Meeting Summary

**WRIA 12 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee**

**Meeting**

December 09, 2020 | 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.| [WRIA 12 Webpage](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37324/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_12.aspx) | [Webmap](https://hdr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9dac3c330fb240889981a7d3fe98ef6b)

## **Location**

WebEx**Committee Chair**

Rebecca Brown

Rebecca.brown@ecy.wa.gov**Handouts**

Agenda

Red Flag Plan Draft

[Presentation](https://app.box.com/s/no3putmbq6j31wi1z34rotsfz0x3pm8f)

[Interactive Slides](https://app.box.com/s/ljvkrl3vsffx5j31xhn5hmpnybdnwbxt)

**Attendance**

Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Dan Cardwell (Pierce County)

Austin Jennings (Pierce County)

Rebecca Brown, Chair (Ecology)

Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe)

Kris Kauffman (Chambers-Clover Watershed Council)

Renee Buck (Chambers Clover Watershed Council)

Char Naylor (Puyallup Tribe)

Cal Taylor (City of Tacoma)

Paul Bucich (City of Lakewood)

Paul Loveless (Town of Steilacoom

Jessie Gamble (MBA Pierce County)

Don Stanley (Lakewood Water District)

Liz Bockstiegel (WDFW)

Rebecca Kowalski (Ex officio, JBLM)

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Not Attendance\*

Pierce County Conservation District

Other Attendees\*

Spencer Easton (ESA, Facilitator)

Madeline Remmen (ESA, Information Manager)

Chad Wiseman (HDR)

Matt Rakow (Ecology)

Mike Noone (Ecology)

Jeff Johnson (Spanaway Co-Op Pierce County)

\*Attendees list is based on WebEx Call attendance

**Meeting Summary**

The October meeting summary was approved.

* Some edits from Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe).

**Welcome, Introductions, and Committee Business**

* Ecology staff will be working remotely until at least June 2021.
* Ecology is still tracking committee members impacted by COVID-19, if your ability to participate in the planning process has been impacted please let Rebecca know.
* The plan needs a cover photo, send Rebecca submissions by December 23rd and include photo credits.
	+ Photos can be of anywhere in the watershed.
	+ A committee member suggested that the cover depict the relationship groundwater, streams and PE wells.
* The Squaxin Island wrote a letter to Ecology that outlined concerns and the approach to planning. This letter is not a change in direction in the Squaxin Island Tribe’s participation on the committee, it is meant to be a statement between Ecology and the Tribe. It’s not intended for group discussion, but anyone with questions can contact the Tribe directly.
	+ Rebecca will distribute this letter to the committee.
* The Chambers-Clover Watershed Council is holding a virtual social on December 16th from 3:30-5:30.

**Public Comment**

* N/A, no members of the public present on the phone

**Plan Review & Red Flags**

Rebecca went through the whole plan and outlined comments/changes. There has been a number of edits and Rebecca only discussed significant changes to the content of the plan. The plan will be released for a committee red flag review after today’s meeting. The goal is to have a green light at the January meeting to send the plan for local review.

* An executive summary and acknowledgement page were added to the beginning.
* There were not a lot of substantive changes to chapters 1-3
* **Chapter 1: Plan Overview**
	+ The goal is to keep it very similar across all the plans.
	+ Committee members requested that the plan include quotes from the law, a committee members suggested including the laws in side bars.
		- Side bars with direct quotes from laws are now included throughout the plan.
	+ In the last paragraph there is language about how the committee approved the plan. This language will not be officially added to plan until the plan has been approved.
* **Chapter 2: Watershed Overview**
	+ Most changes were correcting factual errors and reorganization of sections.
	+ A sentence about tribal rights was added to be more consistent with the WRIA 10 plan.
	+ Added footnote about the McChord Air Base emergency repair.
	+ There were a number of other requests for additional information (geologic aquifer layer, flow data etc.) that are all now included in the appendix.
* **Chapter 3: Subbasin Delineation**
	+ No substantial changes.
* **Chapter 4: New Consumptive Water Use Impacts**
	+ A committee member suggested including exceedance flows from the drainage basins.
	+ A committee member also suggested including metric units.
* **Chapter 5: Projects and Actions**
	+ A committee member stated that the Chambers Bay Estuary and Riparian Enhancement project largely involves the dam and that is not apparent in the project description.
	+ The new project map identifies water offset projects and habitat projects in 3 separate categories.
		- Identified multiple locations for flood habitat projects.
		- The Squaxin Island Tribe suggested using a polygon instead of a dot for the South Tacoma Channel and Sequalitchew Creek projects. Which would be more informative to project benefits and location then a dot.
	+ A committee member stated that the plan needs to be cautious about calling the Sequalitchew Project a habitat project because some elements of it are mitigation from the mine.
	+ The project name “JBLM Sequalitchew Lake Project” was changed to “Repair Diversions Structure at Lake Sequalitchew” to be consistent with JBLM.
	+ This chapter includes a programmatic actions section, which includes the Statewide Water Conservation and Incentive Program. This action was previously included in the policy and regulatory recommendations, but committee members believed it fit better in the projects chapter.
		- Included in all 8 plans.
	+ The committee suggested making the “watershed plan” references more explicit in what they are referring to.
	+ Committee members expressed that chapter 5 may need more detailed review beyond the red flag review.
* **Chapter 6: Plan Implementation and Adaptive Management**
	+ Rebecca made some general edits to make this section more readable.
	+ Members of the WRIA 12 committee are not expected to reconvene, but may choose to if they would like to.
	+ The paragraph regarding funding was cleaned up and a statement about the impacts COVID-19 on funding was added.
	+ A committee member brought up the implication of the Foster decision on grant funding and requested that discussion of it be added to the plan.
	+ The assurance of plan implementation was updated to include Pierce County, Ecology and the Squaxin Island Tribe.
	+ Not all committee members are jurisdictions, rephrase in the plan to say member entities, committee members, etc.
	+ The plan recommends an exemption from drought limits for growing food and supporting restoration projects.
	+ The committee discussed adding a reference/footnote about the implications of WAC 173-512.
* **Chapter 7: Net Ecological Benefit**
	+ The draft NEB evaluation was sent on 12/8/2020, most of the information in this section should not be new.
	+ The Chambers Clover Watershed Council had several suggestions/comments including the following:
		- The chapter does not mention Chambers Bay dam, stakeholders are going to have question why it was not included.
		- States that salmon are not in the Clover subbasin, but they were historically (recently) there and they could return with barrier removal and habitat restoration
			* Rebecca will add a footnote stating that salmonids used to be present here.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe stated that this section should describe why the committee prioritized projects in the Sequalitchew and Chambers subbasins and not the Clover. The current salmon management is focused on the lower basins.
	+ The committee discussed that there is a lack of projects in the Clover Creek subbasin and do not want plan readers to think the committee ignored that subbasin.
		- There were a lot of unquantifiable projects and water rights projects in the Clover Creek Subbasin. The plan should mention these projects.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe suggested adding a stronger statement emphasizing streamflow restoration to the first paragraph in section 7.4, stating as a major conclusion that the proposed projects would provide offset that goes well beyond the water loss in the basin and would result in increased streamflow.
	+ The committee discussed including a potential appendix or link to the website listing the WRIA 12 policy and regulatory actions the committee has considered. It will need to be very clear that items on this list are opinions of individuals and were not supported by consensus.
		- Potentially include contact information with attribution to who proposed each item, along with links to meeting notes, meeting packets or other information that is relevant to the action.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe suggested a second comment review parallel to the red flag review. These comments are more detailed and not red flag comments.

**Next Steps**

* Next full committee meeting on January 13, 2021 from 12:30 to 3:30 via WebEx.
* The draft plan has been sent out for red flag review. Please submit your comment by January 6, 2020.
* Ecology will edit chapters based on the comments made today.
* More detailed comments (beyond red flags) can be made, especially on chapters 5 and 7, but please keep them separate from the red flag comments.