



# WRIA 10 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee Meeting

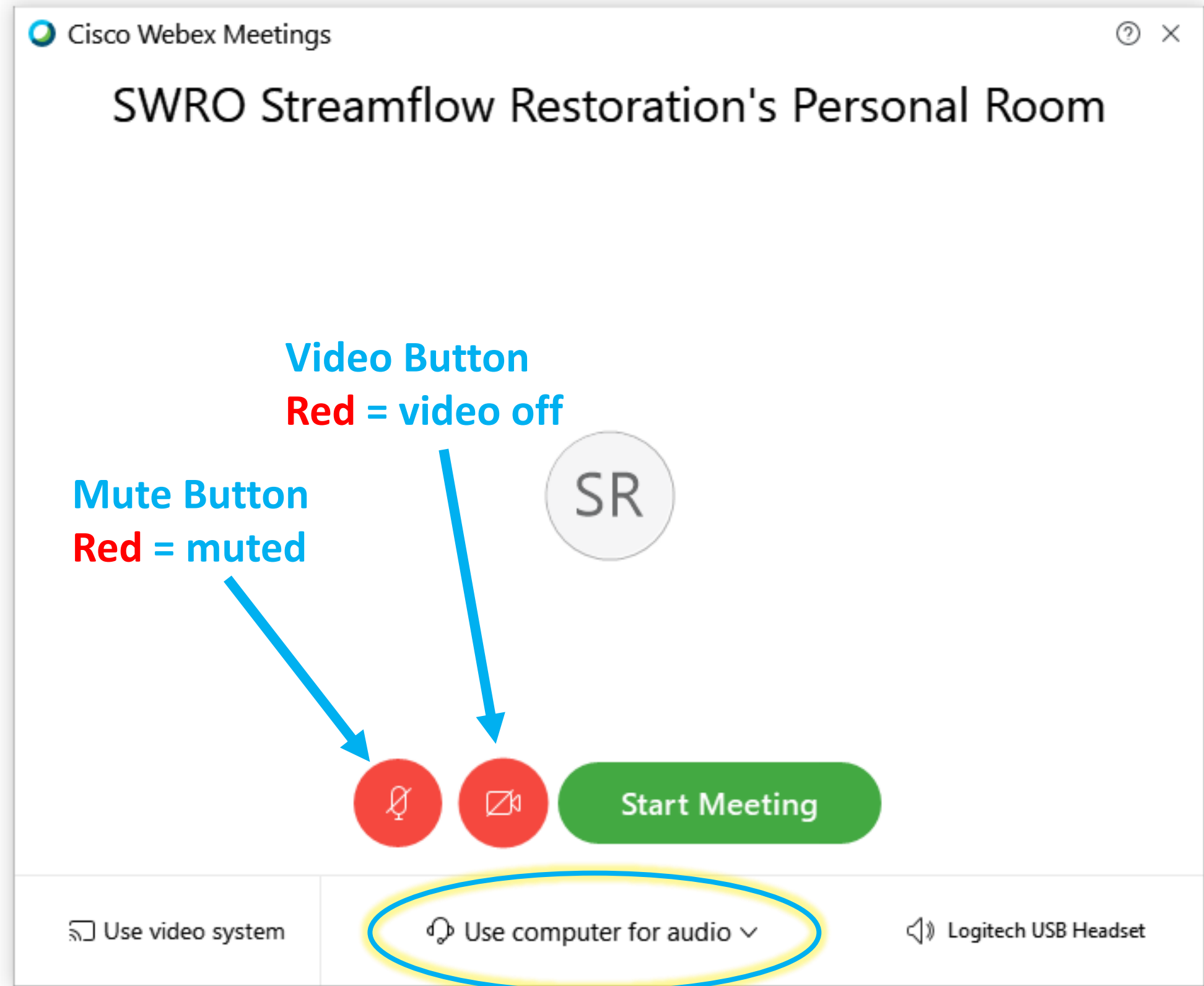
October 7, 2020





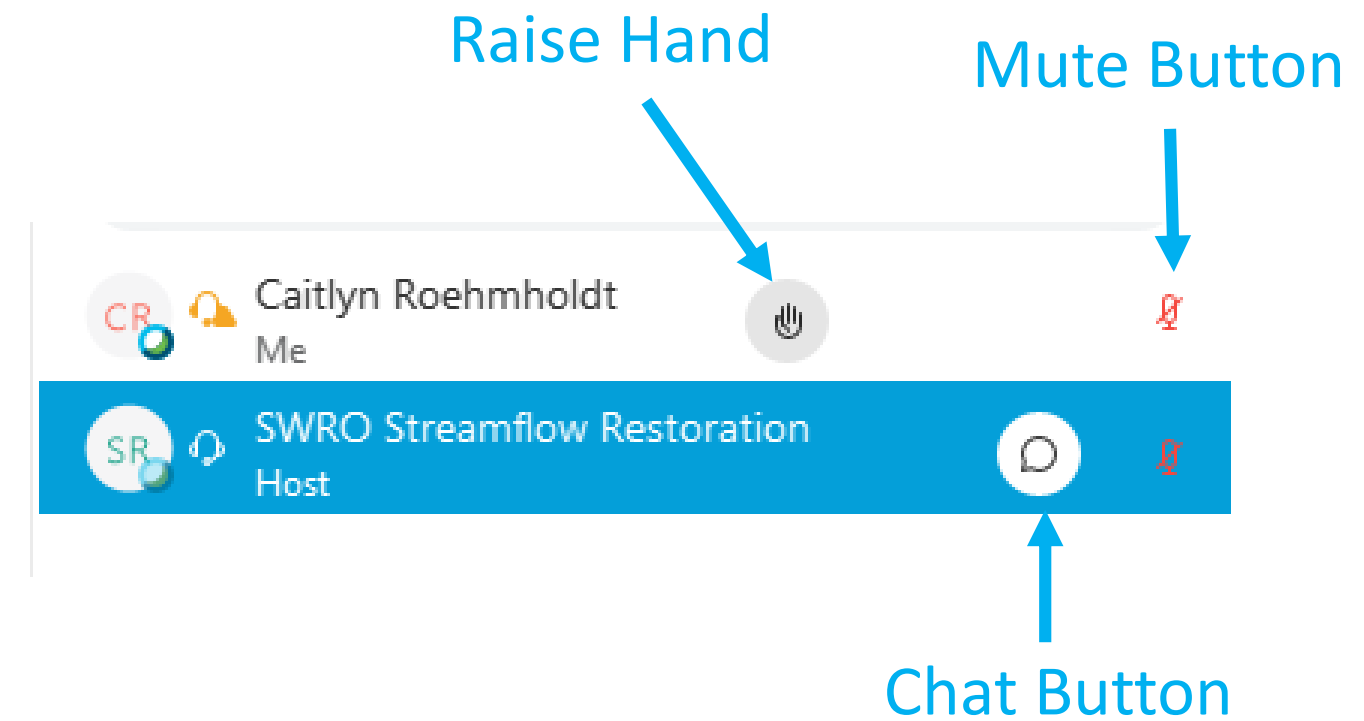
# WebEx Participation Tips

- Use a **headset/headphones** or take the call from a quiet space to reduce background noise/echo.
- Keep your phone or headset **muted** unless you are speaking to the group.
- If using phone, **do not put us on hold**. We will have to listen to your hold music!
- Turn **off video** to conserve bandwidth.



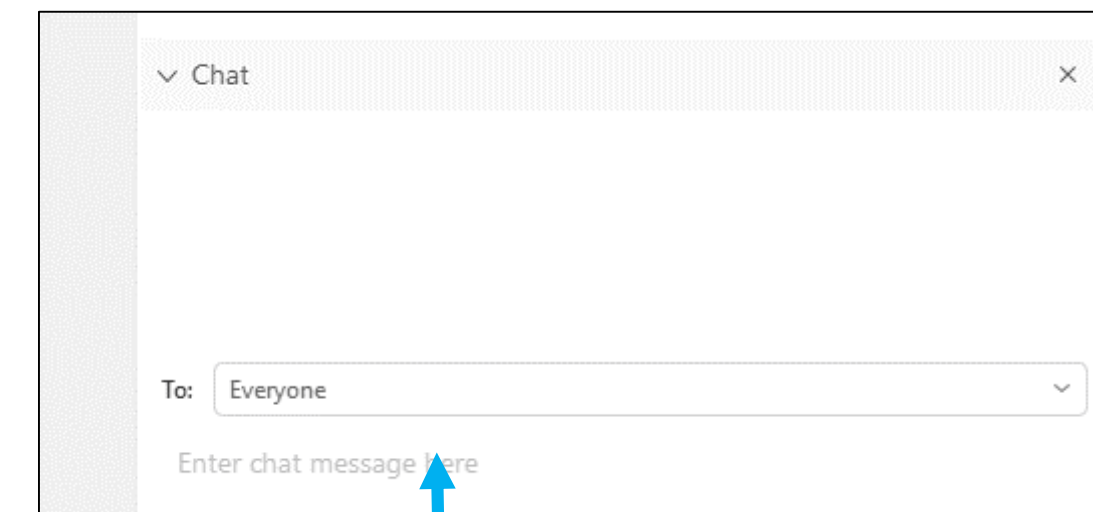
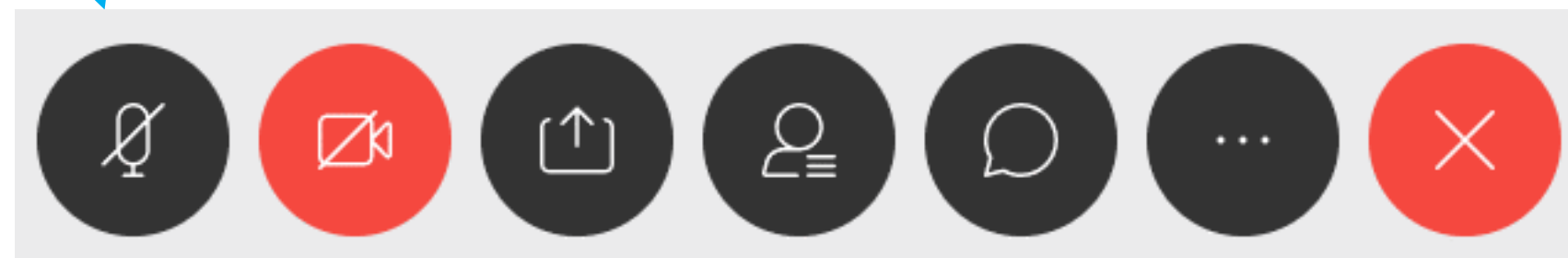
# WebEx Participation Tips

- Use the [chat function](#) to submit questions and comments and/or request to speak to the group
- Remember to [state your name](#) when you speak.



Mute Button  
Red = muted

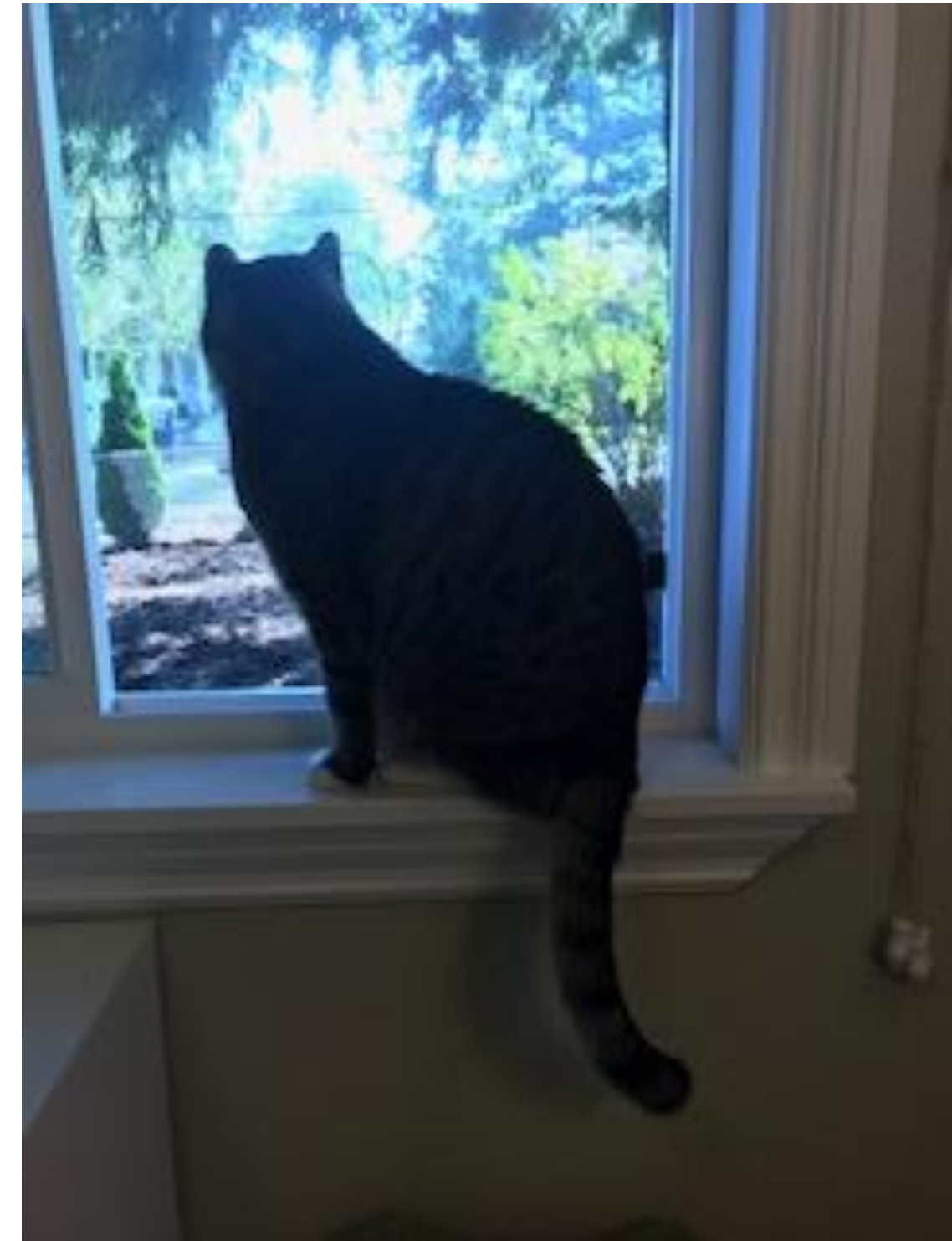
Chat Button



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# Agenda

- Welcome, Role Call, and Committee Business
  - WebEx logistics and technology check.
  - August meeting summary.
  - Announcements and updates.
  - Public comment.
- Projects
- Break
- Plan Review
- Operating Principles
- Wrap up



# WRIA 10 WREC Status Summary

<b>Subbasins</b>	<p>Voted on in May 2019</p> <p>7 Subbasins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower Puyallup River</li> <li>Upper Puyallup River</li> <li>Carbon River</li> <li>South Prairie Creek</li> <li>Lower White River</li> <li>Middle White River</li> <li>Upper White River</li> </ul>	<b>Policy and Regulatory Recommendations</b>	<p>Included in an appendix as opportunities not fully supported by the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance education and technical assistance by State staff of existing and proposed regulations</li> <li>Statewide drought limits (350 gpd for indoor, gardens, and fire protection).</li> </ul>
<b>Consumptive Use Estimate</b>	<p>Voted on in April 2020</p> <p>Consumptive Use Estimate of <b>0.38 cfs / 277.4 AFY</b></p>	<b>Adaptive Management</b>	<p>Included in compiled plan. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a centralized database for tracking project implementation</li> <li>Build structure for plan implementation to support adaptive management.</li> <li>Update the Ecology Well Log Database.</li> <li>Monitoring, reporting, and adjustments.</li> </ul>
<b>Offset Target</b>	Same as Consumptive Use Estimate	<b>Resiliency</b>	Address in project descriptions
<b>Projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some potential projects have been identified by committee members, with an offset estimate totaling <b>167.3 AFY</b></li> <li>Other potential water right acquisitions and PE well decommissions.</li> <li>HDR team developed detailed descriptions for 6 habitat projects.</li> <li>MAR site screening.</li> <li>Community forest with longer rotations.</li> <li>Offsets from floodplain reconnections and levee setbacks.</li> </ul>	<b>Plan Review Status</b>	Compiled chapters 1-7 reviewed by committee.
<b>NEB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee plans to include a habitat project in each subbasin</li> </ul>		



# Announcements and Updates



- Covid-19: Working remotely until June 2021
- Review time changes.
- Grant announcement today!
- Committee updates?
- Public Comment





# Projects





# Project Offset Tally

- CU Estimate: **277.4 AFY**
- Higher certainty offset projects:
  - Old Inglin Dairy (water right): **89.09 AFY**
  - Alward Road project (20 PE wells): **8 AFY**
  - Carbon River project (water right): 14.3 AFY
  - Additional decommissioned wells (# wells): 1.2+ AFY
  - Partial Puyallup #1 Water Right: 7 AFY
  - WWT assessed rights (10%): 47.71
- Total offset: **167.3 AFY**
- Difference: **-110.1 AFY**



# Finding More Offsets—updates

- Complete review and estimate of Stubbs and Carbon River water rights.
  - Stubbs water right unlikely to be counted as an offset.
  - Carbon River water right estimated at 14.3 AFY.
- Outreach to water right holders from WWT assessment to identify parties interested in a water right transaction.
  - PCD conducting outreach for one water right—estimated at 7 AFY.
- Tally all PE wells expected to be decommissioned as part of levee setback and floodplain reconnection projects.
  - Added 1.2 AFY as part of a Orville Road Revetment Project.
  - Other potential projects not confirmed yet.
- Water system consolidation/connecting to water service.
  - Initial screening resulted in limited benefit for the added effort.
- Conduct a site review for MAR projects in the Carbon and Upper Puyallup Stream Management Units.
  - Identified locations with suitable soils but not suitable for other reasons.

# Finding More Offsets—Water Rights

- Include WWT water rights (or a portion thereof).
  - Ecology counted 10% for the WRIA 11 plan.
  - Current tally includes 10% of WWT rights
  - WRIA 7 plan includes full tally of highest confidence WWT rights.
  - WRIA 10 Committee can chose the portion of water rights to count.
- NEB Evaluation should include a discussion on the ***reasonable assurance*** that the offset will be achieved.



# Finding More Offsets–MAR

- MAR Projects in gravel pits using Tacoma Water.
  - Starting with gravel pit in Enumclaw.
  - May be \$\$\$ and include some complications.
- Other ideas for MARs?
  - Source water is difficult because WRIA 10 is mostly closed to new appropriations.

# Finding More Offsets—Floodplain Storage

- Revisit potential storage from floodplain reconnection and levee setback projects.
- Committee was uncomfortable with estimating storage because:
  - Methods on how the storage/offset would be estimated.
  - Potential that offset would not occur every year (not reliable).
  - Timing of storage release does not necessarily correspond with critical low flow periods.
  - Not new water.
- Do these concerns still stand? Is it worth looking into our floodplain projects for storage?



# Finding More Offsets—More Ideas

- Community forest projects to lengthen rotations.
  - Older trees use less water than younger trees.
  - Modeling shows additional water in watersheds when forest rotations extend from 40 to 80 or 100 years.
  - Included in WRIA 11 plan, and considered in other plans.
- Injection Wells—move rainwater into the ground more quickly using injection wells at certain locations.
  - Either UIC or waste water discharge permits would be required, depending on design.

# 10 Minute Break







# Plan Review



# Comments Received

- Chapter 2: Additional information, clarifications, and corrections about the Ecosystem Recovery Plan, LIO, and Group B wells in Pierce County.
  - Will update the plan with this information.
- Chapter 2: Caught some errors that will be fixed.
- Chapter 2: Request to include % of WRIA is state owned and privately held.
  - Can see about including this information.
- Chapter 4: Clarify that the CU Estimate methods are not the Counties' methods.
  - Will correct the plan (and review to find and correct any other instances).
- Chapter 4: Caught some errors or better word choices that will be fixed.
- Chapter 4 (and throughout the plan): Suggestion to rely less on “the committee” and instead refer more to the “plan”.
  - Will review the plan for opportunities to refer to the plan instead of the committee.



## Drought Limits (6.2.3)

- *“Is there any way I could get language changes to specify the current standard for drought is what will be enforced? Industry is worried that Ecology rule making might go above and beyond to some super strict criteria.”*
- *“I'm not comfortable including this recommendation without discussion by the committee. Perhaps this has already taken place since comments were solicited and I just missed it, but I think this topic warrants additional consideration before incorporating it into the plan. 90.94 includes requirements that drought restrictions be recorded on title at time of permitting, it is not clear how this recommendation differs from existing requirements. Rulemaking is a serious endeavor, and I'm not convinced there is sufficient benefit to offset the costs/risks associated with opening up the current requirements.”*

# Drought Language in Draft Plan

- **Proposed Implementing Entity:** Washington State Legislature, Ecology, or counties.
- **Recommendation:**
  - Implement mandatory water conservation measures for PE well users in unincorporated areas of the state during drought events. Measures would focus on limiting outdoor water use, with exemptions for growing food. Washington State Legislature could require Ecology or counties to implement water conservation policies.
  - Ecology could write a rule to require water conservation measures.
  - County councils and commissions could pass ordinances mandating water conservation.
- **Purpose:** Reduce water usage from PE well users during drought. Reduce impacts on streamflows from PE well users and support net ecological benefit goals. Increase climate change resilience.
- **Funding Source:** Potential funding sources could include: new funding from Washington State Legislature; allocation of existing Ecology resources; fees associated with new PE wells.



# Adaptive Management

- *“I'm a little uncomfortable with all these recommendations for Ecology and WDFW. I know we discussed at the last meeting and maybe we are softening this? I will do with the flow. If the majority of the committee is ok as is, I will withdraw this comment.”*
  - Committee: check in on the tone and content of Adaptive Management section.
  - Ecology is comfortable as long as the disclaimer about these being recommendations is included.

# Education-Focused Recommendations

- *“How is 6.2.4 different from 6.2.2.- both address education”*
- Based on September discussion, these two recommendations have changed but are still both in the plan:
  - 6.2.2 Water Conservation Education and Incentives Program is now part of Chapter 5 as a project (currently labeled “programmatic action”).
  - 6.2.4 Education, Outreach, and Technical Assistance to Water Users is now included in the “Opportunities” appendix.



# Education Items

## Water Conservation and Incentives Program

- **Proposed Implementing Entity:** Ecology and counties; with support from conservation districts and non-governmental organizations.
- **Recommendation:** Ecology partners with counties and conservation districts to develop and implement outreach and incentives programs that encourage rural landowners with PE wells to (1) reduce their indoor and outdoor water use through water conservation best practices; and (2) comply with drought and other water use restrictions.
- **Purpose:** Raise awareness of the impacts PE well water usage has on (1) groundwater levels and (2) the connection to streams and rivers. Supplement water offset and restoration projects, especially in subbasins critical for fish and where water offsets were difficult to find.
- **Funding Source:** Potential funding sources could include: new funding from Washington State Legislature; grants (e.g., Ecology's Streamflow Restoration Grant Program); allocation of Ecology resources; fees associated with new PE well; contributions from local governments and tribes; part of county or conservation district ongoing education, outreach and incentive program.

## Education, Outreach, and Technical Assistance to Water Users

- **Proposed Implementing Entity:** Washington State Department of Ecology.
- **Recommendation:** Dedicate Ecology staff time to provide education, outreach, and technical assistance to water users to:
  - Support plan implementation.
  - Support compliance with water resources laws and regulations.
- **Purpose:** Elevate the importance of water conservation in WRIA 10, ensure plan is implemented, and protect instream resources.
- **Funding Source:** Potential funding sources could include: new funding from Washington State Legislature; allocation of existing Ecology resources; fees associated with new PE wells.

# Comments on Recommendations

- *“Pierce County does not support raising PE Well fees for education purposes.”*
  - Recommend removing reference to PE Well fees in the “funding” sections of these recommendations.
- *“As Tacoma Pierce County regulations construction of PE wells and sanitary survey...may be beneficial for them to be included in education strategy.”*
  - Recommend adding TPCHD as a potential partner in the education-based recommendations.



# Other Updates/Changes

- Added three items to the project chapter based on September meeting and titled these items “Programmatic Actions”:
  - PE Well Metering Pilot Program
  - Water Conservation Education and Incentive Program
  - Update Ecology’s Well Log Database
- Moved remaining Policy and Regulatory Recommendations to an appendix: Opportunities to Manage Water Resources:
  - Statewide drought water use limits.
  - Education, Outreach, and Technical assistance.

# Chapter 7 (NEB Evaluation)

- An outline of Chapter 7 (NEB Evaluation) was included in the compiled plan.
- This chapter is optional to include.
  - Does the committee want to include an NEB Evaluation in the plan?

# Operating Principles



# Amendments to Operating Principles

## Page 7—Voting Protocol

- Thumbs up or state “yes” – approval
- Thumbs down or state “no” – disapproval
- Thumbs sideways or state “accept, will not block” – accept, can live with, will not block.
- Five fingers or state “abstain” – abstain

## Page 9—Voting on the final approval of the plan

Add: This vote may occur at a virtual meeting or in person.

Edit: The vote on the final plan approval will be ~~shown by hands~~ a voice vote:

- Voting:
  - ~~Thumbs up~~ Yes – approval
  - ~~Thumbs down~~ No – disapproval

# Wrap Up and Next Steps

- Next steps listed on interactive slides.
- Next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2020 on WebEx.
  - Focus on water offset projects and wrapping up loose ends.
  - May be cancelled if we need more time for projects.





**We are almost there!**