

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

Please send corrections to Ingria Jones (ingria.jones@ecy.wa.gov) by January 8th, 2019

Committee webpage:

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1962/37310/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_7.aspx

Next Meeting: January 10th, 12:30-4:00 pm, Everett Transit Center

Meeting Information

Wednesday, December 19

12:30-4:00 pm

15600 1st Ave NE, Duvall, WA (Duvall Fire Department)

Agenda

	Topic	Time	Action	Handouts	Lead
1.	Welcome and introductions	12:30pm	None		Chair
2.	Approval of agenda and minutes	12:45pm	Vote	- Agenda - October minutes	Chair
3.	Operating Principles	1:00pm	Activity, presentation and discussion	- Draft Operating Principles	Facilitator
4.	Break	2:45pm			
5.	Watershed geography overview	3:00pm	Presentation		Chair
6.	Next steps	3:30pm	None		Chair
7.	Public comment- limit to 3 minutes per person	3:45pm	None		Facilitator
8.	Adjourn	4:00pm	None		Chair

*All handouts are available on the Committee website

Handouts:

1. Agenda
2. Draft Operating Principles

SCHEDULED 2019 MEETINGS

Thursday, January 10, 2019: Everett Transit Center

Thursday, February 14, 2019: TBD

Thursday, March 14, 2019: TBD

Thursday, April 11, 2019: TBD

Thursday, May 9, 2019: TBD

Summer 2019: We will likely meet one or two times and have a project site visit

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
Ingria Jones	Department of Ecology	Daryl Williams	Tulalip Tribes
Lindsey Desmul (alternate)	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Tim Woolett	City of Carnation
Cynthia Krass	Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District	Mike Wolanek	City of Arlington
Janne Kaje	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
Susan Adams	Washington Water Trust	Julie Lewis (alternate)	Snoqualmie Tribe
Angie Sievers	Master Builders Assoc. King and Snohomish Counties	Emily Dick (alternate)	Washington Water Trust

Committee Representatives not in Attendance*

Representing	Representing
Town of Index	Snohomish Conservation District

Other Attendees*

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Perry Falcone	Snoqualmie Watershed Forum	Martin Gibbins	League of Women Voters of WA
Kevin Lee	Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)	Gretchen Glaub	Snohomish County (Snohomish Salmon Recovery Forum)
Elizabeth Garcia	Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)	Alex Chen	Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)
Stacy Vynne	Department of Ecology	Susan Gulick (facilitator)	Sound Resolutions
David Hartley	Snoqualmie Tribe		

*Attendees based on sign-in sheet.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Agenda modifications: there were no proposed changes to the December agenda.
- Susan sought corrections to the October 25th meeting summary. Ingria did not receive comments in advance on the draft meeting summary. All committee members in attendance

approved the meeting summary. Ecology will post the final meeting summary on the committee webpage.

Operating Principles

Group Exercise

The committee discussed two questions in small groups: 1) what makes you feel like a respected member of a group; 2) what is one thing you want your committee members to know about your organization's/government's interest in this process.

Groups reported out:

Respected member of group (summarized): Time is respected; being actively listened to; no side conversations; being heard; no distractions, being paid attention to; ground rules resonate; respecting different points of view; members of the group being open to new ideas and receptive to recommendations; recognition that we are stronger when we collaborate together – can move forward big things; listen to others ideas and understand perspective; efficiency of meeting (start on time, meaningful content, etc.); being invited is a gesture of respect; active participation and attendance; clarity of purpose – who's asking us to solve what and why.

Interest in this process (summarized): Support strong process and committee needs; maintaining and restoring flow for fish; improvement; want to eliminate older water rights (where makes sense) and look at opportunities for storage; don't blend our process with Foster Task Force; engaging agricultural community and increasing understanding and community building; protecting agricultural water rights; ensuring that nothing impacts our entity; land use planning and issuance of permits, accommodating growth, seek balance between different demands for water; for small towns with restricted boundaries, ensure adequate water resources to serve projected growth and interest is in surrounding areas; protection of fish life, deal with anything that impacts the bed, bank or flow; community resonates with the environment – want to protect and restore; be at table and help shape the solution; balance of needs for public water supply and exempt wells; identify win-win ideas; find comprehensive solutions that meet different needs, hopefully with extra for restoration; priority is water for water projects; improved conditions for salmon; ensure all have access to water; commitment to clean water – how can we leverage good ideas and partnerships to support and make net gains in conditions; balanced, defensible, technical outcome; support rapidly growing cities; hope for parallels with Foster Task Force.

Operating Principles

Susan provided an overview of the operating principles. She then opened up for discussion by section.

Section 7:

- Interim decision-making: The Committee discussed striving for consensus because final plan must be approved unanimously. The majority vote (2/3) will be used as an off-ramp if the Committee can't reach consensus on interim decisions. Chair can call for vote.
 - Vote can only be called if quorum is present (2/3 of members). When calculating quorum, should always round up. Chair would use discretion about voting if poor attendance. Ingria will add language about postponing a vote if poor attendance.

- The Committee discussed levels of consensus and there was a recommendation that consensus be defined as all members falling on a scale of agreement, with no one violently objecting. Ingria will add a definition of consensus.
- The Committee discussed challenges associated with majority voting for interim decisions. While there was concern over relying on majority voting, the Committee members seemed comfortable with a 2/3 majority vote, in the event that efforts have been made to reach consensus and consensus cannot be reached. Recommendation to revisit a decision later in the process to see if issues remain. There was a comment that there will be several parts to the plan and members may not like parts of the plan, but may agree on the full package. There was also a comment that Committee needs to make progress so it can give as much information as possible to Ecology, in the event that full approval not reached. Ingria will leave in 2/3 approval for decisions, after attempts have been made to reach consensus.
- Cities caucusing: any entity can caucus if they want to. Ecology thought this would be most applicable to cities. A representative from a caucus could attend on behalf of the caucus and have their own operating principles.
 - The Committee discussed whether or not to allow for caucusing of entities or interest groups. Concern was expressed by some members of the Committee that caucusing could impact the ability to approve the final plan as it is critical to hear first-hand concerns. The Committee recognized that there is limited capacity for some entities to attend, but ultimately recommended removing any reference to caucusing in the operating principles.
 - The committee encourages informal caucusing during or outside of meetings.
 - Alternates need to be specified on the commitment letter submitted to Ecology.
- Electronic Voting: Agreement to keep.

Section 3:

- Organization: Consider moving to end of document. Change the tribal language to make more general and not include specific tribes.

Section 4:

- Disappearing members: Add language on disappearing members.
- Review materials: the Committee discussed the need for adequate time to review materials and suggested adding language in the operating principles. The Committee agreed that more lead time helps to ensure meaningful discussion. Most people seemed comfortable with a minimum of 7 days to review materials prior to meeting. There was a recommendation that Committee members reserve time ahead of each meeting to prepare.
 - Local Review: The Committee discussed the importance of seeking local review from their entity before voting. Recommendation to include language on lead-time for voting in the operating principles. Recommendation that members inform the chair ASAP if they anticipate needing additional time for vetting big decisions.
 - Ecology is working on refining a detailed document on big decisions to present to the Committee in January. Chair will ensure everyone is aware of big decisions in advance.

- While Committee may get to interim agreement on operating principles in January, will wait until February to vote so members can seek entity approval.
- Remote participation: Committee wants to allow for voting on the phone as well as active participation, however, remote participation will be discouraged and will be reserved for exceptions. Remote participants will receive the same status as everyone at table as long as technology works and is not disruptive. They will be included in a quorum. Ingria will bring in draft language from other committees regarding remote participation.
- Ground Rules: The interim flipchart ground rules will be merged with those in the operating principles. Include no side conversations.
- Ex Officio Membership: discussed several entities' interest in ex-officio membership.
 - The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum expressed interest as ex officio membership. The Forum is an Inter-local agreement between the cities, counties, and has been working on salmon recovery and watershed health since 2001 and has input from city representatives. Janne spoke on behalf of the group and encouraged the Committee to consider bringing on the Forum as an ex officio.
 - Snohomish Forum may be interested as well – need further discussion.
 - Ingria specified Committee will not vote to add ex-officio members until operating principles are completed, but will discuss further in January.
 - Latecomers: The Committee discussed the challenges associated with latecomers and would like to push forward the date to allow latecomers. Committee wants to allow for flexibility, but recognizes importance of relationships. Some members would like to close the committee to latecomers now, some want to give more time. Recommendation for a deadline of March 1, 2019, which would ensure no major decisions made before latecomers arrive. If the process is closed to latecomers, there are other avenues for participation (ex officio membership, work groups, etc.).
 - Ecology needs to confirm with legal that we can close the membership. Ingria will contact all entities that declined participation to confirm decision and convey latecomer provisions.

Section 6:

- Dissenting opinions: will be communicated and documented for the record in meeting summary or as separate report. Ingria will ensure this is in the operating principles. No comments from Committee members.

Section 8:

- Delete and include language as disclaimer on materials.

Section 9:

- Public engagement. No comments from Committee members.

Section 10.

- Workgroups: recognition that existing groups in this basin, especially technical groups, have tremendous knowledge and Committee may be able to direct tasks to these groups. Ingria will include language in the operating principles about the use of existing workgroups.

Section 11:

- Media communication: What if someone does try to speak on behalf of the committee and misrepresents us? Ecology will likely address any misinformation. Important that we remind the Committee of how to engage with the media if we do see interest. Ecology can work on procedures if there is an issue (e.g. offer corrections).

Susan summarized feedback from the committee on the operating principles.

- Voting – 2/3 of Committee members must be present to have quorum and then 2/3 of those present (in person or phone) must vote in approval for the motion to pass.
- Clarify whether appendices are part of operating principles (e.g. list of entities)
- Consider removing Appendix B as may change frequently
- When calculating 2/3 majority for establishing a quorum or taking a vote, round up.
- Add signature section to operating principles acknowledging agreement.

Watershed Geography Overview

Ingria presented a broad overview of the geography in the watershed.

Questions and comments on presentation:

- Water purveyor map does not include tribal water purveyor. Map data is from WA DOH and tribal water purveyors report to EPA.
 - Streamflow team at Ecology does have some mapping support for the planning process. Ecology can gather data layers to figure out how to develop a useful map for discussion.
- Ingria encouraged committee members to send data relevant to the planning process, including relevant reports, data sources, or GIS shape files, as an initial step. A technical work group will further develop data sharing process.
- Snohomish Surface Water Mgmt. has limited capacity to offer support but can provide data.

Additional Comments

- The committee recommended content for future meetings.
 - King County's science section has done a lot of work on climate change impacts in these basins. Could provide presentation to the group in the future.
 - University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group has done intensive studies.
- Ingria will send rough schedule of presentations for input. Please send additional ideas
- The committee recommended content for next meeting's instream flow rules presentation:
 - Discuss what the instream flow numbers mean and how they were developed.
 - Discuss SWSL (Surface Water Source Limitations) – source streams, etc.
 - Information on how often minimum flows are met in the basin.
 - Impacts of climate change on instream flows.
- Magnitude of the problem: Do we know how many exempt wells there are in the watershed and how many are going in each month?

- Well logs are submitted to Ecology and, since the passage of the statute, the counties are collecting fees and issuing building permits. Ecology and counties have data on existing exempt domestic wells, but data are not perfect (e.g. use, location).
- Salmon Recovery Coordination:
 - Gretchen Glaub, on behalf of the lead entity (Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum) discussed interest in coordination with the committee and planning process. There is a technical review committee that is interested in engaging. Capital project grant manager that may also be available. Folks around the table are fairly knowledgeable of the lead entity. Lead entity likely won't be able to participate fully but we will work collaboratively and make most use of expertise.
 - Perry Falcone, on behalf of the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, would like to see coordination between the Forum and the committee. The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum has many elected officials, which would be a good connection to bring to the table. Would like to see coordinate with capital projects. Could also take burden off Ecology to attend Forum meetings to update the group – Forum staff could participate in this process and provide updates to Forums.
 - Alex Chen, on behalf of the City of Seattle and Seattle Public Utilities, is interested in participating, and seeing what their role could be in effort. Question of why Seattle not a full representative. Ingria explained that legislation invites only cities within the WRIA. Even though Seattle's water supply is here, Ecology may not invite additional voting members to the committee that are not identified in the legislation. Some members supported including City of Seattle as an ex officio member.
 - Question of whether King County Health should be an ex officio member.
 - Susan (facilitator) recommended teeing up agenda items for future meetings on coordination with other groups. When suggesting an invitation, provide a summary of group, why you are recommending them, and what role they would play as either ex officio or workgroup member. Ingria will work on briefings about Snohomish Forum, Snoqualmie Forum, and City of Seattle. She recommends consideration of ex officio members in the coming months to start relationship sooner rather than later. Maybe after approval of operating principles.
- Connection between Committee and Streamflow Restoration Grant Program: What role does this committee have in the funding program?
 - Ingria provided some background. Streamflow program has statewide funding for projects. Funding rule and planning are a bit distinct. Projects within a planning basin and projects identified in a Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan are prioritized. Fish and Wildlife helped rank projects this year. Ecology leadership is also considering input from tribes. Ingria will draft language in the operating principles about letters of support from the committee for grant applications.

Next Steps

- Next meeting will be on Thursday, January 10th at the Everett Transit Center.
 - Items for discussion: revised operating principles, ex officio members, formation of a technical workgroup, instream flows
- Future meetings: 2nd Thursdays 12:30 pm -4:00 pm

- Calendar invitation cancellation was sent for the January 10th meeting, however committee members should have a standing meeting calendar invite (which includes the January 10th meeting).
- Chair will verify that committee members have standing meeting calendar invitation.
- Chair will post meeting materials and approved meeting summary on the Committee website.
- Chair and Facilitator will send updated operating principles on January 2nd.
- Chair will provide overview document identifying critical decisions and an anticipated timeline.
- Chair will call committee members before the next meeting.
- Chair will prepare a summary briefing on how Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, Snohomish Basin Forum, and City of Seattle could coordinate with the committee or serve as ex officio members.

Committee Member Action Items

- Committee members should review the draft meeting summary and send comments to the chair by January 2, 2019.
- Committee members should review updated draft operating principles before the next meeting (to be distributed January 2).
- Committee members are invited to send additional data needs and ideas on coordination with other groups to the Chair.
- Committee members should identify and send the Chair any additional presentation suggestions for the committee, including presentations they or their staff are willing to provide.
- **Committee members should be prepared for a vote** on the final version of the operating principles at the February 14th meeting.

Public Comment

There was no formal public comment.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 pm.