

“Our Water, Our Future, Our Solutions ... Water Supply Symposium”

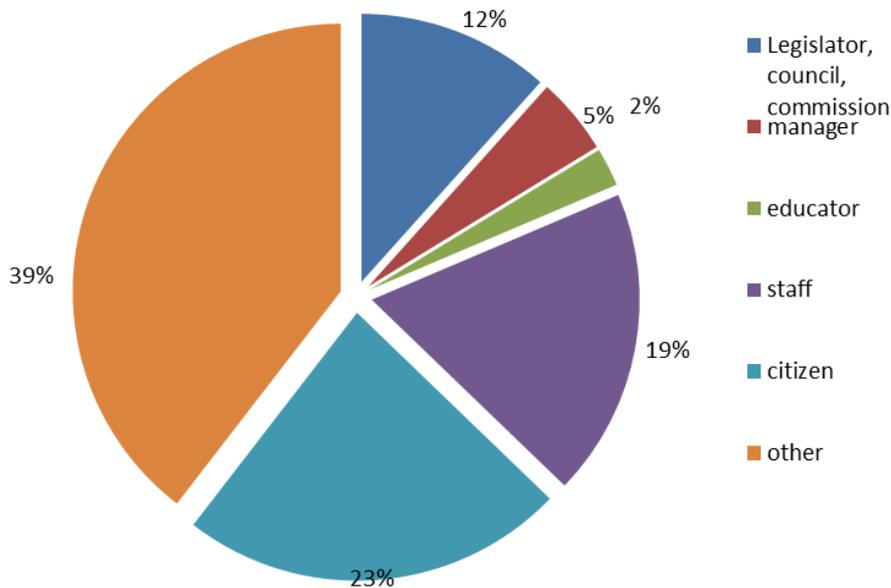
Evaluation Survey Results

The Water Supply Symposium was an all-day event held on December 13 in Bellingham, WA. Registration was capped at 155 including speakers and Planning Team members. Eight people that registered did not attend. An estimated 135 people attended. Written surveys were provided at check-in with the event program. 46 surveys were returned. The purpose of this paper is to summarize the results received for each question on the survey.

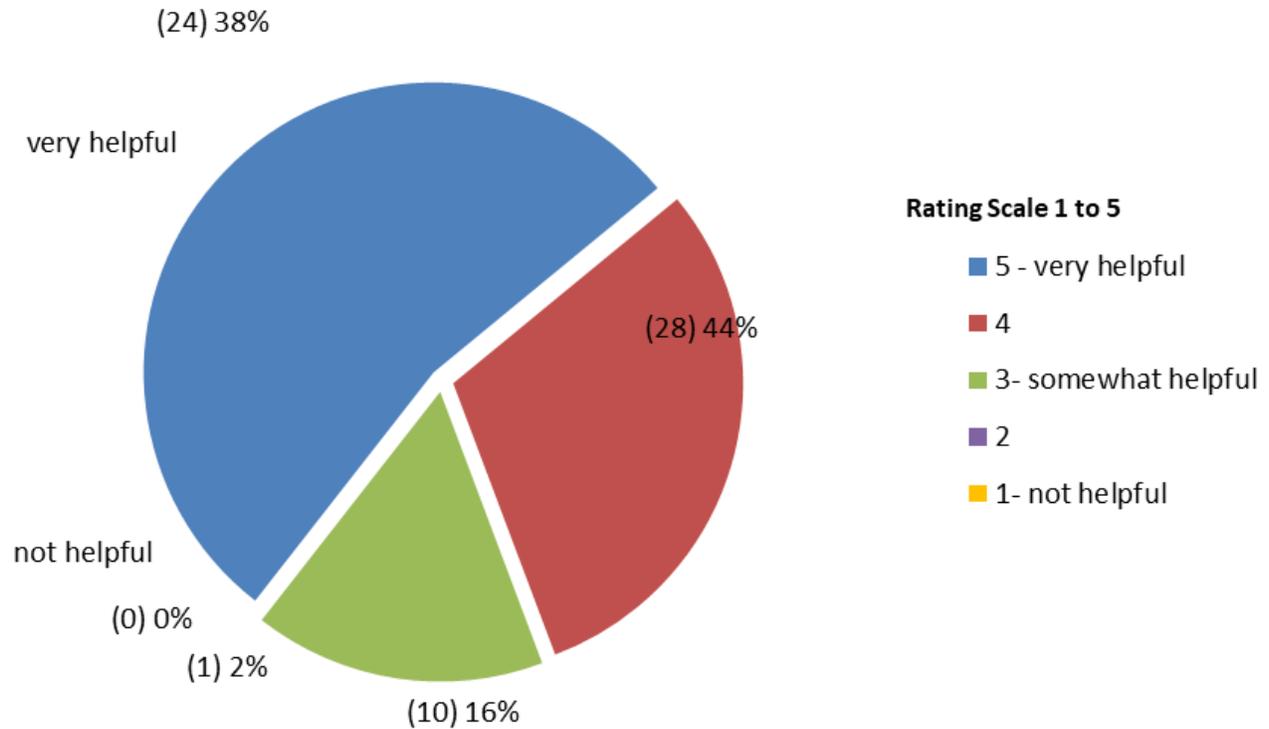
Question 1. Please provide your organization or affiliation (if any)?

Whatcom County PDS; NSEA; Wilson Engineering; Environmental NGO; Local Environmental Consultant; Citizen Alliance for Property Rights; Water System Services; WCWD #13; Designs for Water; Multiple hats (WC Planning Commission, Muceri Construction, BFAWC, South Fork Nooksack Ed committee); Drayton WID; WC Health; WC Health; Bellingham City Council; Local Government; WC Health; Kulshan Services; Well owner; Mt Baker Group Sierra Club; Ecology; WA St Dept Health; Nooksack Tribe; Agriculture; Nooksack Tribe; Nooksack Tribe; RH2 Engineering; RE Sources

Question 2. Please select the item below which best represents your work and/or interest. Options were: legislator/council/commissioner; manager; educator; staff; citizen; other (please specify)



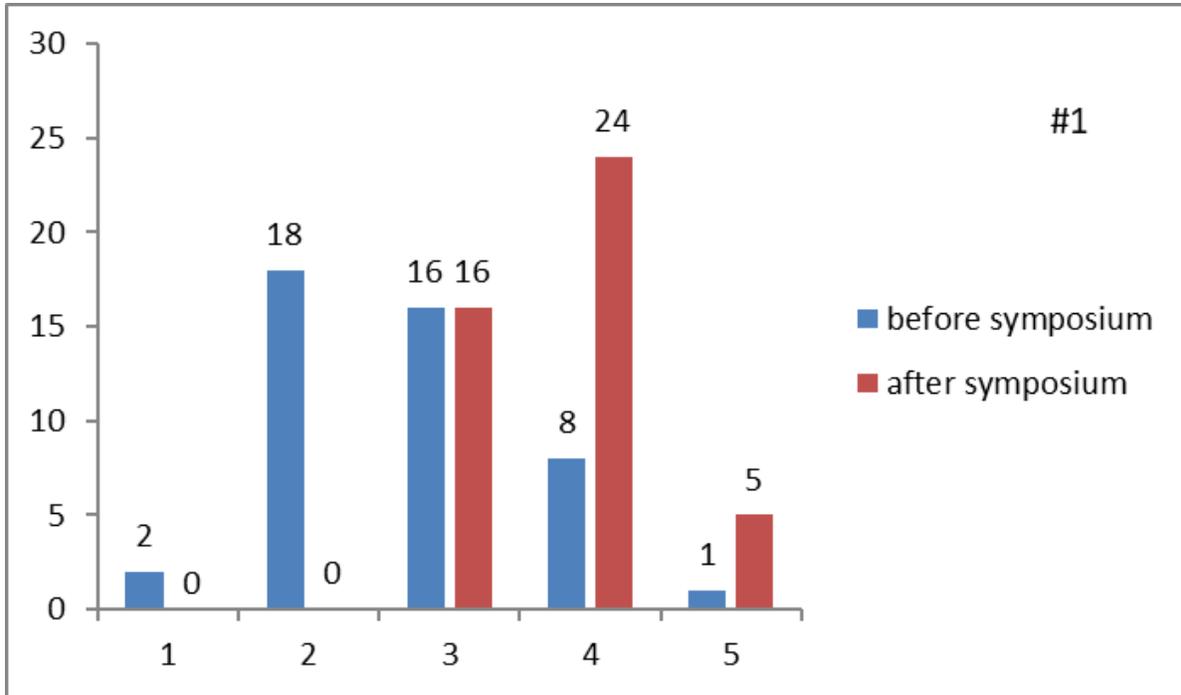
Question 3. How helpful was the symposium in helping you understand the status of water supply and possible solutions?



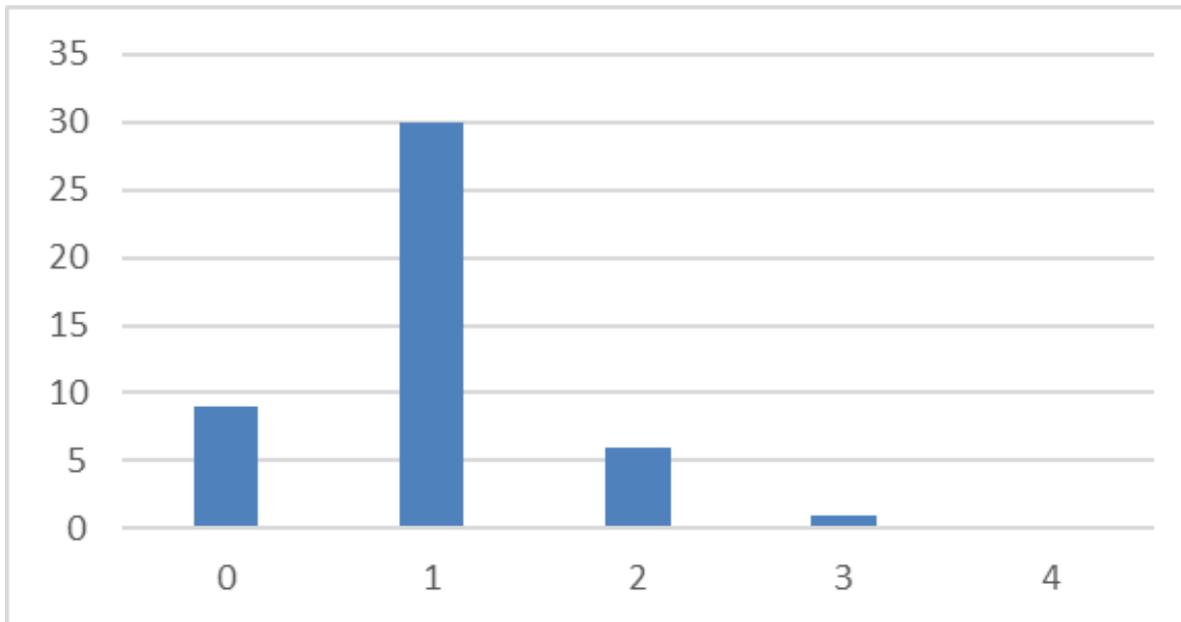
Question 4. This question focused on knowledge change before and after each session (except sessions 2 and 3 were combined) and additional input on methods of information exchange (e.g. presentations, posters, networking). Results are presented for each separate question. The first three questions requested ranking knowledge change on a scale from 1 – 5 with 1 being “not at all knowledgeable”, 3 being “somewhat knowledgeable”, and 5 being “very knowledgeable”. Note that rankings were based on the overall session(s) vs. individual speakers. Two graphs were developed for each of the three questions. The first illustrates the number of people (“y” axis) selecting numbers 1 – 5 before and after each session. The second graph illustrates the knowledge change noted by each individual. For example, if a participant selected “2” before the session and a “3” after the session the knowledge change was identified as “1”. If they selected the same number before and after the session the knowledge change was noted as “0”.

How would you rate your understanding of the water law and how case law affects Whatcom County (Session 1)?

- *Knowledge change before and after session.*

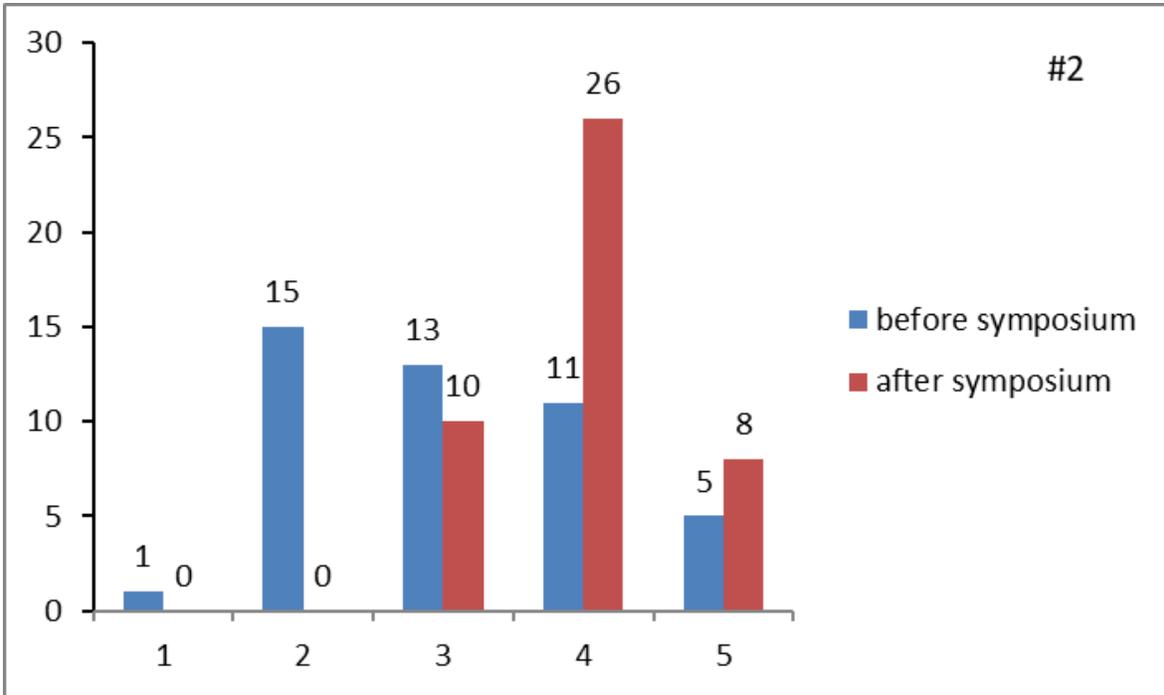


- *Knowledge change associated with each individual respondent*

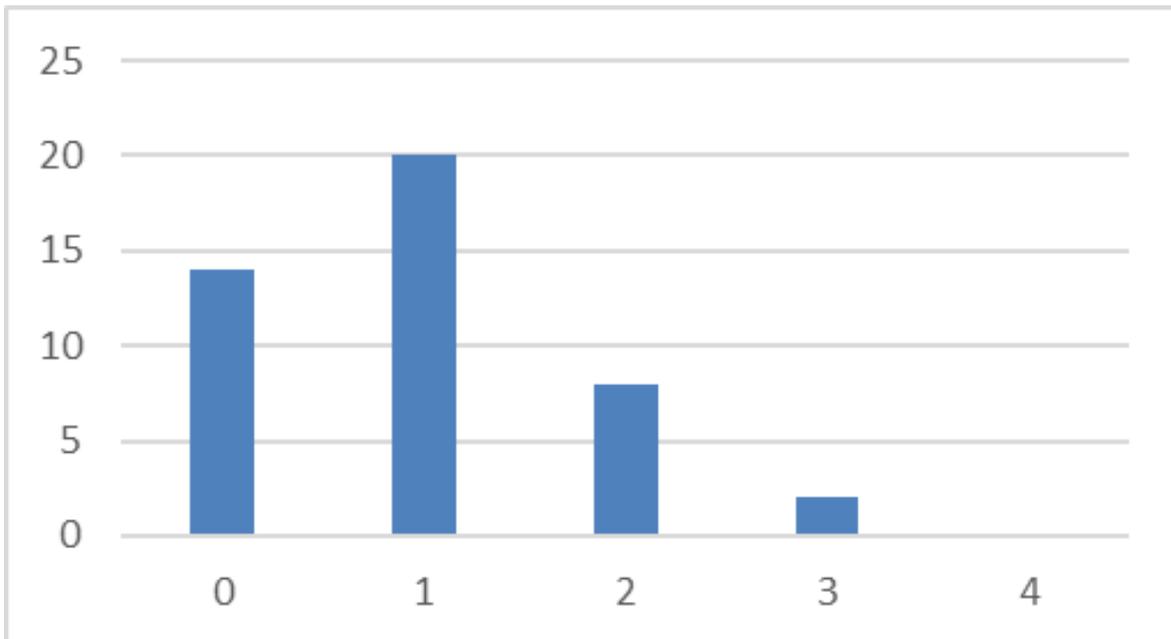


How would you rate your understanding of where we get our water, how it's used, and consideration in planning for future use and demand (Sessions II and III)?

- *Knowledge change before and after session.*

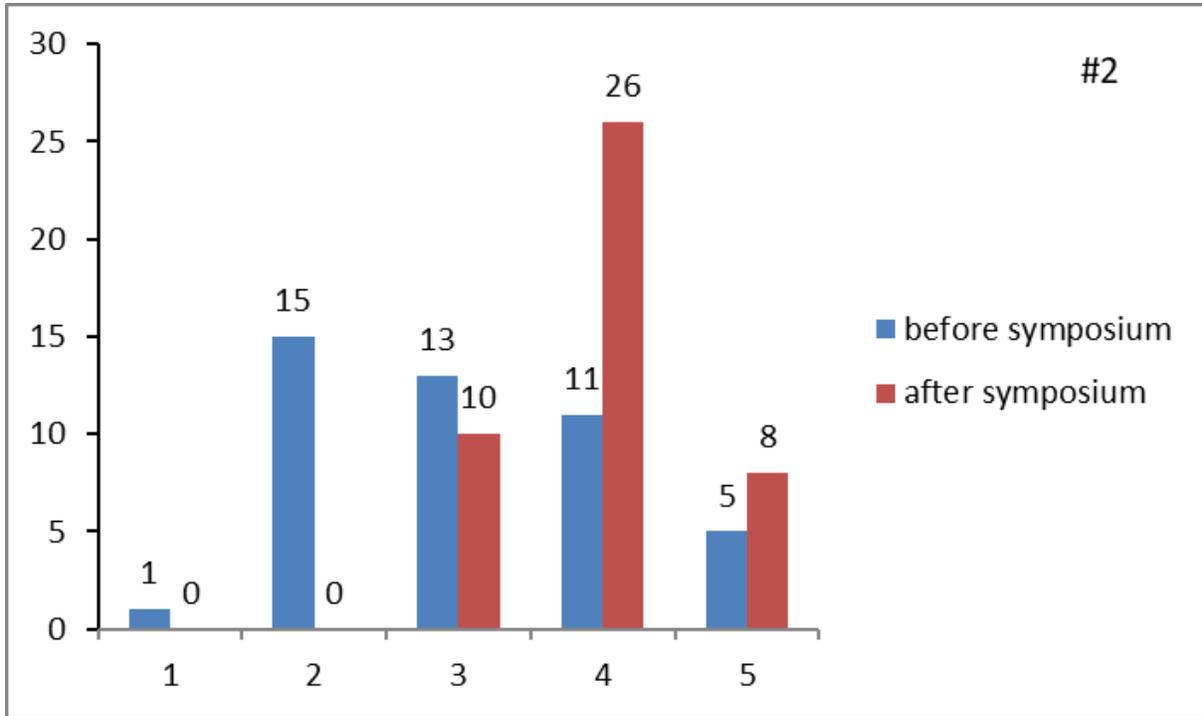


- *Knowledge change associated with each individual respondent*

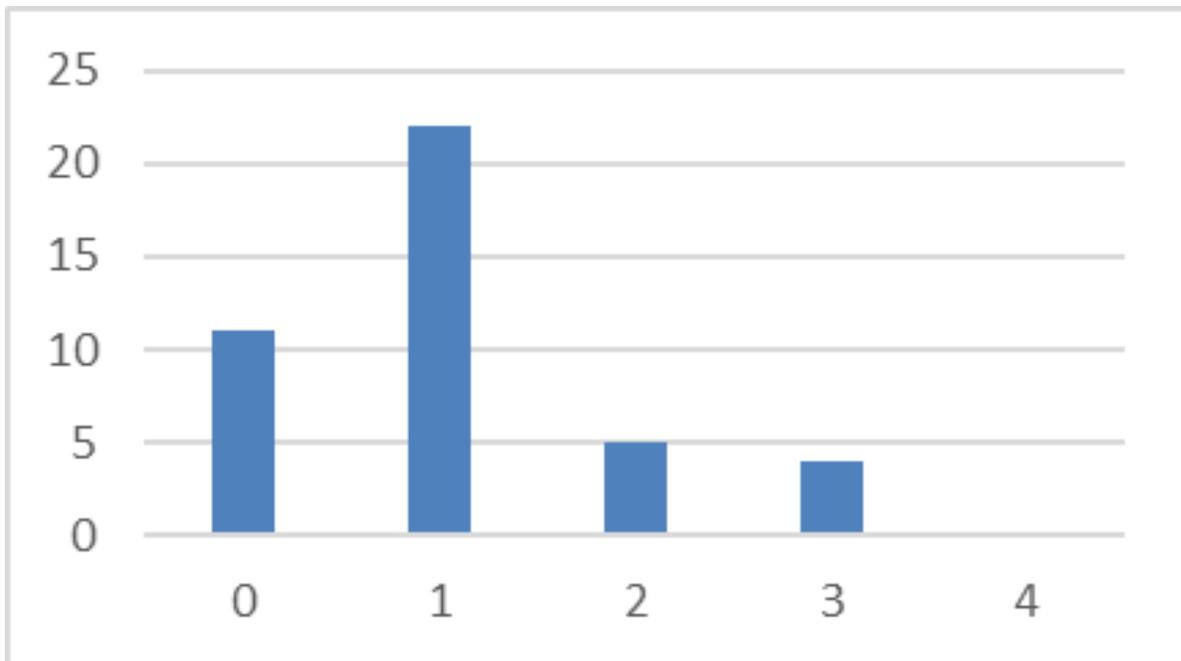


How would you rate your understanding of the range of solutions and tools for solving water supply challenges (Session IV)?

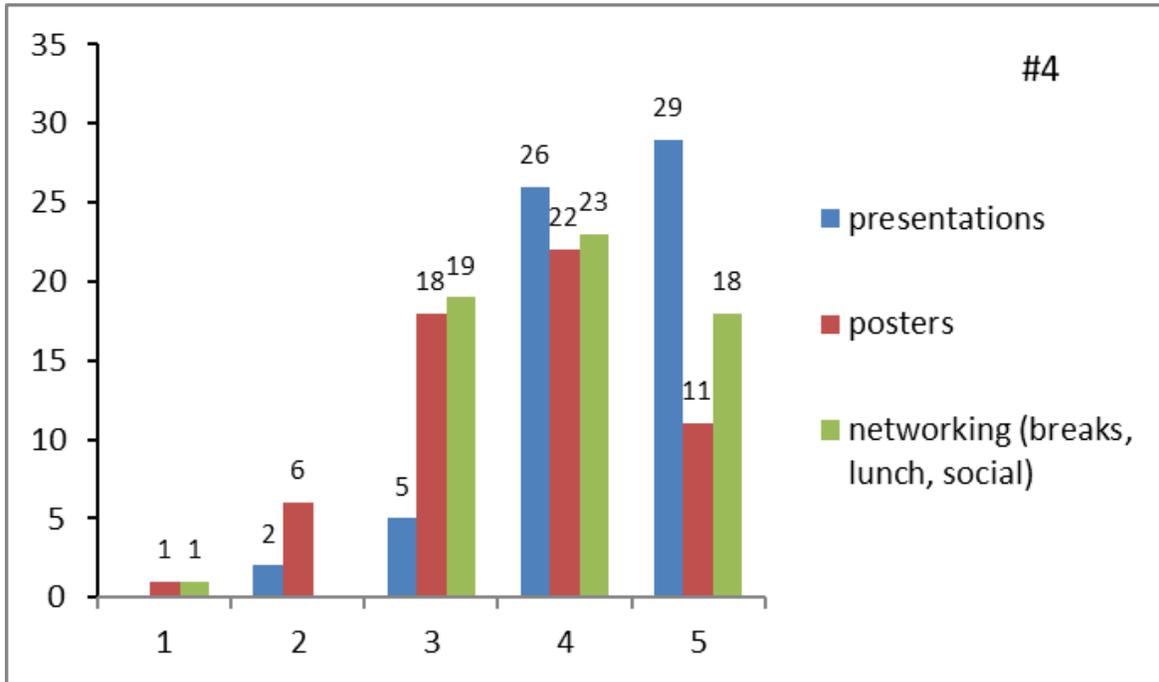
- *Knowledge change before and after session.*



- *Knowledge change associated with each individual respondent.*



Please rate the value of each of the following in helping understanding water supply topics in Whatcom County.

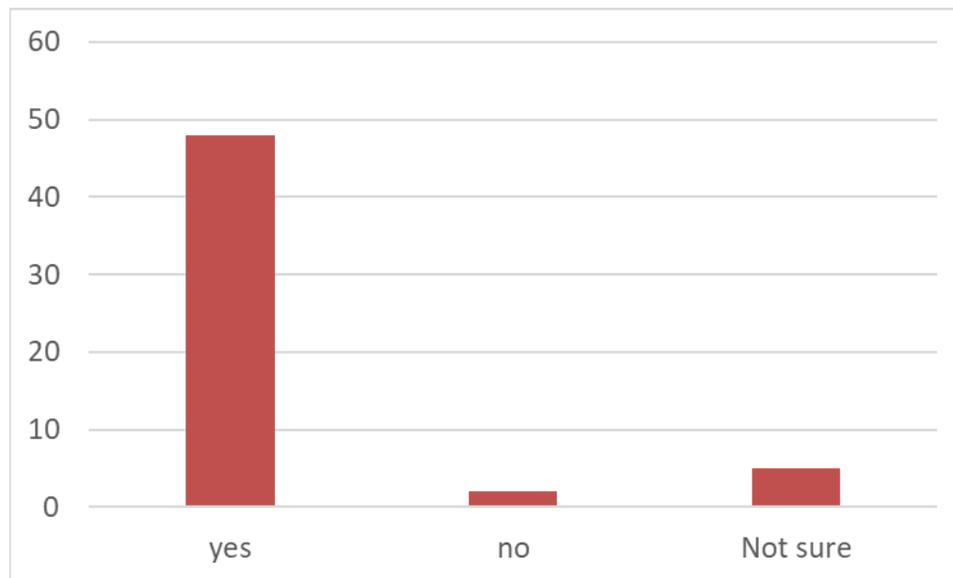


Question 5. Are there particular priorities you think should be focused on?

- Many comments stressed the value of thinking “outside of the box” developing “what if” scenarios/solutions as discussed by Jim Bucknell. Don’t let existing water law be the constraint that it currently is. Find solutions that provide multiple benefits and reflect a community vision. Commit to giving up something for a common goal.
- Find solutions to Hirst case and provide opportunities for local participation.
- Finding supply options for acres without water rights.
- Consider value of beavers in developing solutions for watershed health, water supply, and
- Emphasize building relationships and trust.
- More focus on developing alternative water supplies – e.g. water storage facilities for use in dry summer months, water use efficiency, reclaimed, reuse, and on-site infiltration.
- Provide education to a broader community and provide different options for people to obtain information. Work to update, maintain, and enhance WRIA 1 (or some other) website making it easier for people to access all reports and information. Recognize that some people do not have internet access. Mount Baker Group of Sierra Club offered to sponsor some educational forums.
- More information and time spent helping people understand water law and case law.
- Restoring salmon runs and finding solutions that maintain/enhance water in streams such as alternative consumptive water supplies, redistributing water to enhance instream flows, and culvert/blockage removal.
- Continue to gather data and information to support management decisions – e.g. water quality monitoring, and aquifer/well/surface water interaction.
- Climate change and peak (cheap) oil will provide for a very different future.
- Continue planning to prepare for continued population growth.
- Support funding.

- More emphasis on individual mitigation options for consideration by watershed planning including having the WRIA Board should finish plan.
- Water quality

Question 6. Do you think additional actions are necessary to move forward with the remaining issues?



Comments included a suggestion to make the WRIA 1 website more helpful, encouraging new leaders to become involved, ensuring coordination to get good solutions to Hirst concern, integrating hydrologic assessment and management, and providing more context for Hirst decision (which might have helped build foundation for speakers).

Question 7. Do you have any other questions, comments, or suggestions?

- A bigger venue.
- Provide more interactive teaching and not as much sitting.
- Enhance diversity (sex and race) of speakers.
- Maintain momentum in moving forward.
- Multiple “thank-yous” and looking forward to future events.
- Concerned with apparent lack of understanding about the importance of the cost of housing as it relates to water issues given that housing affordability is the 1 issue that outstrips water.
- More on solutions.
- Refer to www.anaturalresource.com for resources, education, and technical assistance. See upcoming water forum 8.
- How do we integrate flood management into the water resources and water quality and fish solutions?
- Don’t let the details get in the way of innovative thinking that can lead to a solution acceptable to all parties. Regulators and policy makers should focus on identifying "where are there areas of opportunity"?
- Put the website for the materials on the symposium brochure.
- More opportunity to hear from Jeremiah Julius and Lummis.
- Water use efficiency as it relates to public water supplies and ag water use.

- There was a huge expertise in the audience. Can we get names, affiliations, and contact information for attendees, so we can network with each other?
- Excellent final session! Feeling hopeful this is our time! Our chance! Our future!