. King County projected a lot of permit-exempt wells in this area.

## Water Purveyor Panel

During the March Committee meeting, there was a request to hear from the water purveyors in the watershed to learn more about how permit-exempt wells are addressed within their service areas, planning processes underway that may impact permit exempt wells, and to share other information relevant to the Committee's work. Gretchen introduced the water purveyor panel:

- **Bob Hunter**, Kitsap Public Utility District
- **Shawn O'Dell**, Washington Water Service
- **Melina Knoop**, Kitsap Public Health District

Melina explained that the [Wells & Drinking Water department](#) at Kitsap Public Health District conducts routine inspections according to local and state regulations and works to ensure drinking-water wells are properly located, designed, and built, while producing an adequate supply of water that meets strict standards for safety and quality. She clarified that the state defines a public water system as any well that serves more than one residential connection and classifies them by number of users:

- **Group B** systems serve between two and 14 connections.
- **Group A** systems serve 15 or more connections or 25 or more people per day for 60 or more days a year.
- Kitsap County has an **exemption** that allows a two-party residential system that meets certain criteria to be classified as a private well.

Bob explained that [Kitsap County's Coordinated Water System Plan](#) outlines service areas and water systems among the 12 major water purveyors. There are over 200 Group A water systems and various special purpose districts throughout the county. If a property owner within a service area requests to drill a permit-exempt well instead of hooking up to a water purveyor, Kitsap PUD gives them a denial letter and refers them to work with Kitsap Public Health District for private well approval. Melina noted they do not deny these requests as long as the property meets minimum lot size requirements. Certain areas within the Kitsap PUD service area have concentrations of exempt wells.

Bob elaborated on the requirement for purveyors to provide "timely and reasonable" connection to the water system. Purveyors respond to requests within 120 days (timeliness). Reasonableness is determined primarily through economics: is it more cost-effective to drill a private well or to connect to the public water system? For example, if there is only one home per ten acres of surrounding area, connecting to the public water system is likely too expensive. In this case, the best way to serve that property is to go through a rural provider, rather than Kitsap PUD building the necessary infrastructure to service those properties.

Shawn explained that even though Washington Water is investor-owned, they serve communities throughout the PUD service area, operating similarly to PUD. Washington Water typically does not allow private wells to be drilled within their service area because the Department of Health encourages residents to be on public water systems.

Bob explained that Kitsap PUD owns nearly 30 exempt wells and small Group B's. They manage 130 wells that they do not own but must visit each year to collect water samples and conduct mini sanitary surveys. Shawn added that at the end of 2017/18, Washington Water changed their business model, moving away from satellite management of water systems and concentrating on the systems they own.

Melina added that she is aware of 850 Group B water systems in Kitsap County. Many of these property owners take pride in the ownership of their well/water. Kitsap Public Health District now takes a

proactive approach to offering support to these owners, developing water user agreements, and performing annual permitting and check-ins.

**Questions and Discussion:**

- As a rural service provider, Kitsap PUD is not anticipating growth in the same way that cities do and therefore, growing their system is not a top priority. PUD prioritizes service the public, charging appropriate rates, and hooking up properties within a quarter mile of the public water system.
- About 1 residence per acre would be the point at which it is more cost-effective to use an exempt well in lieu of connecting to the water system. Depending on the location of the well and the homes, one well could potentially serve multiple homes. For example, a 20-acre parcel with all homes built in the same corner might be a good candidate for a 2-party or 4-party well. However, people who own 20-acre properties often want to live in the center of that property and manage their own well.
- If property owners meet the minimum criteria for an exempt well, the Public Health District does not push them to use public water. However, if they are proposing to create a new Group A or Group B well, the Public Health District will refer them to water purveyors.
- Looking at history and economic trends is a good indicator of where we can expect wells to be drilled. Local health districts get all well records twice a year and enter that information into their database. They could look year over year at how many wells go in.
- There is a perception among some people that it is “better” to have their own well. Even if public water was available for a cheaper fee, they want to preserve ownership and control over their water. Melina’s team works to educate the public on the benefits of having the option to connect to public water.
- Washington Water supports growth. While they are not encouraging drilling more wells, they are interested in consolidating water systems and growing/serving communities that they currently serve.
- There is a challenge in balancing growth. He believes an “if you build it, they will come” attitude works well in cities, but not in rural areas.
- A few times a year Public Health receive a request for a well that an owner wants to use for agriculture. Public Health works with Ecology to see if their irrigation plan meets the criteria for an exempt well.

**Mason County Paper on Domestic Use Water Model for WRIA 14**

David Windom walked through a [paper](#) he wrote that was distributed at the last meeting.

**Questions and Discussion:**

- How will the Committee allocate uncertainty and factors like size of roof, amount of rain, discharge, etc. Will these assumptions cause the group to under/over mitigate?
- Kitsap Conservation District has a program (partially funded through stormwater fee) with the goal of getting rain gardens and infiltration on every parcel in Kitsap County to infiltrate roof water onsite. There is currently a waiting list of people interested in this project. The program is geared towards retrofitting existing properties.

## Public Comment

Cami Apfelbeck (Water Utility Manager at City of Bremerton) cautioned the group around recommendations that require political action or policy changes. Hot button political issues should be vetted to understand the likelihood they will be successfully acted upon.

## Debrief and Recommendations

The Committee opened up discussion to reflect on the presentations over the last few months and provide guidance and direction as we move into upcoming decisions on sub-basins and growth projections.

### Questions and Discussion:

- Wells must be at least 18ft deep. They cannot be under the influence of surface water (in general 65ft). On the coast there are certain depth requirements to avoid saltwater intrusion.
- Several people have surface water permits and pull water directly from streams. King County sees a lot of properties pulling water from springs or creeks. There are also a number of hand dug wells in Kitsap County.
- Committee members requested an inventory of water rights to identify potential mitigation opportunities. Stacy will follow up with Ecology staff to identify the capacity need to pull this data as well as next steps for identifying water right acquisition opportunities.

## Next Steps and Action Items

### Committee Action Items

- Provide ideas for potential example project sites to visit following the short Committee meeting in August.
- Identify internal vetting process and timeline for decisions on subbasins and growth projections. Let Stacy know if delays anticipated.
- Send Stacy ideas for meeting venues.

### Chair Action Items

- Set up webex on draft final NEB guidance in May
- Set up meeting with interested tribes and farm bureau to discuss ex officio membership.
- Send Washington Water the operating principles for signature.
- Update committee webpage.
- Identify timeline and capacity availability for water rights inventory.