



Water organizations explore pathway to support regional cooperation

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Working with the state Departments of Ecology and Health, Cascade Water Alliance and LOTT Clean Water Alliance in Thurston County began an effort to explore a pathway for public entities that want to get together to provide essential public services. Currently, no legal framework exists to support these regional initiatives. As issues around water, sewer and/or flood control become more complex, it becomes more costly for these entities to provide services on their own. The result is they are increasingly looking to voluntarily regionalize their efforts, but, currently, no legal framework exists to support these regional approaches.

The Departments of Ecology and Health convened a group that would look into finding any options that could help existing entities and those looking into future formation. This summer more than 30 entities statewide participated in two meetings with at least one more meeting planned.

Working together, these entities addressed the collective need of finding more efficient, effective ways of providing services to customers. While there was no single legislative or legal option that resolves all the issues, the group agreed that a new narrowly focused statute would be the best avenue for creating workable solutions for entities that voluntarily seek to provide essential services.

For more information or to view all materials visit: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/hq/rwosg.html

Water for today...
and tomorrow