Snohomish (WRIA 7)
Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee
Meeting Summary

Committee webpage:
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37310/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_7.aspx

Next Meeting: December 2018 TBD

Meeting Information

Thursday, October 25, 2018
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm
2702 Hoyt Ave, Everett (Everett Public Library)

Agenda

	Topic	Time	Action	Handouts*	Lead
1.	**Welcome**	1:00 pm	None	- Agenda	Chair
2.	**Introductions**	1:10 pm	None		All
3.	**Overview of Streamflow Restoration Act (ESSB 6091) and Committee Purpose**	1:30 pm	Presentation and discussion	- Streamflow Restoration Act (ESSB 6091) Overview - ESSB 6091 map - WRIA 7 map	Chair
4.	**Break**	2:15 pm		-	
5.	**Breakout session: share expectations for Committee and Plan**	2:20 pm	Activity and discussion		All
6.	**Next steps**	3:15 pm		-Documents distributed following meeting	Chair
7.	**Public comment**	3:25 pm	Questions/ comments from members of public.		Chair
8.	**Close**	3:30 pm			

*All handouts are available on the Committee website

Committee Representatives in Attendance

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Kirk Lakey	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Jim Miller	City of Everett
Ben Swanson	City of Monroe	Mike Remington	City of Duvall
Jennifer Knaplund	City of Duvall (Alternate)	Ingria Jones	Department of Ecology
Bobbi Lindemulder	Snohomish Conservation District	Lindsey Desmul	Department of Fish and Wildlife (Alternate 2)
Erin Ericson (Alternate)	Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District	Josh Grandlienard	City of Arlington
Janne Kaje (Alternate)	King County	Brant Wood	Snohomish Public Utility District #1
Glen Pickus	City of Snohomish	Terri Strandberg	Snohomish County
Matt Eyer	City of Marysville	Jamie Burrell	City of North Bend
Steve Nelson	City of Snoqualmie	Matt Baerwalde	Snoqualmie Tribe
Angie Sievers	Master Builders Assoc. King and Snohomish Counties	Susan Adams	Washington Water Trust
Emily Dick	Washington Water Trust (Alternate)	Daryl Williams	Tulalip Tribes

Committee Representatives not in Attendance

Name	Representing
Kim Peterson	Town of Index

Other Attendees

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Ginette Chin	HDR	Amanda Cronin	Amp Insights
Lynn Turner	Anchor QEA	Megan Kernan	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Elissa Ostergaard	Snoqualmie Watershed Forum	Martin Gibbins	League of Women Voters of WA
Perry Falcone	Snoqualmie Watershed Forum	Gretchen Glaub	Snohomish County (Snohomish Salmon Recovery Forum)
Liz Ablow	Seattle City Light	Ria Berns	Department of Ecology
Stacy Vynne	Department of Ecology	Stephanie Potts	Department of Ecology
Tim Woolett	City of Carnation	Morgan Ruff	Tulalip Tribes

Presentation on ESSB 6091/RCW 90.94

Presentation available on committee webpage.

Summary of questions and discussion:

Process of plan approval and assurances for plan implementation: The Committee's plan will need to demonstrate reasonable certainty that projects are feasible, will be implemented, and will provide ecological benefits. This will be part of Ecology's Net Ecological Benefit assessment of the plan. Ecology's interim guidance on Net Ecological Benefit (NEB) describes examples of assurances.

Prioritization of projects and plan requirements: At a minimum, the Plan must offset the total projected consumptive use from permit-exempt domestic wells over the next 20 years. These offsets will be met with water-for-water projects, with projects that are in-time (during the same time as water use) and in-place water projects (within the same stream/sub-basin as the impact) receiving the highest priority. Non-water projects are in addition to water-for-water projects. The plan needs to have an offset plus an additional lift to meet NEB.

Ecology's water right permitting process is still bound to in time, in place mitigation. This law broadens that a bit. It may be impossible to offset each well in kind, so we are able to go a bit outside of the specific area of impact. The goal and highest priority is to find perfect in time and in place offset water, however where this isn't possible the Committee can identify other projects.

A picture of the McElhoe Pearson restoration project was included in the slides. The specifics of the project would determine whether it would provide a water-for-water offset. Ecology will organize several field tours of streamflow restoration projects to help create a shared understanding of the Snohomish basin and how certain projects could fit into the Plan.

The legislature authorized $300M for a statewide funding program. The $350 fee (non-administrative portion of the $500 building permit fee) is invested in WRIA 7 watershed projects. Ecology is still developing the process and account for management of these fees.

There are 4 permit-exemptions under RCW 90.44.050. Stock watering and industrial are not mentioned in the legislation, Ecology does not know if this was intentional or not.

Snohomish County commented on growth projections, explaining that Counties receive high, medium, low projections from OFM and works with cities to distribute their share. The County has never allocated rural growth by subbasin, so will need to figure out how this will work. In many rural areas, houses will connect to county water (there are ~25 small water districts between Stillaguamish and Snohomish). Most of these homes won't hook up to sewer and are mostly on septic systems.

The first major task of the Committee is to come up with rural projections, possibly by sub-basin, to offset consumptive use. There may be several different growth and projections and the Committee will need to choose a defensible projection for their plan. We can learn about this process from the two basins on a fast-track planning process, who have already completed this step.

Ecology has guidance on estimating consumptive use and staff to provide technical support, but will need the opinion and expertise of Committee members. Ecology recognizes the need for a map of all the water districts within the WRIA to address specifics. Ecology anticipates a range of growth projections and will look to counties to help. There is not perfect alignment between this planning process and County comprehensive plan update timelines, so the Committee will have to manage uncertainty. An uncertainty analysis can also assist in decision-making. The Committee needs to determine the target

that it wants to offset and there will be an opportunity to shape what the analysis looks like. Ecology can contract out some support for extrapolation building from existing data.

The potential for future sewer connections to change consumptive use estimates can depend on County policies, timing of sewer connections, and planned UGA expansions. If there are uncertainties, the Committee can include these in an uncertainty analysis.

Ecology also recognizes the need to coordinate and communicate with WRIA 8 regarding groundwater boundaries and return flows. Some water districts may receive water from a different basin that where they serve water and/or discharge treated wastewater.

Ecology is considering the timeline for local plan approval (e.g. each jurisdiction) and has been fleshing out a more detailed timeline for the Committee's planning process. Ecology will also provide lead time on major decision points throughout the planning process.

Breakout Session on Expectations and Concerns[1]

Comments on Flipcharts – see flipchart images at end of document.

Expectations	**Concerns**
Training so Committee can make good decisions	Scope creep
Stay productive and keep moving decisions forward	Unclear of expectations for what plan will look like
Leadership from chair to guide Committee toward consensus	Unclear of expectations for implementation timeline
Stay focused on scope	Where does climate change fit in?
Identify projects that actually result in streamflow restoration	Perverse incentive built into the grant program e.g. more development outside UGA=more $
Balance agricultural priorities with habitat projects	Estimating benefit from water storage projects
Opportunities with water catchment related to agriculture	Small city staff capacity for grant proposals
Include benefits from retiring existing exempt wells (i.e. King County acquisition projects)	Misalignment with growth planning
Accomplish stream restoration	Amount of resources that could go into growth projections
Assistance with identifying high priority projects, especially for small cities i.e. non-water projects that benefit salmon	Irrigation efficiency for potential water offsets- pluses and minuses
Coordination with agricultural resiliency plan, Forum, and Farm, Fish, Flood	Pressure on cities to serve new users within their UGSs with existing water rights
Communication with public and citizens.	System improvements outside UGAs
Plan that responds to changes over the 20 years.	Awareness of bigger picture
Clear direction to jurisdictions e.g. clear process for well drilling and building permits for domestic users	Sacrificial sub-basins

[1] Duplicate comments were merged.

Incentivize cleaning up abandoned wells (decommission for credit) and create certainty surrounding existing exempt well use	Plan sits on shelf…planning purgatory
Coordination with Snohomish Basin Forum (use their technical Committee to identify and review projects) and Snoqualmie Forum. Capacity for this support.	Plan and project accountability and enforcement
Focus on projects upstream of Snoqualmie Falls	How consensus is defined
Improve conditions for salmon. Cool, clean, clear quantity. Channel enhancement.	Limited project implementation capacity
Guidance for cities.	Use of inchoate municipal water rights to "solve" rural growth
Clearly defining the "problem"	Definition of Net Ecological Benefit
Good technical input into plan/process	Lack of funding for feasibility studies
Process for addressing trans-basin transfers (e.g. septic recharge credit)	What happens after 20 years? Water issues get tougher moving forward. Water planning not a 20-year thing
Work with Salmon Recovery Forum to identify projects	Not looking at municipal, agricultural water use-missing the big water uses/bigger picture
Successfully create streamflow restoration and allow domestic growth	
Develop UGA expansion processes re: water use	
Explore more reasonable per connection allocation (than 950 gpd)	
Ecology rulemaking has no match requirement	
Flexibility around project riparian buffers	
Connection between project identification, funding, and plan implementation	
Consider climate change projections	
Agreement on data metrics e.g. consumptive use	
Account for development back to January 2018	
Committee considers which streams might need instream flow rules	
Opportunities for assessments for project feasibility	
Define, understand, measure success	
Strategy for implementation after planning is completed. Who will do projects?	
Aligned with existing group and re-energize/accelerate work	
Committee input on where funding goes	
Clarity on process so not stymied, confused. Shared vision.	

During the breakout session, several similar expectations and concerns were identified. There were common concerns regarding the need to constrain the scope of the planning process, clarifying the role

of cities on the Committee, and potentially limited funding and/or capacity to implement the plan. There was a shared expectation among several Committee members that the Committee coordinate efforts with salmon recovery efforts and have strong technical input

Additional Comments

The Chair invited the agricultural, environmental, and residential construction committee representatives to introduce themselves. Environmental: Washington Water Trust; Agricultural: Snohomish Conservation District; Residential Construction: Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties.

Storage and recharge project considerations for consumptive use and offset calculations: The source and location of the storage will be key to calculating NEB. Ecology has issued interim guidance on NEB and is accepting input on the final guidance through 11/8.

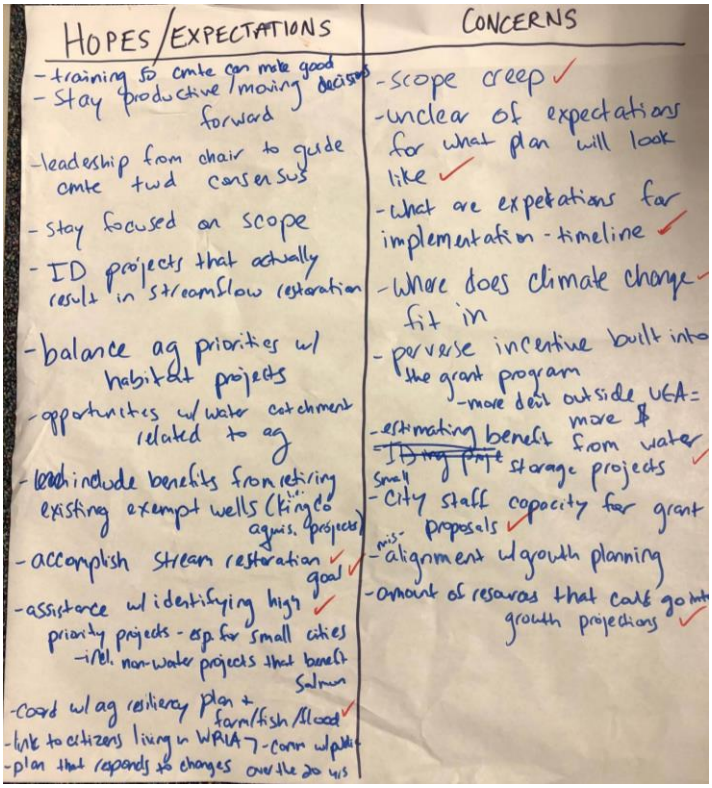
Next Steps

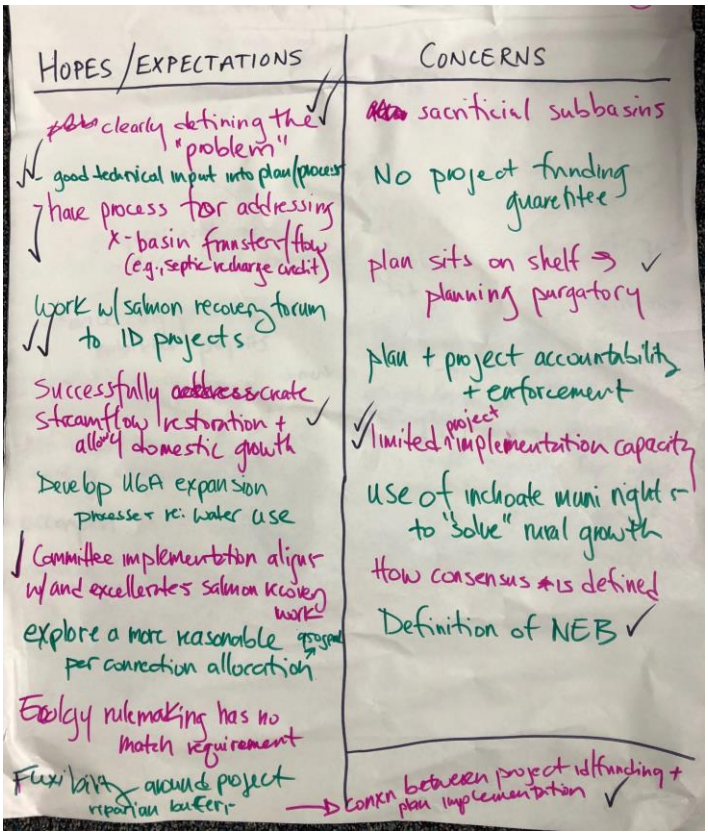
- Ecology will provide a means for other staff to comment on expectations and concerns.
- Ecology will schedule the next meeting for early to mid-December.
- Starting in January, we anticipate having a set day of the month and a set location for future meetings.
- Ecology will communicate with salmon recovery lead entities and local integrating organizations to discuss opportunities and concerns regarding formal/informal engagement in the planning process.
- The next meeting will focus on operating principles. Ecology will provide a copy of draft operating principles for review and discussion at the meeting.
- Ecology will set up a number of trainings over the next few months to bring everyone up to a similar level of base knowledge to ensure we can have informed discussions and decisions going forward. Ecology will distribute a survey for Committee members to identify their preferred training topics.
- Ecology has created a committee webpage where Ecology will post all meeting related materials. Link to Committee webpage: https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37310/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_7.aspx

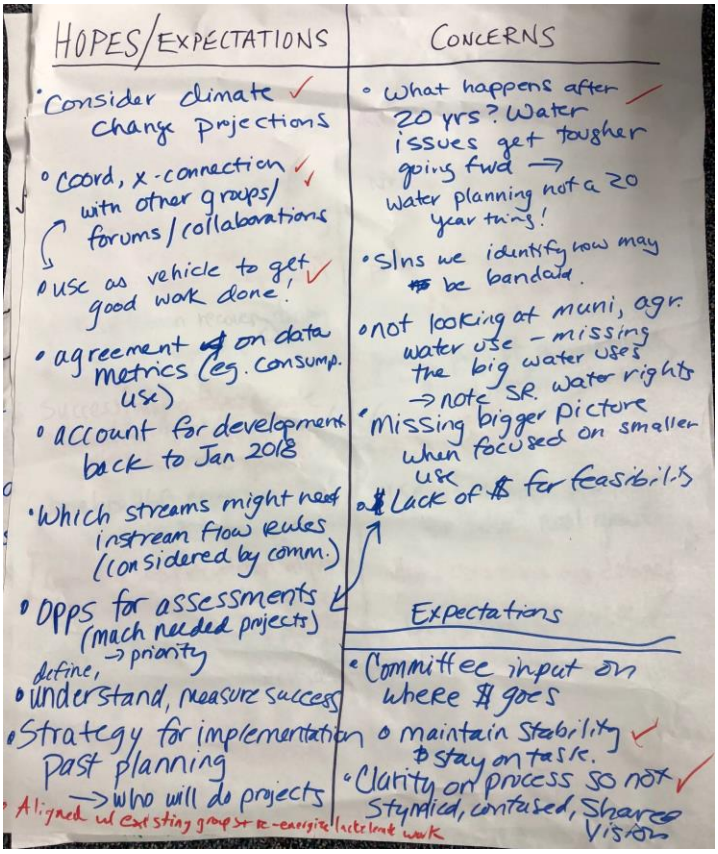
Committee Member Action Items

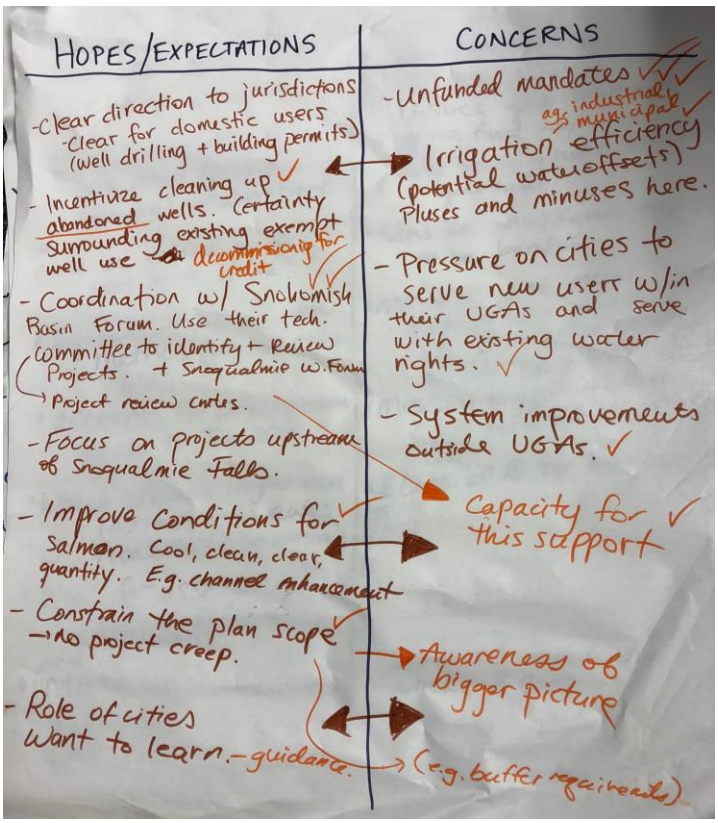
- Review draft operating principles and procedures document and provide input ahead of the meeting. Come prepared to discuss at the December meeting.
- Consider the following topics for discussion:
    - Formal or informal engagement with other collaborations/committees (e.g. salmon recovery lead entities, local integrating organizations, etc) – necessary? What would engagement look like?
    - New name for the committee?

Flipcharts from breakout sessions






HOPES/EXPECTATIONS
CONCERNS
Consider climate change projections
coord, x-connection with other groups/ forums/ collaborations
use as vehicle to get good work done!
agreement on data metrics (eg. consump. use)
account for development back to Jan 2018
Which streams might need instream flow rules (considered by comm.)
Opps for assessments (much needed projects) → priority
understand, measure success
Strategy for implementation past planning → who will do projects
What happens after 20 yrs? Water issues get tougher going fwd → Water planning not a 20 year thing!
SIns we identify now may be bandaid.
not looking at muni, agr. water use - missing the big water uses → note SR. water rights
Missing bigger picture when focused on smaller use
Lack of $ for feasibility
Expectations
Committee input on where $ goes
maintain stability to stay on task.
Clarity on process so not stymied, confused, Shared Vision


HOPES/EXPECTATIONS
CONCERNS
-Clear direction to jurisdictions -Clear for domestic users (well drilling + building permits)
- Incentivize cleaning up abandoned wells. Certainty surrounding existing exempt well use
- Coordination w/ Snohomish Basin Forum. Use their tech. committee to identify + Review Projects. + Snoqualmie W. Forum
Project review cycles.
- Focus on projects upstream of Snoqualmie Falls.
- Improve conditions for salmon. Cool, clean, clear, quantity. E.g. channel enhancement
- Constrain the plan scope → no project creep.
- Role of cities Want to learn. - guidance.
-Unfunded mandates
ag, industrial, municipal
Irrigation efficiency (potential water offsets) Pluses and minuses here.
- Pressure on cities to serve new users w/in their UGAs and serve with existing water rights.
- System improvements outside UGAs.
Capacity for this support
Awareness of bigger picture
(e.g. buffer requirements)