



Island County Public Health

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MEMORANDUM

5/23/2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Planning and Public Health

RE: Water Study Goals

Background

This memo outlines goals for water resources planning as part of the Comprehensive Plan update. The Board of County Commissioners has requested a countywide study of groundwater resources in Island County. After consultation with board members, community stakeholders, and staff, Public Health and Planning recommend working with a consultant to address the following study components.

Study Goals

- Review and consider updates to the Coordinated Water Systems Plan (CWSP) for water resource management. The CWSP was adopted in 1990. The purpose of the CWSP is to support effective resource management within a Critical Water Supply Service Area (CWSSA). The entire boundary of Island County is designated as a CWSSA, and all water systems within Island County are subject to the CWSP. The CWSP acts as a regional supplement to each individual water systems plan and includes guidance for those water systems and minimum design standards. The CWSP also includes the map of the official service area boundaries for each water system. Please see [this fact sheet](#) for additional information. Reviewing the CWSP will address the following goals:
 - Develop regional recommendations for groundwater protection for areas of intensive development, utilizing current data on water quality in coordination with the Island County Hydrogeologist.
 - Coordinate with Island County Hydrogeologist to determine water capacity for density planning as part of Comprehensive Planning.
 - Integrate climate resiliency considerations, preparedness, population changes, housing needs, and current regulatory landscape for public water systems.
 - Address receiverships for sustainable resource planning.
 - Review the impact of infrastructure quality on water availability.
 - Identify updates to the CWSP follows the WRAC Recommendations made in 2020 for improved water systems management. See attached WRAC Recommendations for additional information.

- Consultant to support community outreach through focus groups with water system stakeholders and agencies.

Timeline and Budget

- Proposed funding allocation: 100,000 for 10-month study period from a mix of funds Clean Water Utility and GMA
- Deliverable: A set of recommendations for updates that are needed to the CWSP that would be made following the Comprehensive Plan adoption.
- Project Timeline: June 2024 – July 2025
 - RFP June 2024, Contract Selection July 2024
 - Study Period: July 2024 – July 2025