# Ecology logo. A state of Washington shape separated into three bands of color; light blue, green, and dark blue. a sun sits in the middle of the light blue band.Meeting Summary

**WRIA 10 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee**

**Committee meeting**

April 1, 2020 | 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. |[WRIA 10 Webpage](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37323/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_10.aspx) |[Webmap](https://hdr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=80d55f4e263d4a27a7f987f62f7846b7)

Location

WebExCommittee Chair

Rebecca Brown

Rebecca.brown@ecy.wa.gov

Handouts

Agenda

Presentation

**Attendance**

Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Lisa Tobin (City of Auburn)

Dan Cardwell (Pierce County)

Austin Jennings (Pierce County, Alternate)

Carla Carlson (Muckleshoot Indian Tribe)

Jeremy Metzler (City of Edgewood)

Paul Marrinan (City of Puyallup)

Robert Wright (City of Sumner)

Carrie Hernandez (Puyallup River Watershed Council)

Allan Warren (Pierce Conservation District)

Jessie Gamble (MBA Pierce County)

Russ Blount (City of Fife)

Char Naylor (Puyallup Tribe)

Rebecca Brown, Chair (Ecology)

Liz Bockstiegel (WDFW)

Merita Trohimovich (City of Tacoma)

Scott Woodbury (City of Enumclaw)

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Not Attendance\*

City of Orting

City of Pacific

Lakehaven Water and Sewer District

City of Bonney Lake

Other Attendees\*

Spencer Easton (ESA, Facilitator)

Madeline Remmen (ESA, Information Manager)

Matt Rakow (WA Dept. of Ecology)

Bob Montgomery (HDR)

Jason Hatch (WA Water Trust)

Angela Johnson (WA Dept. of Ecology)

Mugdha Flores (WA Dept. of Ecology)

Mike Noone (WA Dept. of Ecology)

\*Attendees list is based on roll call and WebEx attendees list.

**Meeting Summary**

The March meeting summary was approved.

## Updates and Announcements

* Ecology is planning to continue moving forward the planning process during the COVID-19 pandemic. If there are any additional updates, Rebecca will share them with the committee.
* Ecology has changed the deadline to April 30 for this year’s grant round due to COVID-19 and issues with the EAGL software.
* WDFW and Ecology met and provided updates on each committees work and discussed WDFW items of interest, including project tracking and measuring offsets from habitat projects.
  + Anyone can have a meeting with Ecology about the planning process.

## Consumptive Use Decision

* The committee voted on the consumptive use estimate of 277.4 afy/0.38 cfs
* The consumptive use estimate was approved.
  + WDFW abstained from vote over concerns on outdoor irrigation analysis methodology.
  + MBA Pierce abstained from vote because their legislative committee has been unable to review the CU estimates.
  + Several committee members (Pierce County, Muckleshoot Tribe) that their decision-makers did not review the CU estimates. However, they did not anticipate any red flags.

## Projects

* Jason from Washington Water Trust (WWT) gave the committee an update on the water rights assessment. He discussed the scope, status and selection criteria for potential water rights projects as well as their preliminary findings. They will identify 10 potential water rights projects.
  + Jason clarified that they are looking at groundwater rights as well as surface water rights.
  + A committee member pointed out that a lot of the delineated acreage south of the Enumclaw city limits is a lot of dairy watering from lagoons that receive dairy waste, which could affect the analysis.
  + The committee agreed with criteria for identifying potential projects that WWT presented.
  + The [WWT memo](https://app.box.com/s/1kegsw0u558herss3e2dnrmincso5hvj) is stored on Box.
* Bob Montgomery from HDR gave an update on their analysis of the Alward Road floodplain reconnection project.
  + A committee member pointed out that the project does not create new water, but changes the timing of water release by creating more storage. Therefore, the project should be classified as an NEB project not an offset project.
  + The work group will discuss how to consider projects that retime water.
  + GeoEngineers’ method for estimating water offset from habitat projects was sent to the committee and is available on Box as [a paper](https://app.box.com/s/lmg6kwxt9dxeedw45hz9yakd1cxm6270), a [presentation](https://app.box.com/s/ljibmfnio8hxjlclgq8evdu9q8u6t0oy), and [a recording](https://app.box.com/s/oqvj5djcu28hmy9rj6f7ynb5bptv20nj).
* Bob Montgomery also provided an update on the Harmon Farm project, which involves converting a surface water right to a groundwater right.
  + This project would also change the timing of water impacts.
  + The difficulty with this type of project is that the cost for drilling, connecting the well, and the administration cost adds up to about $45,000.
  + Ecology’s process for these types of projects is very cumbersome and can take years.
* The committee would like to clarify the definitions of project types (offset projects, timing projects, lagging projects, etc.), to better understand which categories projects like Alward Road and Harmon Farm fit into.
* HDR is also looking into wet meadow restoration, but at this time they have not updates because they have not been able to get in touch with anyone at Mt. Rainier National Park.

## Policy and Regulatory Considerations

* The committee participated in a dot voting exercise to see what policy and regulatory recommendations were the most supported.
* A few committee members stated that they believed some of the considerations could also fit into the adaptive management section of the report.
* The ideas and next steps were identified on the [Policy and Regulatory Ideas document](https://app.box.com/s/1fia5rba4cjl7ppklukpgazu5gklxhif) on Box.
* Several of these ideas may have broad interest across multiple WRIAs. Ecology and the facilitation team are tracking committee recommendations across watersheds and are coordinating responses for WRIAs:
  + Update the Ecology Well Log database
  + Enhance enforcement by State staff of existing and proposed regulations
  + Build structure for plan implementation to support adaptive management
  + Develop incentive programs for water conservation
  + Create a centralized database for tracking project implementation (understanding that WDFW is working on a proposal already).
* The work group will discuss the following regulatory and policy actions to attain more clarity:
  + Expand research on ways to make use of excess winter stream flows to increase aquifer recharge and groundwater storage.
  + Review fees for permit-exempt and non-permit exempt wells for equity/ balance.
  + Metering.

## Local Plan Review Process

Rebecca gave a presentation on each of the committee members plan review process. Following the presentation, committee members shared the following updates:

* The Puyallup Tribe reported that the plan will have to go through their fish commission and tribal council.
* Pierce County stated that if the plan has any recommendations that obligate the county to make regulatory changes, the plan would have to go to their planning commission for approval.
* Other committee members stated that their review processes would be similar to what was presented.

## Next Steps

* The committee voted and approved the CU estimate, so the committee will move on to developing other parts of the plan, there were a few committee members that were not able to vet it with their decision makers.
* Washington Water Trust will begin to prioritize projects.
* Some committee members expressed concerns about timing projects counting towards the offset, particularly with the Alward Road Project, the committee will keep this in mind and loop back to this project.
* The workgroup will work to define project definitions in order to decide if projects like Harmon Farm have offset.
* The committee will move forward with the eight policy and regulatory actions next steps. There are eight more that will also need to reviewed and discussed by the committee in the future.
* The next workgroup meeting is April 22, from 1 pm – 3 pm on WebEx.
* The next full committee meeting is May 6, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm, Location TBD.