

**Duwamish-Green (WRIA 9)
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_1962/37322/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_9.aspx

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at the Tukwila Community Center

Meeting Information

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Department of Ecology, Northwest Regional Office

Agenda

	Topic	Time	Action	Handouts	Lead
1.	Welcome and introductions	9:30 am	None		Chair
2.	Approval of agenda and minutes	9:40	Vote	- Agenda - October minutes	Facilitator
3.	Operating Principles	9:50	Activity, presentation and discussion	- Draft Operating Principles	Facilitator
4.	Break	11:20			
5.	Watershed geography overview	11:30	Presentation		Chair
6.	Next steps	12:05 pm	None		Chair
7.	Public comment	12:20	None		Facilitator
8.	Adjourn	12:30	None		Chair

**all handouts are available on the Committee website*

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Attendance

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Lisa Tobin	Auburn	Scott Woodbury	Enumclaw
Mayor Dana Ralph (phone)	Kent	Shawn Gilbertson (alternate) (phone)	Kent
Kathy Minsch	Seattle	Mike Perfetti	Tukwila
Josh Kahan	King County	Carla Carlson	Muckleshoot Tribe
Jennifer Anderson	Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties	Melissa Borsting	King County Agriculture Program

Trish Rolfe	Center for Environmental Law and Policy	Stewart Reinbold	WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Stephanie Potts	WA Department of Ecology		

Committee members not in attendance: Black Diamond, Normandy Park, Renton, SeaTac, Highline Water District,

Other Attendees

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Matt Goehring	WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum	Greg Volkhardt	Tacoma Water
Will Stelle	Washington Water Trust	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.

The Committee discussed whether to have a consent agenda in order to consolidate votes on routine items. The Committee decided that it was not necessary at this time since the only routine item is the vote on the meeting summary.

Operating Principles Exercise, Overview and Discussion

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?

- True streamflow restoration
- Supportive and consistent with fish recovery and Tribal treaty rights
- Legally defensible, science-based, based on real numbers
- Wait and see how the streamflow restoration work is relevant to my city, if we don't have citizens using wells and our city is not a water supplier
- Avoid significant negative impacts on agricultural water rights
- Engaged in process because of regional impacts
- A plan that everyone supports
- Focus on restoration projects that directly offset permit-exempt wells

- Better landscape perspective on development potential in the WRIA—number and location of new wells. Focus on middle part of the watershed because lower 1/3 is urban and upper 40% is protected as water source for Tacoma area.
- A good plan that reaches streamflow restoration goals
- Quantify magnitude of the problem we are solving – only new permit-exempt wells (per legislation). Also would like to know the number of permit-exempt wells we already have in the WRIA. Want to consider having some of the solutions apply to existing wells.

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

- Being listened to and opportunity to speak.
- Ability to call in and participate in voting if needed (i.e. if sick, stuck in traffic, etc). Or delay votes until members can be present.
- Processes are clear, common understanding of processes
- Collaborative approach—here to benefit the region and not only personal interests.
- Clarity around when votes are anticipated so people can prepare

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 comments

- The document is long. Suggestion to take out most or all of the RCW language to reduce the length.
- 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.

Section 4: Expectations and Ground Rules

- Remote participation and voting: The group discussed the challenges of remote participation by phone and acknowledged that unforeseen circumstances will arise that will make it hard for a representative to attend in person (i.e. traffic, weather, personal/family obligations). 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.
- 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 how the Committee will agree to add a members—by 2/3 agreement or consensus
- 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 final 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 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum) 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).

Watershed Geography Overview

The chair presented an overview of the geography of WRIA 9. 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 information on policies of cities and water districts related to allowing use of permit exempt wells for new homes within their boundary/service area. The chair will compile a list of resource and data requests for further discussion at the January meeting.

Public Comment

Greg Volkhardt from Tacoma Water spoke of his organization's interest in the watershed and interest in joining the Committee as an ex-officio member. Tacoma Water provides water to Tacoma and many surrounding cities in King County. Tacoma Water has two water rights connected to the Green River, and are party to an agreement with the Muckleshoot Tribe to meet instream flows.

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 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum 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 Tuesday of the month in the afternoon. Please reserve that day/time on your calendars for 2019. The chair will send calendar invites as meeting space is 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 the 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 9 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 22nd:

- 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