Meeting Summary

**WRIA 12 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee**

**Meeting**

April 23, 2021| 9:00a.m-11:00p.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

Presentation

Pathways to Plan Adoption

**Attendance**

Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Dan Cardwell (Pierce County)

Austin Jennings (Pierce County)

Rebecca Brown, Chair (Ecology)

Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe)

Jeff Dickison (Squaxin Island Tribe)

Renee Buck (Chambers Clover Watershed Council)

Kris Kaufman (Chambers Clover Watershed Council)

Allan Warren (Pierce Conservation District)

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)

Paul Loveless (Town of Steilacoom)

Other Attendees\*

Spencer Easton (ESA, Facilitator)

Stacy Vynne McKinstry (Ecology)

Madeline Remmen (ESA, Information Manager)

Chad Wiseman (HDR)

Matt Rakow (Ecology)

Mike Noone (Ecology)

Angela Johnson (Ecology)

\*Attendees list is based on WebEx Call attendance

**Meeting Summary**

The January meeting summary was approved.

* Some edits from the Squaxin Island Tribe.

**Welcome, Introductions, and Committee Business**

* Ecology adopted all the remaining section 020 plans, which included the Chehalis Basin (WRIA 22/23), Okanagan Basin (WRIA 49) and Little Spokane Basin (WRIA 55).
* Rebecca gave an update on the approval of the remaining 030 plans:
	+ WRIA 7: Not approved, potential opportunity for a revote.
	+ WRIA 8: Not approved, potential opportunity for a revote.
	+ WRIA 9: Approved
	+ WRIA 10: Approved
	+ WRIA 13: Not approved
	+ WRIA 14: Not approved
	+ WRIA 15: Votes on Monday 4/26/2021
	+ A committee member asked what the basis for other committees not approving their plan.
		- WRIA 7 and 8 was due to outside factors and not the content of the plan itself.
		- In WRIA 13 there was a policy regarding rule making that the BIAW did not approve of.
		- Four entities (BIAW, Tribes and WDFW) voted to not approve the plan for WRIA 14. There were concerns that the plan was weak in several key areas, as well as concerns that the plans went too far beyond minimum requirements.
		- Angela Johnson, Ecology Chair of WRIAs 13 and 14, provided her email address for committee members who had questions about those plans or voting outcomes: angela.johnson@ecy.wa.gov
* Ecology will announce the timeline for the next streamflow restoration grant round after the Washington State Legislature approves a budget for the 2021-2023 biennium.
	+ Ecology requested $40 million for the biennium and $40 million was included in the Governor’s Capital budget proposal.
* No other announcements or updates from the committee.

**Public Comment**

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

**Steps to Plan Adoption**

Rebecca walked through a presentation on next steps if the plan is approved by the committee and if the committee does not approve the plan.

**Next steps if the plan is approved.**

* Local review is preliminary and distinct from Ecology’s review and agency action.
* If the plan is approved today, Rebecca will submit to Ecology on behalf of the committee.
* Ecology will begin a SEPA review, which will include a non-project programmatic review and 25-day comment period.
* Ecology technical staff will determine if the plan meets NEB.
* The Ecology Water Resources Management team will review the plan.
* The Ecology Director will review and make a determination on whether or not to approve and adopt the plan.
* The plan will be adopted by June 30, 2021.
* Post-plan adoption the water resources program will review recommendation in plans and decide where/how to invest resources.

**Next steps if the plan is not approved.**

* Ecology will finish preparing the plan with input from the Salmon Recovery Funding board.
* Ecology may make changes to the plan without Committee approval prior to adoption.
* After the plan is adopted, the Ecology director will initiate rulemaking within six months to incorporate recommendations into rules.
* There is no timeline for plan adoption identified in law and no role for the committee.
* There was a question about SEPA review for the plan. Ecology noted that there would be SEPA in this case also, but the timing is uncertain.

**Vote on the WRIA WRE Plan**

* All members of the committee approved the plan. Each committee member supported the approval of the plan with a verbal yes vote, as shown in the below list.
	+ Puyallup Tribe: Yes
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe: Yes, submitted letter to Ecology reflecting that Tribal Council approves of the plan.
	+ Pierce County: Yes, the county council approved the plan in resolution R2021-42s.
	+ Lakewood: Yes
	+ Steilacoom: Yes
	+ Tacoma: Yes
	+ Lakewood Water District: Yes
	+ MBA Pierce County: Yes
	+ Pierce Conservation District: Yes
	+ WDFW: Yes
	+ Chambers Clover Watershed Council: Yes
	+ Ecology: Yes

**Committee Comments**

* Kris Kaufman from the Chambers-Clover Watershed Council stated that in their submittal document from the compendium they quoted extensively from the Water Resources Act of 1971 and that the WRIA produced 18 million fish in 1979, but it is unclear how many fish the WRIA has produced in recent years. He also stated that the work of this committee had reinforced the opinion that permit exempt wells are de-minimus of the legislature from 75 years ago.
* Committee members expressed their gratitude to one and another, the facilitation team and the Department of Ecology.

**Next Steps**

* A number of committee members have sent documents to be included in the compendium including statements discussing committee member’s votes, opinions and other things that the full committee may not have seen during the planning process. Rebecca will submit the compendium to Ecology management with the plan.
* The next steps for the plan to be completed in the next week by Rebecca are:
	+ Compile the compendium and add a link to it in the plan.
	+ Update Chapter 1 with the voting outcome.
	+ Update the plan to say final instead of draft.
	+ Clean up and other errors or typos.
* The approved plan will be posted on the committee website and Ecology’s streamflow restoration website.
* Rebecca will send updates to the committee periodically regarding Ecology’s plan review process.
* Edits and approval of the April meeting summary will be done via email.
* No further meetings are planned.