# 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 13 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee**

September 25, 2019 | 9:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. |[committee website](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37325/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_13.aspx)

## Location

LOTT Clean Water Alliance
500 Adams St NE
Olympia, WA 98501

**Committee Chair**

Angela Johnson
angela.johnson@ecy.wa.gov**Handouts**

1. Revised Timeline
2. Workgroup Meeting Summary

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Angela Johnson (*Ecology – Committee Chair)*

Megan Kernan *(WDFW)*

Jesse Barham *(City of Olympia)*

John Kliem *(Lewis County)*

Paul Pickett *(Squaxin Island Tribe)*

Amy Hatch-Winecka *(WRIA 13 Salmon Habitat Recovery Lead Entity, ex-officio)*

*Cynthia Pratt* (*City of Lacey*)

Julie Rector (*City of Lacey)*

Sue Patnude (*Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team, environmental interests)*

Dave Monthie (*Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team, environmental interests)*

Sarah Moorehead (*Thurston Conservation District, agricultural interests)*

Wendy Steffensen (*LOTT, ex-officio)*

Erin Hall (*Olympia Master Builders*, *residential construction industry)*

Dan Smith (*City of Tumwater*)

Amber Stonik (*Thurston County*)

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

Thurston PUD

City of Rainier

Nisqually Tribe (*ex-officio)*

City of Yelm *(ex-officio)*

City of Tenino (*ex-officio)*

### Other Attendees\*

Gretchen Muller *(Cascadia Consulting)*

Jimmy Kralj (*ESA*)

Rebecca Brown (*Ecology*)

Adam Peterson (*Thurston Conservation District)*

Jim Pacheco (*Ecology)*

Dan Graves (*HDR*)

Kevin Hansen (*Thurston County*)

Martin McClallum (*Stream Team*)

Tom Culhane (*Ecology*)

\*Attendees list is based on sign-in sheet.

## Welcome

Angela and Gretchen kicked off the meeting with meeting location logistics. Committee members and other meeting attendees introduced themselves around the room. The group reviewed the meeting agenda.

## Approval of August Meeting Summary

Angela received comments from Committee members on the August meeting summary. Comments were received on the following meeting summary topics:

* Updates and Announcements
* Workgroup Report
* Woodland Creek Groundwater Recharge Facility
* Action Items for Committee Members

*All of the proposed changes were made. The Committee approved the August meeting summary.*

## Updates and Announcements

Angela provided updates from Ecology.

* Mike Noone (Ecology) will present to the Committee in November on the Streamflow Restoration Final Grants Guidance
* Thurston PUD has not been in attendance for several meetings – Angela and facilitator will work to have them present at future meetings.
* City of Rainier has not been in attendance – Angela is working with them to finalize their participation in this process.
* Kevin Hansen (Thurston County) is hosting a project seminar on Wednesday 10/2/19 to discuss some project ideas with regional participants in WRE Committees and Ecology staff.
* Thurston County is working with representatives from Habitat Work Schedule about using a similar system to track water offset projects generated by this Committee – Angela will coordinate with them to ensure there are no duplicate efforts.
* City of Lacey provided water system and sewer data to Thurston County in an effort to estimate the number of permit-exempt domestic wells installed within service areas – Angela will coordinate with Kevin Hansen on this to ensure to are no duplicate efforts with the work being provided by HDR.
* Angela provided a revised timeline to the Committee with updated discussion and action items.
	+ Angela clarified that policy and regulation proposals could be a type of project
	+ It was noted that “implementation” was only listed for one quarter. There was a request to track implementation and adaptive management as a separate track in the timeline moving forward.
	+ There was a discussion of how grant funding links to the plan. Angela noted that projects in the plan get more points for grant funding. It was suggested that the committee may want to take the grant scoring criteria into account in applying screening criteria and prioritizing projects in the plan.
* Thurston Conservation District is working with agricultural producers on drought-funded work, and will host a series of workshops to hear concerns and share information about irrigation efficiently. Angela will send a flyer to the email distribution list with more information.

## Workgroup Report and Growth Projection Update

Angela and the workgroup members provided a summary of the previous workgroup meeting – see workgroup meeting summary from 9/13/19 for more details.

Reference Materials: 9/13/19 WRIA 13 Workgroup meeting summary

The workgroup summary was presented. Committee member discussion followed:

* Data Needs
	+ Paul Pickett produced a spreadsheet of salmon streams in WRIA 13 as a starting point to identify the important salmon streams in the watershed. It is a working tool and Paul would appreciate feedback on it. Angela previously distributed this spreadsheet to the Committee and workgroup, and will do so again.
* Growth Projections
	+ The group discussed items that were raised to clear up questions regarding TRPC’s methodology for the initial Thurston County growth projection analysis.
	+ The group discussed a lingering questions about the possibility of new permit-exempt domestic wells being installed within water system service boundaries. Some Committee members expressed that the assumption that no PE wells are built inside service areas seems to underestimate the actual numbers, which are like some proportion of properties distant enough from water lines to get a refusal of service.
	+ To account for uncertainty in the PE well growth projections, and as an alternative to changing assumptions in the methodology, Paul Pickett suggested adding 15% on the estimated number of new permit-exempt connections to the initial Thurston County analysis as a safety factor. Some Committee members supported the concept of a safety factor, and some expressed that a 15% safety factor would be too high. Concerns were expressed about changing estimates for this step of growth projections, and instead to add a safety factor to consumptive use offsets.
	+ In order to resolve this, Angela suggested that she work with HDR and the jurisdictions to propose a method to estimate a percentage of wells inside service areas, or determine a methodology to analyze this uncertainty.
		- Suggestion for Thurston PUD to be part of the discussion
		- Suggestion for subbasins to factor into the analysis.
		- Suggestion to continue this discussion as part of Adaptive Management
	+ Angela will work with HDR and other Committee members for an update by the next workgroup meeting.
	+ HDR will provide an updated summary of methods. A heat map is available and on the webmap.

## Consumptive Use Presentation

HDR provided an overview presentation of consumptive use including the proposed analysis for outdoor irrigation and how local information can inform the overall analysis (such as water system data). Angela will distribute the presentation to the Committee and post it on the Committee Box site.

Committee member discussion followed:

* WDFW expressed concerns over the number of parcels analyzed for the outdoor irrigation analysis. Angela will provide more information on the statistical analysis of the methodology for the group to discuss in more detail.
* Committee members discussed the outdoor irrigation analysis and HDR’s proposal to stratify the selected parcels by property value. Some members expressed concerns that this stratification may not depict an accurate representation of water use in WRIA 13 in rural communities. The committee agreed that Angela will provide the data used for this analysis for members to review, with a focus on property value, land value, date of home construction, and the parcels that were selected.
* Thurston Conservation District has information on WRIA 13-specifc water use to share with Ecology and HDR.
* It was noted that in the WRIA 13 metering data from a Thurston PUD system with flat rates had twice the water use as systems with tiered rates.
* There was a request for the spreadsheets used for calculating consumptive use, and HDR said they would provide those.
* Angela and HDR will provide more information to the workgroup and Committee at the October meetings.

## Projects

The Committee participated in a discussion to reflect on the site visit from the August field trip, and to brainstorm project types, project phasing, and project evaluation criteria.

Committee member discussion included:

* Reclaimed water
	+ Suggestion for the committee to learn more about these types of projects and their potential. LOTT will need to further discuss this internally and with the Committee to evaluate potential projects. The Cities of Lacey, Tumwater, and Olympia use reclaimed water but there are limitations to where it can be used. Suggestion to analyze the feasibility of using reclaimed water in the middle Deschutes subbasin including the types of projects that could use reclaimed water.
* Discussion on the type of information for each project that is necessary for the plan (conceptual, different phases, etc.) Ecology suggest to have enough information about certain projects in the plan so that the plan is at least meeting the law, with additional projects that go beyond the offset number agreed upon by the Committee.
* Discussion on feasibility studies - if the feasibility study is identified in the proposal as part of a well thought out project, that will carry more weight than a feasibility study to look for a project.
* Suggestion to identify reclaimed water and water right acquisition opportunities that may be available during the planning process.
* Important to consider what is and what is not an offset.
* The group discussed forming a project subgroup that would have deeper discussions on projects in between Committee meetings, and would report to the larger Committee at each meeting. The Committee expressed interest in having Ecology present at these meeting to provide technical support for effective discussions. Amy Hatch-Winecka expressed interest in organizing the project subgroup. Angela will work with Amy to coordinate.

# NEB and Plan Outline

Due to time restraints, this agenda item will be presented via WebEx or at the October meeting.

## Public Comment

*No comments.*

## Action Items for Committee Members

* Next meeting is October 23, 2019 at Tumwater Fire Department training room.
* Technical workgroup meeting will be scheduled for October.

## Action Items for Ecology:

* Angela will re-send PowerPoint slides with project idea types.
* Angela will re-send the salmon priority list developed by Paul Pickett.
* Thurston CD will share WRIA 13 specific water use information with Angela and HDR.
* HDR will pull more specific information related to the parcels selected for the 80 samples and create a summary document along with the results of the GIS analysis.
* HDR will provided the water system spreadsheet for the consumptive use analysis.
* Angela will send out a Doodle poll to reschedule the November and December meetings due to conflicts with holidays.
* Angela will send out Thurston Conservation District flyer on workshops.
* Angela will send a draft project evaluation criteria to the committee and asks for members to note any red-flag items to consider.
* Angela will schedule the next technical workgroup meeting.