# 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**

September 2, 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)

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)

Tim Osborne (Lakehaven Water and Sewer District)

Carrie Hernandez (Puyallup River Watershed Council)

Carla Carlson (Muckleshoot Tribe)

Allen Warren (Pierce Conservation District)

Jim Morgan (City of Pacific)

Jessie Gamble (MBA Pierce County)

Merita Trohimovich (City of Tacoma)

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Not Attendance\*

City of Bonney Lake

City of Fife

Other Attendees\*

Spencer Easton (ESA, Facilitator)

Madeline Remmen (ESA, Information Manager)

Matt Rakow (WA Dept. of Ecology)

Bob Montgomery (HDR)

Mike Noone (WA Dept. of Ecology)

Michelle Harris (Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department)

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

**Meeting Summary**

The August meeting summary was 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.
* Rebecca asked the committee if their review timeline had changed due to COVID-19. She will be sending out a follow up email.
* Comments on the draft compiled plan are due on September 21, 2020.
	+ Some sections of the plan are subject to change.

## Public Comment

* N/A no public comments.

## Projects

* The CU estimate is 277.4 AFY. The committee currently has 98.09 AFY in identified offsets, but offset values have not yet been determined for the following projects: Stubbs project, Carbon River project and additional decommissioned wells.
	+ The estimates for these projects should be available by the end of this month
* The WWT analysis was a great starting point for us to target water rights, but many of them are privately owned and without acknowledgement from the owner there is not enough reasonable assurance that they would provide offset.
* MAR Projects
	+ Would provide streamflow benefits year round, but there would be times of the year when more benefit is provided.
	+ The Carbon and Upper Puyallup only have seasonal closures, so the committee would avoid rule making for an MAR project. Therefore, MAR projects in those basins would provide reasonable assurance that they would provide an offset.
	+ If an MAR project was proposed on a closed basin it would be hard to have reasonable assurance the project could be implemented in the 20-year planning horizon
* Water system consolidation/connecting to water service
	+ Tacoma has the capacity to serve more people with their water. Tacoma could wholesale water to water systems along the Tacoma pipeline, allowing the systems to put their current water right into trust. The HDR team will work with TPCHD to determine whether there are any small water systems that are good candidates for wholesaling.
	+ Barriers include the cost of water and infrastructure
	+ The committee decided to not purpose any wholesale/consolidation related to the Lake Tapps/Cascade water right and the Pierce County aquifer water right.
	+ If systems aren’t failing there are not a lot of incentives, so would need to provide incentives for consolidation.
* The committee discussed the Cross-WRIA Conservation Education and Incentive Program
	+ Aimed at rural/unincorporated areas for water conservation during drought.
	+ The committee discussed whether or not this would qualify for streamflow funding.
		- The grant guidance scoring criteria is subject to change, so the committee should not solely base their projects on it.
	+ A committee member stated that projects like this could have good offset, but would just be difficult to forecast.
	+ The proposal received general support from the committee and will be included on the project list in the plan.

## Policy and Regulatory Recommendation

* The Enumclaw City Council has said that they cannot support a plan that includes policy and regulatory requirements.
	+ The committee decided that the best way to move forward would to be to develop a draft appendix of opportunities with a disclaimer that states the committee was not able to reach consensus on the recommendations, but they were discussed and some members thought they could enhance plan implementation
* The committee agreed to include the well log database recommendation in the project list, with an undetermined project sponsor.
* The committee discussed the proposal for statewide mandatory water conservation measures during drought, another cross WRIA recommendation.
	+ Pierce County expressed concerns about the implementation.
	+ Several committee members stated that this was a good idea and more conservation measures are needed.
	+ A committee member stated that having a softened version that doesn’t sound so harsh is a good idea.
	+ The committee will revisit this conversation when a draft appendix has been developed.

## Voluntary Metering Program Discussion

* Ecology is currently running metering programs in Dungeness and Kittitas County. The final report is due in 2027. It is unlikely that Ecology would take on any additional metering project before then.
* A committee member suggested having a voluntary metering program as a project and have the responsible party as a non-governmental entity such as ecological groups, universities or entrepreneurs.
* Tracking wells could also be included with the Conservation Education and Incentive Program, as well as being an individual project.
* The committee agreed to include this in the project list.

## Next Steps and Action Items

* Review draft plan comments are due Sept 21, 2020.
* The HDR team will contact TPCHD (Michelle Harris) to see if there are any water systems along the Tacoma pipeline that may be good candidates for wholesaling
	+ May eventually connect with DOH as well
* Develop a draft appendix of opportunities for discussion by the workgroup and/or committee
* Revisit conversation about mandatory conservation measures (potentially a softened version of the recommendation) once the draft appendix of opportunities has been developed
* Summary, meeting presentation, and interactive slides are available on the Meeting Materials folder in Box: <https://app.box.com/s/0717dgx0i7dnbwvk9f153k6yrc58lzh2>.