# 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**

August 5, 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

Project Offset Update

**Attendance**

Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Lisa Tobin (City of Auburn)

Dan Cardwell (Pierce County)

Jeremy Metzler (City of Edgewood)

Paul Marrinan (City of Puyallup)

Robert Wright (City of Sumner)

Greg Reed (City of Orting)

Char Naylor (Puyallup Tribe)

Rebecca Brown, Chair (Ecology)

Liz Bockstiegel (WDFW)

Scott Woodbury (City of Enumclaw)

Ryan Johnstone (City of Bonney Lake)

Tim Osborne (Lakehaven Water and Sewer District)

Carrie Hernandez (Puyallup River Watershed Council)

Carla Carlson (Muckleshoot Tribe)

Lorna Fuller (City of Fife)

Allen Warren (Pierce Conservation District)

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Not Attendance\*

MBA Pierce County

City of Tacoma

City of Pacific

Other Attendees\*

Spencer Easton (ESA, Facilitator)

Madeline Remmen (ESA, Information Manager)

Matt Rakow (WA Dept. of Ecology)

Jim Pacheco (WA Dept. of Ecology)

Bob Montgomery (HDR)

Lisa Riner (Sierra Club)

Mike Noone (WA Dept. of Ecology)

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

**Meeting Summary**

The June and July meeting summaries were approved.

## Updates and Announcements

* The committee will continue to meet virtually due to COVID-19. If you are unable to participate please let Rebecca know as Ecology is tracking all affected committee members.
* Scott from Enumclaw briefed his decision makers on the planning effort and received the following feedback:
	+ The water right at the golf course is not be included in the plan as a potential offset project.
	+ The City Council also would not grant approval to the plan if it includes policy recommendations.
* Ecology recommends briefing decision makers if you have not already.

## Public Comment

* N/A no public comments.

## Projects

* A number of the committee’s water right projects have fallen though, and at this point the anticipated offset from water right projects does not meet the offset target.
* WWT has been exploring other potential water right projects. All water rights projects have some level of uncertainty, depending on the following:
	+ Private vs publically owned.
	+ If there is a project sponsor.
	+ If owners are willing to put them into trust.
	+ Actual “wet” water, based on extent and validity.
* WWT has been looking at the last five years, but we have to go back further to verify that the water right is still valid.
* Paul Marrinan from the City of Puyallup discussed a potential water rights project at the Linden Golf Couse, where two previously irrigated parcels are being developed for single family residences.
* Allan Warren discussed the potential of including a recommendation for all WRIAs to identify a funding source for rural conservation technical assistance program. This would fund people to conduct outreach to rural landowners to discuss water conservation and provide opportunities for them to do something with their water right.
	+ [Cross-WRIA water conservation proposal](https://app.box.com/s/zfepy87ehsrqvgxnjz9fis0frt6a41v8) is available on Box.
* The WRIA 10 CU estimate is 277.4 afy, the committee currently has 97 afy of offset.
	+ See the [Project Offset Update Table](https://app.box.com/s/in3x3qshqy30fx6i5fbl13iwci7f5x3f) on Box.
* Committee members expressed interest in exploring projects related to WWT water rights and decommissioned PE wells.
* The committee also discussed the potential for MAR projects. The projects would be off the main stem of the Carbon River and upper Puyallup, so it would not require a change to instream flow rules. Some committee members expressed concerns about MAR projects, including:
	+ Water quality concerns.
	+ Uncertainty if MAR contributes to increased water during low flows or not.
	+ Location of MAR projects in channel migration zones of the mainstem rivers.
	+ High O&M costs.
	+ Uncertainty about who would sponsor MAR projects.
	+ Concerns that MAR projects on the Puyallup or Carbon wouldn’t benefit high-priority tributaries.
* The HDR team will assess the potential for MAR projects so the committee will have more information to discuss this topic at a future meeting.
* The next step for the water rights analysis is to begin conducting outreach to see if water rights holders have any interest.
	+ Start with the Linden Golf Course, mentioned by Paul.
* The committee also discussed potential water system consolidation projects.
	+ Clarify between water system consolidation and connection existing PE wells to a water system.
	+ The technical work group will discuss this at their next work group meeting and invite the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department.
* It would be better to have more uncertain projects that meet the 277.4 afy CU estimate than to submit a plan with less than that.

## Plan Review

* Rebecca went through comments received on Chapter 4. Most are fairly simple to address.
	+ Comments received can be found on Box: <https://app.box.com/s/b2hte0hlmpi17qe4g957xhx228aqt9m1>.
* The committee decided to include a brief background on Group A and B water systems, irrigation and other water uses within the watershed in chapter 1 for context.
	+ PE wells represent a very small use of water within the WRIA so characterizing other water uses in the plan is important.
	+ Include that for this plan the legislation if only referring to domestic use from PE wells and does not cover irrigation and agricultural uses.

## Schedule Update

* The release of the compiled plan has been pushed back from August 14 to the end of the month. Some of the plan chapters (projects and policy and regulatory recommendations) will not be completed at this time.
* At this point the committee will not be scaling back the frequency of meetings.
* The committee has made a lot of progress, but the following items still need to be completed:
	+ Project list
	+ Policy and regulatory items
	+ Review and comment period on compiled review
	+ Local review
	+ Final plan vote and approval
* Ecology will provide a template PowerPoint with plan highlights to aid committee members in briefing decision makers on the plan.

## Next Steps and Action Items

* Add policy and regulatory recommendations to agenda for the next meeting and the next workgroup meeting.
* Pursue including water rights assessed by WWT in the plan.
	+ There should be outreach to water right holders to explore whether the projects are viable.
	+ Rebecca to reach out to committee members about participating in outreach.
* Pursue counting decommissioned PE wills toward the offset target in the plan.
* Have PGG explore potential MAR projects.
	+ Clearly document concerns described at today’s meeting.
* Include water system consolidation and connecting to water service on the project list.
	+ Needs to be clarified; outreach to systems if they are going to be named in the plan; include TPCHD in the conversation.
	+ Discuss at the next workgroup meeting
* Include brief background information on Group A and Group B wells, other water uses, in Chapter 1 of the plan
* Next meeting will be September 2, 2020 on WebEx