Meeting Summary

**WRIA 12 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee**

**Meeting**

January 13, 2021 | 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

Plan with Red Flag Comments

Example Compendium

**Attendance**

Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Dan Cardwell (Pierce County)

Austin Jennings (Pierce County)

Rebecca Brown, Chair (Ecology)

Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe)

Renee Buck (Chambers Clover Watershed Council)

Char Naylor (Puyallup Tribe)

Cal Taylor (City of Tacoma)

Paul Bucich (City of Lakewood)

Jessie Gamble (MBA Pierce County)

Don Stanley (Lakewood Water District)

Liz Bockstiegel (WDFW)

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Not Attendance\*

Pierce County Conservation District

Town of Steilacoom

Other Attendees\*

Spencer Easton (ESA, Facilitator)

Madeline Remmen (ESA, Information Manager)

Matt Rakow (Ecology)

Mike Noone (Ecology)

\*Attendees list is based on WebEx Call attendance

**Meeting Summary**

The December 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.
* All the Ecology 030 Planners met with WDFW Bio Habitat Staff to discuss review timelines and share information.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe received a letter back from Ecology. If committee members are interested in reading it, they should contact Paul Pickett.

**Public Comment**

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

**Review Red Flag Comments**

Rebecca walked through/reviewed comments received during the red flag review. The majority of comments received were from the Squaxin Island Tribe.

* Ecology categorized the Squaxin Island Tribe’s comments into three categories:
	+ Comments on Ecology’s role after plan adoption.
	+ Comments about different interpretations of the law.
	+ Other comments for committee input.
* Comments on Ecology’s role after plan adoption were noted, however, there are no proposed changes to the plan text as the plan cannot obligate any committee member to take action.
	+ Changes to the plan that would obligate Ecology after plan approval would likely lead to a No vote on the plan from Rebecca (Ecology Chair).
* The committee agreed to add a compendium to the plan. It will include signing statements, reports, and opinions of the committee members.
	+ The compendium will include the Squaxin Island Tribes interpretation of the law.
		- There will be footnotes throughout the text that reference the compendium and the Squaxin Island Tribes interpretation of the law.
* The committee discussed how the compendium should be included in the plan suggestions included:
	+ Having it at the end of the plan with a disclaimer.
	+ On the Ecology website with a link to it.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe wants it kept with the document.
	+ Other Committee members want the plan to clearly show where to find the compendium.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe had a comment requesting Ecology undertake rulemaking.
	+ Several committee members expressed concerns about this suggestion, no changes to the plan were made.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe would like the opening paragraph of Chapter 1 to look like the report to the legislature, specifically identifying streamflow restoration as a goal of the plan. Ecology said that the report to the legislature has a different scope and purpose, and declined to make any changes.
* The committee agreed to delete “It is the perspective of the WRIA 12 Committee that this watershed plan satisfies the requirements of RCW 90.94.030” in Chapter 1 of the plan.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe requested that more background information about the GMA and Water planning be added to the document.
	+ Another committee agreed that this was important to add to the plan.
	+ Pierce County is currently working on this language for the WRIA 15 plan. It is likely the same write up can be added to the WRIA 12 plan.
		- The goal is to have this language drafted by Friday January 15th.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe requested that the total number of new PE well connections and water service connections should be tracked in reports to legislature.
	+ The Chambers Clover Watershed Council stated that in this watershed there is no overall tracking of how much water is being drawn from groundwater, and to get the data they had to go to each individual water purveyor. It would be very beneficial to have all the data for water withdrawals in one place.
	+ Pierce County recommended reaching out to DOH Drinking Water and ask them if there is an efficient way to collect this data.
	+ Committee members expressed concerns about including this in the plan because water service connections will be very hard to gather data on, as there are multiple water purveyors within the watershed.
	+ The committee agreed to add that the plan would track the number of PE wells within water service areas to see if their assumptions about water use were correct.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe would like the plan to provide more specific consequences for the plan not being implemented. Ecology declined to make any changes.
* The Squaxin Tribe requested adding a paragraph describing the ecological benefits of the Policy Recommendations.
	+ The committee did not have any objections to this and Rebecca will work on putting it together.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe would like a stronger statement than the “assumption” that the plan will be implemented. The sentence was changed to say it’s the Committee’s “intention” that the plan be implemented.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe requested an additional paragraph about how the committee used a higher CU estimate as target and developed a robust list of project and actions supporting the precautionary principle.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe proposed revisions the Glossary. Ecology explained that the glossary was developed by the communications team to be consistent statewide, and could not be changed. The Tribe expressed their disappointment that Ecology would not review the definitions where they might be incorrect.

**Local Plan Review**

* Several committee members expressed concerns about sending the plan out for local review, without having time to review today’s changes. They requested time after today’s meeting to review changes made to the plan.
	+ This will shorten the time for local review and results in risk that the committee will not be able to approve the plan before it due to go to the legislature.
	+ Ecology agreed to provide the next draft and allow time for Committee members to respond with any remaining concerns with the last set of changes.
* It will be very difficult to make changes to the plan during local review, however, if your entity finds something in the plan that will likely lead to the no vote reach out to Rebecca or Spencer to discuss.

**Next Steps**

* The committee decided on the following next steps for review of the plan:
	+ 1. Rebecca will send out the revised plan approximately one week after today’s meeting.
		2. Committee members will have about one week to review the plan.
		3. Ecology will address any concerns with one on one conversations.
		4. The plan will then go out for local review.
* Next meeting: April 14, 2021: Final vote on the plan.