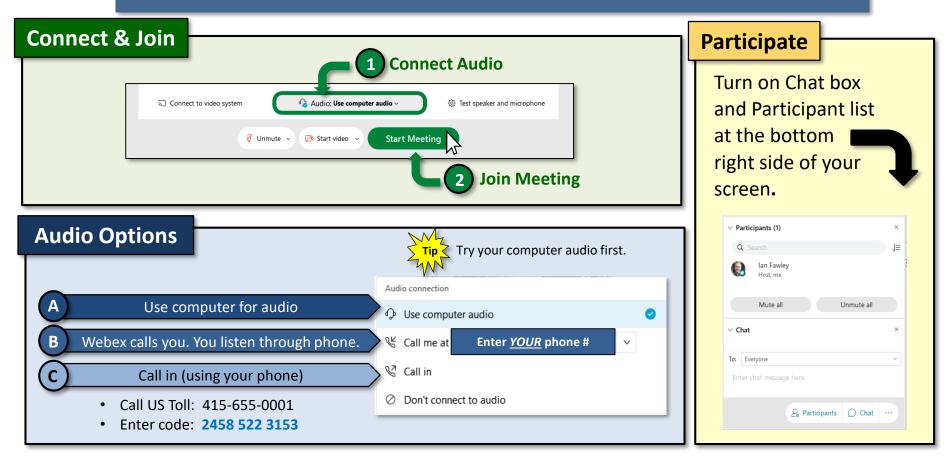
Welcome to the Water Quality Partnership

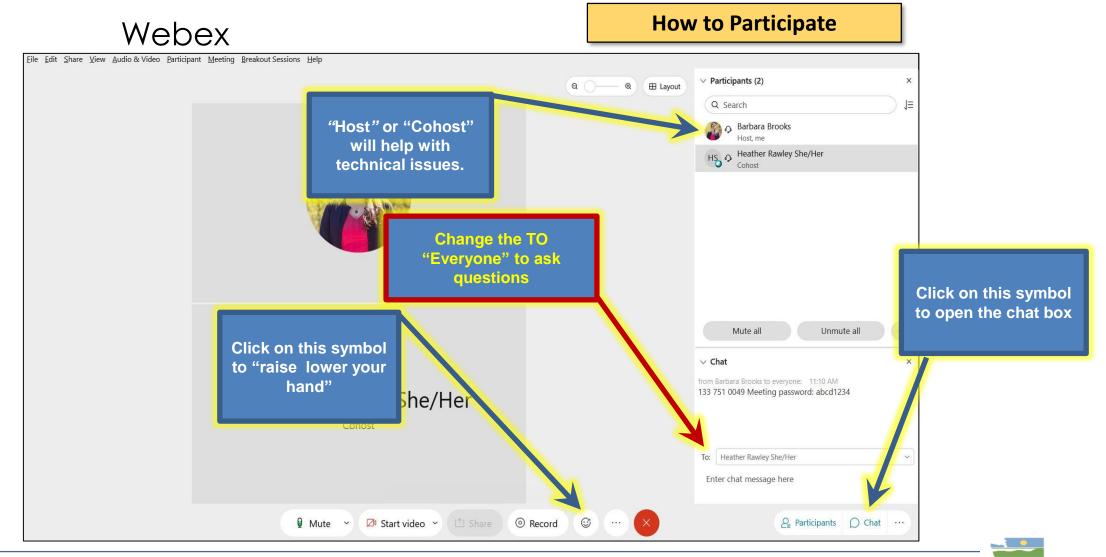
Please connect your audio and join. We will do a sound check at 9:50 a.m.



Nothing working? Use the chat box to send us a message.

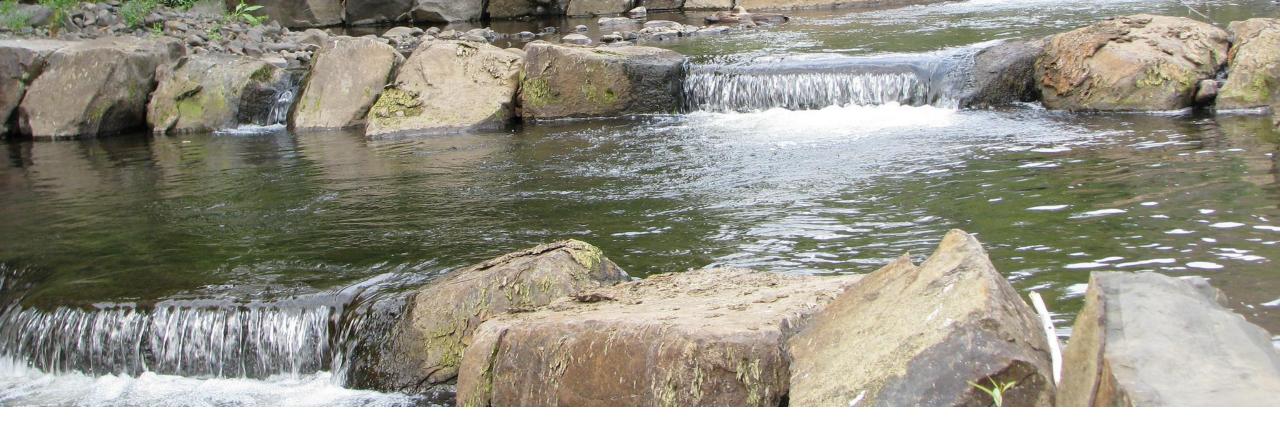


Navigating webinar features



Water Quality Partnership December 10, 2020

Welcome - Introductions & Program Updates	Vince McGowan	10:00 –10:15
Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit	Jeff Killelea & Eleanor Ott	10:15 – 10:35
General Permit Updates	Lucienne Banning	10:35 – 10:45
Watershed Management Updates	Melissa Gildersleeve	10:45 - 11:15
Grants and Loans Updates	Jeff Nejedly	11:15 – 11:30
Legislative and Budget Updates	David Giglio & Stephanie Teets	11:30 – 11:45
Roundtable	All	11:45 – 11:55
Wrap Up – Future agenda topics	Colleen Keltz	11:55 –12:00



Water Quality Program Updates Vince McGowan





Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit Jeff Killelea & Eleanor Ott





General Permit Updates – Fact Sheet Lucienne Banning





Watershed Management Updates Melissa Gildersleeve



Watershed Management Section Update

- Watershed Management Updates
- Water Cleanup work
- Nonpoint
- Water Quality Standards/Rulemaking updates
- Water Quality Assessment Submitted to EPA on August 31, 2021

Watershed Management Section Water Cleanup work

- Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Project
 - Getting ready for another Nutrient Forum this Winter to select Year 2 optimization runs.
- Columbia River Temperature TMDL Implementation Reissued on August 13, 2021.
 EPA did a first round of outreach on the reissued TMDL throughout September. We are starting work on what an implementation plan process might look like.
- Related: EPA section 303(d) litigation: Water Quality Assessment /TMDL production and pace, Spokane PCB TMDL settlement, Puget Sound legal complaint around TMDL constructive submission.

Watershed Management Section Nonpoint Work

Washington State **Nonpoint Plan** submittal to EPA (includes ESA review) in 1 year.

First 5 chapters of our **Voluntary Guidance for Agriculture** will be in this submittal. We are actively working to get those chapter drafts done and through our advisory committees.

Will coordinate the Riparian Chapter with the Governor's initiatives and any legislation that passes this season.

Forestry – planning to update the nonpoint forestry section to reflect any updates to the Forest and Fish rules, to reflect success of adaptive management program for water quality

Watershed Management Section Water Quality Standards

• Water Quality Standards

- Chelan UAA rule adopted and at EPA for Clean Water Act approval.
- Salmon Spawning Rule Just finished two hearings last week. Public comments due today-Dec. 16, 2021. We will review all comments received, look at any modification that might need to happen based on public feedback. Current plan is to adopt March 2022.
- Triennial Review- working on a response to comments and package to submit to EPA. We do know the following items are on our "to do" list this next year to start scoping:
 - Aquatic toxics criteria
 - Outstanding Resource Water nominations submitted for
 - Soap Lake (Grant County)
 - Cascade River (Skagit)
 - Green River (Lewis and Skamania)
 - Napeequa River (Chelan)



Watershed Management Section Water Quality Standards

- Natural Conditions
 - Update the Water Quality Standards so that natural condition determinations are covered under a formal rule process.
 - *"the natural conditions constitute the water quality criteria."* EPA decision--this language, in effect, changes the water quality standards without going through a formal rulemaking process.
 - This EPA disapproval resulted from the specific way our natural conditions provision was written. It was not around whether or not a natural conditions provisions can be in the standards. EPA regulations allow for natural conditions provisions in standards-(almost all the states have it), and we see it as a necessary complement to a numeric standard.



Grants and Loans Updates Jeff Nejedly



New Federal Funding for Water Quality's CWSRF

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) or Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

- Reauthorization of the CWSRF at new levels for 2022-2026
 - WA state estimate: \$270M over 5 years; \$45M, \$51M, \$55M, \$59M, \$59M
- Supplemental CWSRF stimulus funds
 - WA state estimate: \$193M over 5 years; \$31M, \$36M, \$39M, \$42M, \$42M
 - 49 percent of this funding must be added subsidy (forgiven loan)
- Emerging Contaminants funding CWSRF eligible projects
 - Nationally \$1 billion over 5 years; 100% added subsidy (forgiven loan)
 - Not yet sure how EPA will distribute these funds to the states

New Federal Conditions

- Buy America Build America will add some complications on construction procurement
- Justice40 Evolving framework
 - 2 staff engaged in EPA SRF workgroup

New CWSRF Resources

Water Quality Combined & CWSRF – New Resource Planning

- Cash flow model shows CWSRF annual awards at \$240M per year going forward
- Access to more forgivable loan
 - Focus on assisting small financially and disadvantaged community water quality projects possible adjustments to hardship criteria
 - Opportunity to better address emerging needs
 - Nutrient Reduction
 - Climate resiliency
 - Nonpoint source projects
 - Onsite sewage repair and replacement statewide program
 - Offset of cost impacts from BABA
 - Other WQP ongoing brainstorming and stakeholder input over the coming months

Other News:

- Clean Watersheds Needs Survey 2022
 - Needs data beginning Jan 2022, data entry starts March 2022

Contact: Jeff Nejedly – <u>Jeffrey.Nejedly@ecy.wa.gov</u> – 360-878-4913



Legislative and Budget Updates David Giglio & Stephanie Teets





Wrap Up Vince McGowan

