

**Cedar-Sammamish (WRIA 8)
Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee
December Meeting Summary**

Please send corrections to Stephanie Potts (Stephanie.Potts@ecy.wa.gov) by January 9, 2019.

Committee website:

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1962/37321/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_8.aspx

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 24, 2019, 9:30 am – 12:30pm, Mercer Island Community Center

Meeting Information

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Department of Ecology, Northwest Regional Office

Agenda

	Topic	Time	Action	Handouts	Lead
1.	Welcome and introductions	1:30 pm	None		Chair
2.	Approval of agenda and minutes	1:40	Vote	- Agenda - October minutes	Facilitator
3.	Operating Principles	1:50	Activity, presentation and discussion	- Draft Operating Principles	Facilitator
4.	Break	3:20			
5.	Watershed geography overview	3:30	Presentation		Chair
6.	Next steps	4:05	None		Chair
7.	Public comment	4:20	None		Facilitator
8.	Adjourn	4:30	None		Chair

**all handouts are available on the Committee website*

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Attendance

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Brian Landau (alternate)	Bellevue	Janet Geer	Bothell
Allen Quynn (alternate)	Issaquah	Richard Sawyer	Kenmore
Danika Globokar	Sammamish	Michele Koehler	Seattle
Tom Beavers	King County	Ann Bylin (alternate)	Snohomish County
Carla Carlson	Muckleshoot Tribe	Matt Baerwalde	Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
David Hartley (consultant)	Snoqualmie Tribe	Julie Lewis (alternate)	Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
Kurt Nelson	Tulalip Tribes	Trish Rolfe (alternate)	Center for Environmental Law and Policy

John McClellan	Alderwood Water & Wastewater District	Ezekiel Rohloff (alternate)	WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Gina Clark	Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties	Stephanie Potts	WA Department of Ecology

Committee members not in attendance: Kent, Mukilteo, Redmond, Renton, King County Agriculture Program

Other Attendees

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council	Ingria Jones	WA Department of Ecology
Eliza Dawson	Snohomish County	Stacy Vynne	WA Department of Ecology
Elizabeth McManus (facilitator)	Ross Strategic		

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

There were no additions to the agenda.

There were no comments on the draft October meeting summary posted on the Committee website. The Committee voted to approve the October meeting summary. The final version is posted on the Committee website.

Operating Principles Exercise, Overview and Discussion

The Committee spent the majority of the meeting discussing the draft Operating Principles (v12/4/18). The major discussion points are included below and specific recommendations are reflected in the revised draft Operating Principles (v12/20/18).

Overall questions/comments

- The document is long. Suggestion to take out most or all of the RCW language to reduce the length.
- When including terms like Net Ecological Benefit (NEB), should provide definition or reference
- Be clear when talking about 2/3. Do we mean 2/3 of all Committee members or 2/3 of members present?
- Add language to define a quorum earlier in the document. Be explicit about the number of members required for a quorum and whether remote participants are counted.
- Define what we mean by consensus.
- Concern about other Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committees using different operating principles. Need to be clear about which principles and procedures apply to this Committee.
- What happens if Committee approves the plan and then Ecology determines it does not meet NEB? Chair explained that Ecology does not have capacity to conduct a preliminary NEB review before the Committee approves the plan. The chair will coordinate closely with the Ecology

technical team in order to prevent this from happening. If Ecology determines that a plan that is approved by the watershed restoration and enhancement committee does not meet net ecological benefit, then Ecology will not adopt the plan and will go through the process used for a plan that does not get committee approval, described in RCW 90.94.030(3)(h).

Section 4: Expectations and Ground Rules

- Remote participation: The group discussed the benefits and challenges of remote participation. Some members wanted options to regularly participate by phone or video conferencing. Others were concerned about remote participants not being actively engaged, due to trouble hearing the conversation, getting disconnected, or being distracted. The Committee can continue a discussion on allowing regular remote participation in January.
- Remote participant voting: Many members of the Committee wanted to require in-person voting for decisions that require full Committee approval (i.e. approval of Operating Principles and final plan) and allow remote participants to vote on routine decisions (i.e. approving the meeting summary). Voting on other important decisions (i.e. decisions that are foundational to the final plan) could be allowed in extenuating circumstances. If there is a situation that impacts the attendance of several representatives (i.e. traffic crash, snow) then the vote could be postponed.
- Meeting locations: The chair agreed to look for meeting locations in the northern part of the watershed and rotate venues throughout the year. Chair will also check if January meeting space can accommodate phone/video conferencing.
- Participation expectations: The operating principles should address what to do if a Committee member stops coming to meetings.

Section 5: Alternates and New Membership

- Ex-officio members: need to add language on nominating and approving ex officio members—by 2/3 agreement or consensus
- Seats at the table: Question about allowing more than one seat at the table for a Committee member. The chair explained that this is a decision the Committee will need to make. There was concern that an organization/government that has more than one representative at the table will have greater weight in the conversation. Need to balance allowing alternates to participate in the conversation with making sure that each participating organization/government has an equal voice. Some options: allow representative at the table to call on the alternate to speak for their organization/government; allow representative and alternate to change seats throughout meeting.
- Latecomers and disappearers: need clarification from Ecology on whether the Committee has the legal authority to prohibit entities listed in the legislation from joining late, or to prevent people who stop attending from voting on the final plan. The chair will bring this up with the Ecology program leadership team and report out at the next meeting.

Section 7: Decision Making

- Interim votes: there was concern from some members of the Committee about moving forward with 2/3 approval on interim votes if the Committee cannot reach consensus on major interim decisions on items foundational to the plan. Concern is if that item is included in the final plan,

which requires full approval, then it could result in some members not approving the final plan. The Committee discussed the need to keep moving forward and making decisions in light of the deadline of June 30, 2021. Recommendation to document dissent on votes leading up to final plan approval, make a plan for resolving those differences, and come back to interim votes that didn't get consensus before the vote on the final plan. The chair will try to make sure whatever concern a Committee member had on the interim decision has been alleviated and that they are willing to support the final plan.

- Cities caucus: Several cities would like to participate via a caucus with one caucus representative (likely staff from the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council) attending the meetings. For interim votes, the cities caucus would get one vote and the cities sitting at the table would each get one vote as well. For the final plan approval, each participating city, whether in a caucus or at the table, would vote individually. The cities caucus would need to meet to discuss how they will decide interim votes (2/3 majority, consensus, etc) and share their internal operating principles with the rest of the Committee.
- Electronic voting: recommendation to require full participation and to take an in person vote at the next meeting to adopt the result of the electronic vote.
- Project support: recommendation to add language to describe the process for the Committee to provide formal support for projects seeking funding, before final plan approval (i.e. letter of support during the grant round).

Committee members met in small groups to discuss two questions: (1) "what does your organization or government hope to get out of this process?" and (2) "what makes you feel like a respected member of a group?" After the small group discussion, the groups shared their comments with the full Committee.

Report out: What does your organization or government hope to get out of this process?

- Meaningful streamflow restoration in WRIA 8. Good for salmon, more water in streams
- Protect water supplies for hatcheries
- Increase salmon habitat
- Showcase conservation to the public
- Water for people too
- Good understanding of magnitude of problem in WRIA 8. What quantity of water offset are we talking about? What are water needs for people and water needs for fish?
- Have an effective plan that results in funded projects and is implemented, doesn't "sit on the shelf"
- Plan goes above and beyond salmon recovery projects
- Water for water offsets
- Captures a list of projects for future funding

Report out: what makes you feel like a respected member of the group?

- Being listened to
- Respect differences in opinion
- Empathy—spirit of collaboration, even if there are differences
- Ground rules are followed

Watershed Geography Overview

The chair presented an overview of the geography of WRIA 8. The presentation is available on the Committee website.

Ecology staff thought it would be useful to form a technical workgroup, consisting of interested Committee members and non-committee members, to compile existing technical information (reports, maps, data) and identify needs. The decision whether to establish a technical work group is up to the Committee, and is on the agenda for the January meeting. The chair asked all Committee members to start thinking about resources to share, gaps in data/technical information, and mapping needs.

The Committee requested the following maps/information:

- The land area in the WRIA that is outside UGA/water service areas and not protected by the City of Seattle
- The sources of water for different municipalities and water purveyors
- Policies of cities and water districts related to allowing use of permit exempt wells for new homes within their boundary/service area
- Hydrogeology maps and reports

The chair will compile a list of resource and data requests for further discussion at the January meeting.

Action Items

For the chair:

- Post final October meeting summary and December meeting presentation and materials on the Committee website.
- Continue to work with interested cities and WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council staff to form the cities caucus.
- Ecology will get policy/legal input on whether the Committee has the authority to prohibit entities listed in the legislation from joining late, or to prevent people who stop attending meetings from voting on the final plan.
- Revise draft Operating Principles document, based on the discussion, and send to Committee for review and comment.

For Committee members:

- The standing meeting will be the fourth Thursday of the month in the morning. Please reserve that day/time on your calendars for 2019. The chair will send calendar invites as meeting spaces are booked.
- Review December meeting summary and send comments to the chair by end of day January 9, 2019.
- Review the revised Operating Principles (v12/20/18, posted on Committee website) and send feedback to the chair by end of day January 9, 2019. Discuss the revised draft Operating Principles within your organization/government and prepare for a potential vote to adopt the Operating Principles in January.

- Share technical reports, maps and other WRIA 8 resources with the chair; start to think of data gaps and mapping needs; and think about non-committee members to invite to a technical workgroup.

For Next Meeting, January 24th:

- Finalize and vote (if ready) on Operating Principles
- Training on instream flows
- Decide on formation of technical work group
- Discuss coordination with existing groups and ex-officio invitations