# 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**

May 6, 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)

Jeremy Metzler (City of Edgewood)

Ryan Rutkosky (City of Puyallup)

Robert Wright (City of Sumner)

Allan Warren (Pierce Conservation District)

Jessie Gamble (MBA Pierce County)

Russ Blount (City of Fife)

Greg Reed (City of Fife Alternate)

Russ Ladley (Puyallup Tribe)

Char Naylor (Puyallup Tribe)

Rebecca Brown, Chair (Ecology)

Liz Bockstiegel (WDFW)

Merita Trohimovich (City of Tacoma)

Scott Woodbury (City of Enumclaw)

Jim Morgan (City of Pacific)

Lisa Spurrier, ex officio (Salmon Recovery Lead Entity)

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Not Attendance\*

Muckleshoot Tribe

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)

Ethan Lockwood (WA Water Trust)

Angela Johnson (WA Dept. of Ecology)

Mike Noone (WA Dept. of Ecology)

Tristan Weiss (WDFW)

Michelle Harris (TPCHD)

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

**Meeting Summary**

The April meeting summary was approved.

## Updates and Announcements

* Ecology is planning to continue moving forward the planning as planned. If there are any additional updates, Rebecca will share them with the committee.
  + If you are impacted by COVID-19 let Rebecca know. Two committee members (Carla Carlson and Tim Osborne) have been effected and will not currently be able to participate in the planning process.
* The grant round closed on April 30. There was good distribution of projects across the state and Ecology’s grant team is sorting through them.

## Public Comment

* No members of public comment on the phone
* N/A no public comments.

## Policy and Regulatory Considerations

* Rebecca reminded the committee that these are recommendations and do not obligate Ecology or any other entity to implement them.
* [Sixteen recommendations](https://app.box.com/s/xzsommhdldqd2eawvr0soymvpx1uoo55) have been identified, last month the committee discussed 8 and identified next steps for advancing them.
* Of the 8 recommendations the work group did not recommend pursuing 6 of them due to the perceived inability to implement them and reach consensus.
* The committee discussed the remaining policy and regulatory recommendations. The following ideas and next steps were identified:
  + Easing regulations within local jurisdictions or reducing policy barriers to restoration
    - The committee decided to move this recommendation to adaptive management.
  + Decreasing the gallon per day withdrawal limit.
  + Expand research on ways to make use of excess stream flows to increase aquifer and groundwater recharge.
    - The committee decided to move this recommendation to the project list.
  + Review fees for permit-exempt and non-permit exempt wells for equity /balance.
    - Committee members stated that if fees were increased it would have to be very clear where the money was going. The workgroup will discuss this at their next meeting.
* Several committee members have expressed interest in metering permit exempt wells, while other committee members have expressed concerns.
  + Ecology currently has two metering pilot projects and are expecting the final reports in 2027, it is unlikely that they would take on additional metering projects before then.
  + The Puyallup Tribe expressed that they believe this to be one of the most important regulatory considerations to make sure that water and fish resources are not being impacted
  + The committee expressed interest in having a [South Sound Water Master](https://app.box.com/s/f6me60g37568d9x8nlfzc43lqra6tflo).
  + A committee member stated meters could be installed on a spot basis for users suspected to be exceeding their daily limit.
  + [A summary](https://app.box.com/s/u7q4e7q0p4nb3blzyty6cmghk4u69tgf) from workgroup discussions on metering and a [report on metering programs](https://app.box.com/s/hayhyxibkqww2n0yfzbuaww7vopbb7hp) throughout the state are available on Box.

## Project Tracking Proposal

Tristan from WDFW presented on the potential to use the Salmon Enhancement Portal to track projects in all WRIA’s.

* This is [“boiler plate” language](https://app.box.com/s/vn4ajpsqsmswn2yzd1hfdqqwv3men9xb) and can be edited for each WRIA.
* Having an umbrella approach to tracking projects in all WRIAs would be beneficial when developing grants and identifying specific project needs.
* WDFW is working on three pilot projects in WRIA’s 11, 22 and 23 to work out any kinks and identify cost associated with plan.
* The portal will not be very useful if not updated after the initial upload, projects, scopes and funding are always changing.
  + Would like to see some commitment/structure to make sure projects are maintained on a regular basis.

## Projects

* Washington Water Trust (WWT) gave a follow up presentation on last month’s presentation of the preliminary water rights assessment. They are looking for up to 10 water right opportunities that would contribute to the offset portfolio. WWT went over the project tiers and potential project types. Rebecca has sent out the [draft Due Diligence Memo](https://app.box.com/s/aijbfyupoqkjt2mywwvhfjog24bp4o72). **Feedback is due by May 15**.
* HDR is working on 10 detailed project descriptions. The plan is not limited to these 10 projects.
* Committee members asked if the offset potential of floodplain reconnection projects had been determined. Several of these projects are proposed and it would be beneficial to know if they have any offset.
  + The question is whether a retiming projects can be counted as an offset
  + Due to COVID-19 the workgroup has not addressed this questions.
  + HDR can still move forward with the project description and then figure out the estimate latter.
  + Committee members stated that knowing if there is a potential offset would make the project application stronger.

## Plan Review

The committee will begin to review the first three chapters of each plan later this month. The chapters will be provided as PDFs with line numbers and an excel form to track comments.

* Ecology will flag chapters that will be the same for all plans so entities on multiple committees will not have to review the same chapter’s multiple times.
* WRIA 10 is a pilot plan and the chapters are coming out before the rest of the plans, Ecology will be basing the rest of the plans structures off of this one.
* The committee decided to have the full committee review each chapter instead of having it go to the workgroup first.

## Next Steps

* Rebecca has sent of the [water rights assessment information](https://app.box.com/s/aijbfyupoqkjt2mywwvhfjog24bp4o72). **Send feedback by May 15**.
* The workgroup will recommend 10 projects to HDR for description development and will discuss the potential offset of floodplain reconnection projects.
* Rebecca will be sending out the first three chapters of the plan.
* Rebecca will send out the [Squaxin Island Tribes proposal](https://app.box.com/s/f6me60g37568d9x8nlfzc43lqra6tflo) for a South Sound Water Master.
* The next full committee meeting is on June 3, 2020 and will most likely be on WebEx.