

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

by Rodney Sakrison, Ph.D., President, AWRA Washington Section

The Washington Section of the American Water Resources Association has had a very busy August, something we might have been reluctant to do even a year ago. There has been much enthusiasm among the Board members for this year's fall conference. "Balancing Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs" promises to be a premier event with real importance to future water policy in the State of Washington. We already have confirmations from Supreme Court Justice **Phil Talmadge** and Ecology Director **Tom Fitzsimmons**. An article in this Newsletter details the planning for the November 13th conference at the Seattle Art Museum.

In preparation for the conference, I have encouraged the Conference Planning Committee and the co-chairs, **Chris Pitre** and **Fran Solomon**, to immerse themselves in state water policy initiatives. The point is to inform ourselves so that we can make the best choices in soliciting the most cutting-edge speakers and presenting a conference that really matters. We collectively took a big step forward by hosting a brown-bag at the Seattle offices of Preston, Gates and Ellis on August 14th.

Our speaker for the noontime session on municipal water rights was **Doug McChesney**, water policy analyst for the Department of Ecology and the agency's lead contact with municipal water suppliers. Doug took us on a crash course on municipal water rights law and current policy discussions at the state level. Over 50 persons attended representing a wide range of disciplines and organizations. An article on points discussed is found on page 6 of this Newsletter.

In the spirit of wider dispersion of essential knowledge for the upcoming conference, I offer an article in this Newsletter that is a summary of three recent PCHB settlement agreements. Each presents a mitigation plan to augment streamflows and mitigate water right impacts. I think you might be surprised at what is actually contained in these early examples of water right impact mitigation plans.

Enjoy this Newsletter. There are a number of excellent articles, including updates on the Washington Department of Transportation's watershed planning efforts written by **Megan Davis** and **Patty Lynch**. Information about the Rivers Council of Washington and their upcoming conference can also be found in this edition. There will be one more Newsletter this year preceding the Fall Conference. If you have an article that would be especially pertinent to the theme of this year's conference, please contact our editor, **Teresa Platin**.

Have you checked out the AWRA National Web Site? It contains information about National's activities, as well as State Section and Student Chapter news.

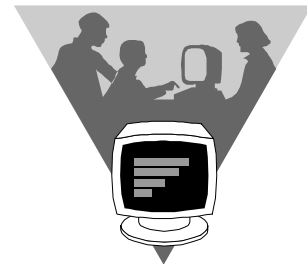
Ride the wave and surf the web at <http://www.awra.org/~awra>



Upcoming Events

Monday, Sept. 15, 1997
5:00 p.m.
Board Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 25, 1997
5:30 — 8:30 p.m.
September Dinner Meeting
(see page 2 for details)



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This newsletter is a publication of the Washington Section of the American Water Resources Association. It is published bi-monthly. This is a forum for members to share ideas and opinions; as such, opinions expressed in the AWRA Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Washington Section of AWRA.

Announcements or articles are welcomed for Oct/Nov/Dec edition of the newsletter. The editor reserves the right to make changes for reasons of length, grammar, legality or clarity. The submittal due date is October 13, 1997. Contact Teresa Platin at (206)-453-5000, or send submittals directly via the following methods:

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SEPTEMBER DINNER MEETING TO FEATURE WATER RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

by Peter Sturtevant, Harding Lawson Associates

These days "Surfing the Net" takes on special meaning for us water resources professionals. More and more water resource data generated by the government and other agencies are now available on the Internet. Readily available data range from the vast hydrologic data system maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey to well-pumping records of your local water district. You can review the high-water levels and inundated areas of the last major flood in the California Delta or obtain rainfall information from a particular storm. Provisional flow records from major floods are available within days of the event, allowing near real-time analysis of flooding problems in an area. Last year, while perusing real-time weather satellite photos, I noticed a hurricane developing in the eastern Atlantic. Three or four days later, I read about the extensive damage that same hurricane was doing to several Caribbean Islands. The potential of the Internet for water data (and research) retrieval seem nearly endless.

Our Speaker for the AWRA September Dinner Meeting, **Scott Knowles**, is well versed in Internet data access. He works for the U.S. Geological Survey and is the Surface Water Data Manager for the Water Resources Division in the Pacific Northwest. He is responsible for the surface water data and information on the USGS World Wide Web server. In addition, he is helping to define new products and services that the Web Page will feature in the future. He is very knowledgeable of the USGS database as well as other government agency data sources available on the Net. Scott will share his extensive knowledge of water resources sites and come armed with copies of useful Web addresses for the audience. His presentation will be particularly informative as he will work from a laptop computer and computer screen projector to call up some of the more interesting Web sites and review their contents.

For any of you that have suffered the frustration of that "missing" annual volume of water data in the Graduate Library or waiting weeks for the arrival via mail of needed water data, you won't want to miss this presentation. **AWRA's next dinner meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25, starting at 5:30 pm at the Latitude 47 Restaurant on Lake Union in Seattle.** Dinner will be served at 6:15 pm with Scott Knowles' presentation beginning shortly thereafter. Cost for the dinner is \$20.00 if received on or before September 19, and \$25.00 thereafter. Checks payable to AWRA-Washington Section may be mailed to Peter Sturtevant, Harding Lawson Associates, 411 108th Ave. NE, Suite 400, Bellevue, WA 98004. My e-mail address is psturtev@harding.com and my phone number is (425) 453-5545. I hope you can attend this very informative dinner event.

Directions: Latitude 47 Restaurant is located on the west shore of Lake Union at 1232 Westlake Avenue North. Take the Mercer Street Exit from I-5. Turn right at the Westlake Avenue traffic light. The restaurant is located about one-half mile after the turn, on the right. Free parking can be found either in front of the restaurant or further along the waterfront.

JULY DINNER MEETING ABOUT WATER ON THE WATER

by Jan Willing, PUD No. 1 of Whatcom County

The July 24 AWRA Washington Section dinner meeting was held at Latitude 47° on Lake Union. **Terry Husseman**, Deputy Director of the Washington Department of Ecology, was the guest speaker.

Husseman opened with an amusing football story meant to convey the importance of flexibility and good game plans. This seemed to be his philosophy regarding Governor Locke's recently established Joint Natural Resource Cabinet, i.e., that they are attempting to be flexible and are searching for a good game plan to deal with the gridlock in State water policy issues. The JNRC is composed of 13 agency directors working under a Memorandum of Understanding, and is chaired by Governor Locke's Policy Director. Husseman himself chairs the Water and Endangered Species Work Group.

Husseman identified several drivers behind the State's water management crisis. The most potent is a current State population of 5.7 million that is expected to reach 8 million by the year 2020. Others include the (possibly) imminent listings under the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and degraded water quality and habitat, water quantity and Tribal treaty right issues, the Columbia /Snake Rivers situations, the lack of meaningful water legislation, and the lack of coordination and consistency among state agencies.

Husseman said the JNRC has met three times and has a vision of where the State needs to be in 4 to 8 years, when he hopes that the JNRC will exist as an ongoing institutional entity. The vision statement reads (from a July 21 memo):

The role of the state is to assure that population and economic growth needs are managed and the State's natural resources are protected. The Governor's Joint Natural Resources Cabinet dedicates itself to provide the leadership and cooperative effort to achieve the natural resource balance that best serves the people of the State of Washington.

The JNRC has also come up with a list of "products" that it seeks to generate. These include a cohesive coordinated strategy for statewide fish recovery, and locally driven watershed action on many of the 62 WRIA's, or Water Resources In-

ventory Areas. Husseman identified the need for shareable, comparable, useful data on such questions as geology, hydrology, and flows. Much of the data that has been collected, he finds, are not useful because they can't be shared or compared in any meaningful way. He foresaw a huge need for water quality capital investment, in the billions of dollars -- the equivalent of "a couple of more Metros." He said the voters had approved a \$1 billion bond issue in California, and we can do it here. He and his colleagues are trying to figure out who needs to be involved, what the state role is to be, and where and how funding will be obtained and disbursed.

Husseman reviewed some milestones from the chronology of the State's progression into its current water mess. The last rule-making on instream flow was in 1985. Since then we have seen the 1987 Preferred Alternative for water allocation, the 1988 moratorium on changes in water allocation policy, the Independent Fact Finder's report, the 1990 Chelan Agreement, the 1993 Sinking Creek decision, the 1996 confirmation of Ecology's Statewide Order by the Pollution Control Hearings Board.

He postulated that the current situation (where water policy is set on a case-by-case basis in the courts) is tied to several factors. These include the reduction of DOE water rights processing staff from 60 to 19 (and now down to 16, which translates to an 8-year backlog), the legislature refusing to support the Chelan Agreement with the argument that DOE should not set policy, the legislature's inability to set policy on its own, and the lack of funding to support any of the watershed plans presented. Recent court decisions (such as Sinking Creek, Hubbard, Hillis, and Yakama-Tieton) are currently dictating policy, but are based on a very narrow scope of vision based on the small window of "facts" pertinent to each case. Although Ecology would probably have arrived at the same result as the courts in these cases, Husseman does not think State water policy should be set by the courts. He says it doesn't make sense to fight cases in court and have the party who can financially persevere the longest be the winner. Nor is it fair to have the legislature be strong-armed by special interests. We have gridlock in the Legislature; policy by veto is gridlock. State policy, he says, should be made through a ...**CONTINUED**

JULY DINNER MEETING (CONTINUED)

collaborative approach that everyone can live with. Two issues that illustrate the need are whether ground water can be withdrawn next to the Columbia River, and whether “installed pumps and pipes” or “actual use” should be the measure of a water right.

The JNRC and the Water/ESA workgroups are trying to work closely with Representative Chandler, who seems to be the legislative lead on water issues at this time. Ecology plans to fund a mediator, for three months; Husseman hopes that the mediation process will result in resolutions of some issues by the end of this year. The one thing the legislators are in agreement on is that some form of locally led watershed management model is desirable. Because of Governor Locke's handling of Bill 2054, determinations about how watershed planning efforts should be implemented are unknown. Legislators want to know who will be at the table, and what the outcome decisions will mean for the State. What if local decisions go against State policy, who becomes the authoritative bottom line?

Husseman mentioned the moratorium on water rights on the Snake River, which Ecology supported ending. Rulemaking is now proceeding, and the existing instream flow is to be raised because it is inadequate. He commented on the irony that the state has not done a rulemaking in 12 years, and the first one we are going to do now is the Columbia Basin. If agreement cannot be reached on water issues, there will be no legislation and no budget, and a continuation of the present impasse. The Endangered Species Act brings in federal agency people or judges to run our rivers.

The current \$5 million set aside with the bill is being carved up in the following fashion: \$2.5 million will be divvied up for WRIA watershed management on a local level, and \$2.5 million will go to state agencies to provide technical assistance. Husseman believes that each watershed will require several hundred thousand dollars to get started towards results. The Centennial Clean Water Act money is just about gone, he says, and something will be needed to replace it. Washington State citizenry will have to get behind a major water effort that will cost them. He supports the WRIA basis for the planning, and encourages multiple WRIA's to work together.

And if this process doesn't work, he warns, envision a future full of the past, only worse. The federal government will run our rivers, our water will be locked up, it will take longer than the current 8-year wait to get a water right decision, policy will be set in court on individual cases and our population will

double with an equal increase in demand for water and its benefits.

Husseman then took questions, many of them dealing with funding: when will it happen, how will it happen, who will get it, in what form, etc. He had no clear answers at this time but said that criteria are being developed. He encouraged whatever groups we were all connected with to proceed with any implementation we could, to not wait for the perfect plan. Ecology has been told by their lawyer that they can't distribute any funds until they adopt a rule due to the Hillis case. The language that was in SHB 2054 for \$50,000 initiation grants was vetoed. Husseman felt that communities who already have watershed plans going will get larger amounts than those just starting out. Each watershed with its unique situation will be considered separately.

Husseman was asked whether listings of streams under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act could possibly preclude issuance of water rights. Husseman said that he “doesn't see it leading to a situation where we will lock up all our water.”

He described the approach being adopted in the Methow, where the Department is denying the water rights applications as they were first submitted. The new applications will include a lot of saved water, of which 90 percent will go back in the river. Development plans can be supported on the remaining 10 percent. In Puget Sound, wastewater treatment plants discharge 250 mgd -- if it could be reclaimed, it could free up a lot of clear water.

The JNRC will be meeting with different groups (agriculture, utilities, etc.) for input, Husseman says, but the bottom line is that everyone needs to stay in touch with their legislators and put the pressure on them to come to consensus and pass some good water bills. The ones that did not pass last session are being reexamined and reworded.

To stay in touch with the state policy making process, Husseman invited the audience to call his office to get on the mailing list being formulated as the process moves forward. His phone number is (360) 407-7002.

AWRA FALL CONFERENCE

by Fran Solomon, King County Department of Natural Resources

This year's American Water Resources Association (AWRA) Washington Section fall conference is titled "Balancing Instream Needs with Out-of-Stream Demands." The conference, which will take place on November 13, 1997 at the Seattle Art Museum, focuses on streams as the nexus of increasing competition for water resources. On the one hand, instream flow needs are highlighted by communities' and government agencies' efforts to preserve and restore salmon runs and state policy regarding surface and ground water connection. On the other hand, population and economic growth require water supply. The conference will explore management techniques, regulatory pathways, and creative approaches for balancing instream needs and out-of-stream demands.

Four panels of technical experts and policy leaders will address the definition of instream needs, reconciling out-of-stream demands, exploring standards and techniques for resource management and mitigation (e.g. stream flow augmentation, groundwater recharge, conjunctive uses), and specific case studies that show what new approaches are being applied now to address the increasing stresses and demands on our surface water resources.

The conference will kick off with a keynote address by Washington Supreme Court Justice **Phil Talmadge**, followed by a panel of three dynamic speakers on the topic of "Defining Instream Needs." **Dr. Richard Kelley**, former member of the Washington State Pollution Control Hearings Board and now Senior Policy Analyst at the King County Office of Budget and Strategic Planning, will address the current policy approach and regulatory system for protection of stream flows. **Dr. Jim Karr**, zoology professor at the University of Washington, will discuss criteria that should be considered in regulating the ecological health of streams. **Katherine Rensel**, attorney with American Rivers, Inc., will speak on other considerations and coming issues, e.g. Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act streamflow issues.

The Conference Planning Committee, chaired by AWRA Board members **Chris Pitre** and **Fran Solomon**, is in the process of confirming speakers for the other panels. Suggestions are welcome. Please call Chris at 329-0141 or Fran at 296-1924 to recommend potential speakers. More information about the conference can be obtained on the web at <http://www.pgwgw.com/waawra/>.

Conference speakers and attendees will include scientists, engineers, planners, attorneys, business people, and citizen activists, from public agencies, private companies, academia, and nonprofit organizations. A preregistration form was mailed to all AWRA members and other newsletter recipients. Preregistration, which includes a boxed lunch, snacks, and 1998 Washington Section membership, costs \$95 and must be mailed by November 5, 1997. Another conference announcement and preregistration form will be mailed in the early fall.

AWRA FELLOWSHIPS TO BE AWARDED AT FALL CONFERENCE

An important goal of the AWRA Washington Section is to provide annual fellowship monies supporting graduate research in the area of water resources. Notice of the availability of the fellowship for the 1997-98 academic year was sent to colleges and universities in Washington in early April. Nearly 100 graduate schools, financial aid offices and academic departments received notices.

For the 1997-98 year, the Washington State Section Board approved awarding two fellowships. Each award will be in the amount of \$1,500. Competition for one fellowship will be limited to active members of a student section sponsored by the Washington Section of the AWRA. Currently only one student section, the University of Washington Student Section, has been organized. The other award is available to a graduate student enrolled in a four-year Washington college or university.

Projects involving natural, social, political and physical sciences are eligible. Three general criteria are used to evaluate applications for the fellowship: the interdisciplinary nature of the project, the applicability of the research to current issues and the applicant's ability to clearly present the project. The application period is now closed, and the scholarship committee is busy reviewing applications. The selection will be made in time for presentation at AWRA's Annual Fall Conference.

AWRA BROWN BAG ECOLOGY S WATER RIGHTS FACILITATED WORK GROUPS

by Teresa J. Platin, CH2M HILL

On August 14, the Washington Section of AWRA held it's first Brown Bag discussion. Approximately 50 people convened at the offices of Preston Gates & Ellis to hear **Doug McChesney**, Water Policy Analyst at the Department of Ecology, speak about Municipal Water Rights. Doug began his talk by noting that Governor Locke's emphasis on water issues as a top priority for his administration has resulted in a great deal of water-related legislative activity. Approximately 15 water bills were passed and approved by the Governor in the recent legislative session, while some portions of these bills and many others were vetoed. The Governor's focus on agency cooperation and joint decision making prompted the formation of the Joint Natural Resources Cabinet (JNRC) composed of 13 top State and regional officials. It is the Governor's hope that through better communication and cooperation, this cabinet will facilitate a comprehensive statewide approach to water and it's interrelation to the Endangered Species Act.

Doug emphasized that Ecology plans to work with water users to find adequate water supplies to meet the State's needs, and he summarized the agency's proposed water supply and use strategy for the next two years. During the first year, Ecology will convene a facilitated stakeholder group meeting in coordination with the JNRC. Their goal will be to reach a collaborative agreement and develop legislative submittals for watershed planning, hydraulic continuity, and municipal water issues such as interties and the definition of beneficial use. Other first year goals include adopting rules to prioritize water right decisions, addressing in-stream flows for the Columbia River, securing adequate funding for the processing of water rights permits, rebuilding the information base consistent with the comprehensive watershed management approach, and initiating a dialogue on the future of water in Washington.

The main objectives for the second year of this stakeholder group will be to convene a summit on future water supplies for the State, conduct a study to develop alternatives and recommendations for supply and demand management, charter a group to develop legislation and financing on water supply and demand manage-

ment, and conduct a quality improvement review of the water rights rules.

Doug's hour-long presentation focused on the different municipal issues that will be handled by sub-groups of the main stakeholder team.

- **Definition of Municipal Purposes** - Some problem areas at this time include the fact that "municipality" is not defined in the RCW, and is subject to a great deal of interpretation that affects water rights.
- **Interties** - Doug referred to this as "the gorilla that Ecology is wrestling with." There is a great deal of confusion in the water community about the legitimacy of existing intertie rights and how to handle new notices. Legislation in this area needs to be clarified.
- **Inchoate Water Rights** - Historically, Ecology issued water rights certificates before the water was actually put to use. The debate is whether or not the permitting process should require proof first that the water has been put to beneficial use before a transfer or intertie is allowed. Doug anticipates that the lack of trust between various water use groups and agencies will make this a tough subject for the work group.
- **Pumps and Pipes** - This work group topic will focus on the controversy surrounding the fact that public water purveyors contend they are entitled to a water right certificate by virtue of having put in the pumps and pipes to use the supply, even if they have only partially put the water to beneficial use.
- **Place of Use/Service Area** - This issue concerns modifying the planning process to allow for boundary changes without complete resubmittals. Ecology has already drafted a document that was well received by the Utilities Council, but it is now tabled awaiting a decision on how involved higher government needs to be. There are also some intertie issues to resolve.

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BROWN BAG (CONTINUED)

- **Hydraulic Continuity, Impairment, Mitigation** - This topic is generating a great deal of interest as continuity issues can be a basis for water right denials. The House passed legislation that the Governor found too permissive, and Doug believes did not hit upon the real issues. The work group will take a more scientific approach to assessing continuity effects, defining impairment and suggesting policy.
- **Ground Water Exemption/Exempt Wells** - The 5,000-gallon/half-acre irrigation exemption has been a constant disruption to sound water resources planning. The proliferation of "six-pack" developments served by exempt wells is subverting the growth management process. Whether or not the Legislature or a specific work group can do anything about this remains to be seen.

In conclusion, Doug reiterated that the JNRC and the facilitated work groups' focus will be to

produce legislation by consensus that can actually make it through the legislative process, ending with a signature from the Governor. There is a very short time period to do this, so the plan is to focus on the important issues that have a real potential for resolution.

Editor's Note: Although not yet a regular event on the planning calendar, there has been much discussion about developing a program of lunch-time meetings to supplement the bi-monthly dinner meetings. If attendance at this meeting is any indication, expect to see more brown bags next year. Members interested in organizing, hosting or speaking at a brown bag session, (or just wanting to share a topic idea) can contact any of the AWRA Board Members listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

THE CURRENT RECORD OF WATER RIGHT MITIGATION

by Rodney Sakrison, Ph.D., Department of Ecology

Technological innovations that might allow Ecology to issue water rights in situations where there are potential impacts to existing rights, including diminishment of instream flows, are currently being ballyhooed as a new, more flexible management of water resources. Is this optimism warranted? Only in a few cases have settlement agreements been entered into by opposing parties before the Pollution Control Hearings Board. These few cases have begun to set the record on the role of mitigation in compensating for water right impacts. The following brief summaries are intended to give factual context for further discussion of issues. Please consult the full record for additional details.

CADMAN, INC., v. STATE OF WASHINGTON, DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY and THE TULALIP TRIBES OF WASHINGTON, PCHB NO. 96-122., received April 3, 1997

Cadman filed three applications for the High Rock Quarry: one for surface water diversion of 2.5 cfs and two ground water withdrawals of 36 gpd. Ecology denied them on the basis of no water available and impairment of existing rights. Instream flows are not met on the Snoqualmie River. Cadman appealed. Cadman developed a mitigation plan to which the parties agreed.

Consumptive use is estimated as 30 ac/ft between June and September, mostly from evaporative losses, based on the appropriate quantity of 2.8 million gpd. However, current water use proposed under the applications was 1.65 million gpd. Thus mitigation for the proposed withdrawals is provided. The elements of the mitigation plan: 1) Pumps are limited to the applied-for amounts and the total site use is not to exceed 4.9 ac/ft per day, **... CONTINUED**

WATER RIGHT MITIGATION (CONTINUED)

and/or 1,810 ac/ft per year; 2) Cadman will provide a controlled discharge of 30 ac/ft to surface water during June 15 to Oct 15 and discharges at a continuous rate of 56 gpm (80,640 gpd, 0.25 ac/ft per day). The discharges are from stormwater collected on-site and filtered in various ponds, some using "California Drains" technology, before discharging into the Snoqualmie River.

Ecology issued a preliminary permit with temporary authorization for use valid for a three year period, including two summers of tests and allowing for modifications in permit terms as necessary. If augmentation works, water rights permits will be issued for a 30 year duration, the life of the quarry project. The water rights are intended not to be rights in perpetuity or subject to change in purpose of use.

THE TULALIP TRIBES OF WASHINGTON, v. AMES LAKE WATER ASSOCIATION, AND STATE OF WASHINGTON, DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, PCHB NO. 96-116, June, 1997

Ames Lake filed three applications for withdrawal of ground water: one for 200 gpm/225 ac/ft (American Hills wells within Patterson Creek basin), another for 100 gpm/160 ac/ft (Marshall well within Patterson Creek basin) and a third for 350 gpm (Cougar Mountain well within Snoqualmie River basin). Ecology approved the permits. Tulalip Tribes appealed.

Ames Lake has four existing wells in the Patterson Creek basin, which is closed to further appropriation, and an additional well in the Snoqualmie River basin, which is regulated with instream flows. Parties agree to a mitigation plan that allows Ames Lake to use the new wells as supplemental to existing rights. No new water rights were issued, however Ames Lake is allowed to operate existing rights and permits as a well field.

The elements of the mitigation plan: 1) limits pumping to existing annual amounts and instantaneous ground water pumpage in Patterson Creek to existing permitted rights; 2) allows Cougar Mountain well to be used for maximum instantaneous use in the Snoqualmie basin that minimizes impacts on instream flows; and 3) Ames Lake will mitigate potential impacts to Patterson Creek and Snoqualmie River by discharging mitigation water to surface water reaching Patterson Creek from July 1 to October 31 at a maximum rate of 25 gpm and 3.4 ac/ft per month whenever instantaneous use exceeds 340 gpm.

THE TULALIP TRIBES OF WASHINGTON v. CITY OF MARYSVILLE AND ECOLOGY, PCHB NO. 96-153, May 9, 1997

Marysville filed a ground water right (Edwards Spring Well No. 3). Ecology approved the permit for 400 gpm instantaneous/451 ac/ft supplemental to existing rights not to exceed 8,474 ac/ft (no increase in annual quantities). Ecology presented no finding of impairment of existing rights or instream flows.

Tulalips appealed, contending that Well No. 3 is in hydraulic continuity with the Stillaquamish River. Use of the well impairs streamflow and habitat required for fisheries production. Ecology subsequently asserted hydraulic continuity with Cougar Creek. Marysville disputed the Tribes' claim but sought settlement by offering a Streamflow Augmentation Project.

The elements of the mitigation plan: 1) Marysville shall release water at a controlled rate to maintain water quality conditions of 14° C and DO not less than 8 mg/L; and 2) Marysville shall release water from June to October from existing rights with a continuous discharge of 200 gpd from July 1 to September 30, and 100 gpd from June 1 to June 30 and October 1 through October 31.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION EMBRACES WATERSHED APPROACH

by Patty Lynch, Washington State Department of Transportation

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has received funding from the State Legislature and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to support its new multi-faceted approach to environmental impact mitigation. In the past, WSDOT mitigated project impacts on a case-by-case basis. This piecemeal approach often ignored top priorities and needs within watersheds and did not address the fact that an entire watershed can be affected by transportation projects. The site-by-site approach reduces the likelihood of the Department entering into cooperative cost-sharing projects with stakeholders and increases the potential for investing mitigation dollars in less than optimal improvement sites.

The new philosophy focuses on watershed management. WSDOT has initiated several programs within a watershed context that will change the way the Department mitigates impacts associated with road, ferry, and rail projects. Initiatives directly contributing to the watershed approach include the Department's Wetlands Strategic Plan, fish barrier removal program, the advanced mitigation account, and stormwater retrofit grants. A common thread in each of these programs is the establishment of incentives for targeting mitigation investments to sites that contribute the greatest benefits towards protecting, preserving, or restoring key components of the watershed. In order for these programs to be successful, there must be improved coordination among stakeholders and decisions makers affecting the department's mitigation projects and the State's watershed management activities.

On a project level, WSDOT has initiated a Snohomish Basin Pilot Project, which is funded jointly by the Department and FHWA. The new philosophy will be applied within the Snohomish watershed to evaluate its effect in a defined geographic area. Work will include close coordination with the basin's stakeholders to identify cost-sharing opportunities and to determine top watershed enhancement priorities within the basin. Projects considered under the approach encompass the full range of aquatic resource concerns, such as wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, flooding, sediment quality, and stream restoration activities. WSDOT will then consider those watershed restoration and enhancement needs as mitigation decisions are made. By focusing on the watershed approach to mitigate transportation impacts, the department expects to make more efficient use of its mitigation dollars and provide more effective environmental protection.

Successful integration of watershed-based mitigation decisions and watershed management activities requires increased coordination on everyone's part. The 1997 legislature added a requirement in the Capital Budget that government agencies must share information on environmental enhancement, preservation, and mitigation projects. This is a significant departure from existing practice. WSDOT was required to notify resource agencies of transportation projects, but resource agencies doing enhancement or preservation work did not have to notify or coordinate with WSDOT.

This new requirement in the Capital Budget is a logical extension of the focus on state agencies working cooperatively to save money, improve environmental benefits, and increase mitigation options. Private entities involved in the development of Capital funded projects, or other watershed improvement activities, are encouraged to contact WSDOT if there is potential for establishing linkages between transportation's projects and basin stakeholder interests. While the Department is focusing on the Snohomish basin, our interest in applying our watershed-based approach is open to all areas of the state. For information about WSDOT's watershed initiatives, call Patty Lynch at (360) 705-7448 or e-mail her at lynchp@wsdot.wa.gov.

CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE

by Megan Davis, Washington State Department of Transportation

A year ago, the Washington State Department of Transportation, along with 19 other sponsoring agencies and organizations, hosted "Connections - Transportation, Wetlands and the Natural Environment." This was the first conference of its kind, and participants expressed strong interest in attending future similar gatherings to build on the foundations that were established.

The Connections Conference was held at the Tacoma Convention Center from September 18 through 20, 1996. Approximately 400 participants from a wide range of government agencies, environmental groups, and business interests attended. Keynote speakers were **Kenneth F. Bierly**, Program Manager for the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board in the Oregon Governor's Natural Resource Office, **Thomas D. Larson**, administrator of the Federal Highways Administration during the Bush administration, Transportation Commissioner **Connie Niva**, and State Senator **Margarita Prentice**.

Session topics included wetland inventory and delineation, geographic information systems, improving coordination between federal, state and local agencies, and cooperative agreements in wetland banking.

The next Connections Conference will be held in the fall of 1998; it will be hosted by the Center for Transportation and the Environment at North Carolina State University. A similar breadth of subject matter and participants will be the hallmark of the 1998 conference.

For further information, contact **Megan Davis** at Washington State Department of Transportation's Environmental Affairs Office: (360) 705-7482.

THE RIVERS COUNCIL OF WASHINGTON

by Keith Macdonald and Teresa J. Platin, CH2M HILL

The Rivers Council of Washington, lead by Executive Director, **Joy Huber** is active in state and national watershed legislation. RCW's wide range of activities have brought it to a prominent position in the government's line of sight. Of particular emphasis now, is the concept of Watershed Management, something that has been ongoing in Massachusetts for 40 years, and is now becoming a hot topic in many states, particularly Washington and Florida. The Department of Ecology is interested and has responded favorably to RCW's requests for grants and their desire to involve both the public and businesses in the watershed management process.

RCW joined with Ecology in getting House Bill 2054 introduced (authorizing watershed planning units and the supporting budget). RCW also was able to get water uses for recreation into management discussions at the State Water Resources Forum.

Joy hopes that all water resource inventory areas (WRIAs) will be represented by watershed councils that are forming now. Many of the 62 rivers covered on the WRIA map are contacting

RCW to get on-board their watershed's program.

Another part of Joy's work has involved working with the Washington Department of Transportation to generate funds for public involvement in watershed issues. The idea is to redirect environmental mitigation or design money to restore the environment. There has also been a "ground-floor up" approach to help the public get involved in the process, with mass marketing planned to spread the word. The RCW hopes to provide input to WSDOT's 20-year planning process and to become involved in wetland mitigation banking.

RCW's June 17, 1997 conference, "Watershed Planning in Washington - - How Do We Make It Work?" was held in Tacoma and had almost 400 attendees representing utilities, non-profit organizations, state government and others. In continuation, a second conference is scheduled for October 1, called "Your Turn to Speak..." to encourage more public involvement. For more information, please contact **A.M. Noel** of the Rivers Council at (206) 283-4988.

DISCOVER THE CEDAR RIVER WATERSHED

by Fran Solomon, King County Department of Natural Resources

When **Diana Gale**, Director of Seattle Public Utilities, spoke at the AWRA dinner meeting in May, she mentioned the availability of public tours of the Cedar River watershed. This 90,160-acre protected, closed watershed is the drinking water source for 1,200,000 people living in the Greater Seattle area.

The three hour interpretive journey by bus and foot into the Cedar River watershed takes place every summer Saturday through September 13. Participants meet at the Watershed Management Division's office in North Bend at 9:30 AM; the tour runs from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and costs \$5 for adults, \$3 for children (must be at least six years old) and seniors, and \$15 per family. For information and reservations, call the Watershed Management Division at (206) 233-1515 from Seattle and (206) 888-1507 from North Bend.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON STUDENT CHAPTER

by Doug Pflugh, University of Washington Student Chapter President

As expected, summer has been a quiet time for the student chapter. Chapter members have been pursuing a variety of personal directions, including: ongoing research on campus; employment with King County Water and Land Resource Department and Snohomish County Surface Water Management; working on environmental benchmarks in Salzburg, Austria; and guiding white-water raft trips.

With fall approaching, the chapter will shift its focus to four key tasks:

1. An early meeting and election of new chapter officers.
2. Recruitment of a new faculty advisor.
3. Planning a slate of quarterly meetings and speakers.
4. Assisting the State Section with the Fall Conference.

Thanks to those of you who have participated in the internship program and supported the chapter in a variety of other ways. As a reminder, registration in the Student Chapter is open to all UW students (State Section members are quite welcome at our events also, student or not). Annual dues are \$5.00. Any questions, suggestions, or support for the Chapter can be directed to **Doug Pflugh** at 783-8627 or dpflugh@u.washington.edu.

WESTERN WASHINGTON S TWO NEW AREA CODES

On November 16, 1997, use of new area codes will become mandatory. The region now served by the 206 area code will be split into three different area codes:

- The **206** area code will be kept by Bainbridge Island, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, SeaTac, Seattle, Shoreline, Vashon Island, and portions of Des Moines, Tukwila, and Woodway.
- The **425** area code will include Ames Lake, Bellevue, Bothell, Carnation, Edmonds, Everett, Fall City, Issaquah, Kirkland, Lynnwood, Maple Valley, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, Snoqualmie Pass, and portions of Tukwila and Woodway.
- The **253** area code will include Auburn, Federal Way, Fort Lewis, the greater Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula area, Graham, Kent, Lakewood, Puyallup, Roy, Sumner, Tacoma, and portions of Des Moines.

The 360 and 509 area codes will not change.

**AWRA WASHINGTON SECTION
1997 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME: _____
ORGANIZATION: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Check if you would like to be actively involved on a committee during 1997. You will be contacted to determine what committee involvement you would like.

1997 Membership Dues (through October 1997): \$25.00. Please make check payable to **AWRA Washington Section**.

Mail to: American Water Resources Association, Washington Section
c/o Mike Wert, Shapiro & Associates
101 Yesler Way, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98104

The American Water Resources Association is a scientific and educational non-profit organization established to encourage and foster interdisciplinary communication among persons of diverse backgrounds working on any aspect of water resources disciplines. Individuals interested in water resources are encouraged to participate in the activities of the Washington Section.

Special thanks to CH2M HILL, Bellevue, for their word processing and graphics support on this newsletter.

American Water Resources Association, Washington Section
101 Yesler Way, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98104

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August/September 1997
AWRA Washington Section Newsletter
