

WRIA 15 Workgroup Meeting Notes

April 17, 2019, 1-2pm

via webex

Participants: Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Austin Jennings, Dan Cardwell, Sam Phillips, John O'Leary, Joel Purdy, Dave Nash, Paul Pickett, Thomas Hunter, Doug Wood

Attachments: Squaxin Island proposal narrative, Squaxin Island proposal map, 4 excel spreadsheets with water rights tracking system information (GW, SW, R and summary), Golder Report on water availability

Agenda

1. Identify rep to report to committee on 5/2
2. Summary of 4/4 meeting
3. Update on technical consultant contract
4. Request for water rights info – Doug Wood from Ecology will share what information is available, caveats for the data attached to the email, and other information about what water resources can provide
5. Subbasins: share update on mapping underway and maps compiled to date; additional action items to support subbasin delineation/recommendations
6. Growth Projections: additional action items needed to support projecting new permit exempt wells
7. Develop agenda and identify needs for 5/2 meeting

Notes

Austin volunteered to provide a workgroup report out to the committee on May 2nd.

Water Resource Tracking System – Doug Wood (Ecology) walked through WRTS summary for WRIA 15 (see excel attachments). Report generated include a summary of information in database for Surface Water Rights, Ground Water Rights and Reservoirs. The majority of records in the system are paper claims, meaning they have not been validated. Certificates and permits are more accurate, but we don't know if they are actually being used. 80% of the records are short claims (likely permit exempt wells, using less than 5000 gpd) or long claims (includes quantities). Records are not reliable. They are assertions, not water rights. To know what is actually valid and being used, we would need an adjudication, court process. Very timely and expensive.

Mapping or GIS layers for withdrawals are limited, but we are able to pull some of the records into maps. Ecology is developing a map of what is available from the well log database.

USGS study is more reliable for what water is available for the basin. Unsure if this information is helpful for understanding subbasins, water availability, or water use.

The WRTS data could be helpful as a first step for acquisition opportunities but identifying the existing permitted water rights.

Metering records are restricted to purveyors and large agriculture. Doug is not aware of any large agr in Kitsap that is metered.

Information on Qa, Q1 – summary provided in Doug’s summary table.

Next steps: workgroup to sit with data for a few weeks and identify if there is a use for the WRTS data as part of the streamflow process. Stacy to share WRTS data with consultants. Stacy to talk to acquisitions staff about beginning an assessment in WRIA 15.

Subbasins: Stacy will provide criteria and considerations the workgroup has discussed to date to the HDR team.

Stacy to share Paul’s map and narrative proposal with the workgroup and HDR team. Paul looked at several criteria related to salmon streams and where wells are likely to go. (See Squaxin Is narrative and map).

Feedback on the Squaxin Is proposal:

- Lots of basins for only 1/3 of the watershed. Might be ~20 basins if expand this approach across the basin.
- This is a big and complex WRIA, so may need more subbasin than other WRIAs.
- Consider merging some of the northern subbasins in this southern part of the WRIA.

Feedback after meeting:

- Kitsap County– wants to see larger subbasins, fewer numbers.
- WDFW- supports Paul’s sub-basin proposal for south Sound. Might consider adding WDFW hatcheries on both Minter and Coulter Creeks.

Next Meeting: in person at Eagles Nest following the Committee meeting ~12:45-3:00pm. Susan will likely facilitate.

Continue sending feedback, thoughts and needs for subbasins and growth projections.

Stacy will share webmap as soon as available.