# 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 - DRAFT

**WRIA 13 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee**

October 23, 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

Tumwater City Hall   
555 Israel Rd. SW  
Tumwater, WA 98501

**Committee Chair**

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

1. Workgroup Meeting Summary
2. Climate Change Discussion Guide

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Angela Johnson (*Ecology – Committee Chair)*

Theresa Nation *(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*)

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

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

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

Julie Parker (*Thurston PUD)*

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

Dan Smith (*City of Tumwater)*

Neil McClanahan (*City of Tumwater*)

Brad Murphy (*Thurston County*)

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance

Nisqually Tribe (*ex-officio)*

City of Yelm *(ex-officio)*

City of Tenino (*ex-officio)*

### Other Attendees\*

Gretchen Muller *(Cascadia Consulting)*

Jimmy Kralj (*ESA*)

Mike Noone (*Ecology*)

Paulina Levy (*Ecology)*

Stacy Vynne McKinstry (*Ecology)*

Kelly Vigario (*TESC* *– student*)

Martin McCallum (*StreamTeam*)

Adam Peterson (*Thurston Conservation District)*

Chad Wiseman (*HDR*)

Paula Holroyde (*LWVTC*)

\*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 September Meeting Summary

Angela received comments from Committee members on the September meeting summary, including:

* Clarification about policy and regulation proposals.
* The period of time allocated to discuss implementation was expanded on the committee timeline.
* Clarification of how grant funding relates to the planning process.
* Statement on PE wells inside water service areas.
* HDR will provide an update on the methods used in growth projections.

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

## Updates and Announcements

Angela provided updates from Ecology.

* Meeting schedule for 2020 – the group discussed the possibility of an alternate meeting schedule, and landed on wanting to continue monthly meetings unless workload proved to warrant an alternate meeting schedule.
* Kevin Hanson (Thurston County) hosted a project seminar to discuss project ideas with regional participants in WREC Committees and Ecology staff.
* Grant applicant workshops will be held throughout the state in November. There is a workshop at the Ecology headquarters in Lacey November 1, 2019 from 9 am – 11 am.
* Mike Noone will present on the final Streamflow Restoration Grant guidance at the November WRIA 13 WREC meeting.
* A consumptive use “deep-dive” is scheduled for October 28, 2019 from 9 am – 10 am to further discuss HDR’s consumptive use analysis for irrigated areas.

Committee members provide the following updates:

* Twin Harbors, new Water Keepers group in the Chehalis Basin. This group is working on the Chehalis Dam Project. It will be important to follow this work as it will impact water downstream in the system.

## Workgroup Report

Angela and the workgroup members provided a summary of the previous workgroup meeting, and received an update on recommendations for moving forward with growth projections and consumptive use.

The workgroup summary was presented. Committee member discussion followed:

* Data Needs
  + Suggestion to compile Flow Data and share it on Box.
    - Angela has added information to the folder in Box and has shared access with committee members.
    - If any committee members have flow data, they should contact Angela.
    - Collecting this data in one place will allow the committee to identify gaps in flow data.
    - Jean Caldwell (water resource contractor for Squaxin Island Tribe) has conducted a stream flow study in the Deschutes.
    - WDFW previously collected data on in-stream flows in the watershed - Theresa Nation will look into this.
  + Angela is working with Kelsey Collins (Ecology) to move forward with a contract for a water right analysis. Angela has asked the workgroup to identify priority streams/reaches for a more focused review. This work will be continued at the next workgroup meeting.
* Growth Projections
  + HDR provided an update on the initial analysis for new PE well connections using the methodology from Thurston Regional Planning Council. This methodology assumed no PE well connections in water system service areas, which the workgroup felt was important to investigate further.
  + The workgroup has suggested for an additional analysis for a “higher scenario” to include PE well connections in water system service areas. HDR has begun this analysis and will refine it based on workgroup input. The additional analysis estimates an increase from the TRPC analysis by 13%.
  + HDR will provide, by the next workgroup meeting, a revised memo with new PE well connection estimates for WRIA 13.
    - Suggestion to clarify assumptions on all methodology. For example the TRPC methodology assumes no PE well growth in incorporated areas, and PE well growth is only assumed on properties without sewer service in water system areas within UGAs.
  + Angela will work with the workgroup to develop a recommendation for a path forward by the next meeting.
* Consumptive Use
  + HDR provided a debrief on consumptive use methodology they are using for their ongoing analysis.
  + For the irrigated area analysis, HDR and GeoEngineers have exchanged parcels to do a blind analysis for quality control. Angela will provide an update on the outcome of this parcel exchange at the next workgroup meeting.
  + Committee members have asked to see parcel-specific information for the 80 parcels used in the irrigated area analysis – Angela will provide this to the workgroup and Committee.
  + HDR provided an update on the ongoing consumptive use analysis, which is based on the PE well connection analysis for growth projections. Angela has uploaded the current consumptive use “calculators” on the Committee Box site for members to access. Currently, there are two methodologies identified using water system data, and the irrigated area analysis. This analysis will be refined by the next workgroup meeting based on any revisions to PE connection growth.
  + Angela will work with the workgroup to develop a recommendation for a path forward by the next meeting.
* Projects
  + Amy Hatch-Winecka will send out a poll to schedule the first project subgroup meeting.

## WRIA 13 Salmon Priorities

The Committee received a presentation from Amy Hatch-Winecka (WRIA 13 Salmon Habitat Recovery Lead Entity) on salmon recovery and salmon priorities in WRIA 13. The presentation will be made available on the Committee Box site.

Committee discussion included:

* Natural storage methods such as wetlands, floodplain reconnection, etc. provide opportunities to store water and may be a potential benefit to water quantity for land acquisition projects.
* A limiting factor analysis FOR WRIA 13 was done several years ago, and is the basis for subsequent science-based work. Amy will look into this and share any relevant information with the Committee.
* Funding for monitoring of restoration activities is scarce.
* There are opportunities to work with producers and private land owners about water storage projects. These will likely have strong community support and will be more fruitful than water rights acquisitions.
* When looking at projects in the WRIA 13 salmon recovery LE work plan, only some may meet water offset requirements for the WRE plan.
* Consider concerns about concentration of PE wells in the nearshore areas and impacts to salmon.

# NEB and Plan Outline

Angela provided a presentation to discuss the final NEB guidance document, and discuss how it will factor into the development of the WRE plan.

Committee discussion included:

* Other considerations include history of water use and future use beyond permit exempt wells. Does this include growth of permanent municipal water systems over the next 20 years? For example, the City of Tumwater will need to grow beyond its current water use, does that need to be considered for NEB?
  + The legislation requires the committee show that NEB is met, if the committee chooses, they can go above and beyond the threshold for NEB.
* Project scoring criteria discussions are a helpful place to discuss NEB considerations and evaluation.
* Part of the committee’s role is to provide their best estimates with reasonable justification.

# Climate Change Considerations

The Committee held a discussion to consider climate change concerns in the planning process.

Reference materials: Climate Change Discussion Guide

Committee discussion included:

* Committee member suggested that climate change can be addressed by including a safety factor in consumptive use calculations. There is not full agreement from Committee members on this suggestion.
* Suggestion to consider project resilience as a way to address climate change. Some projects will have minimal impacts on streamflow in the face of changing climate conditions.
* Consider project development and action components of the plan as a way to address climate change.
* The committee is in agreement to incorporate climate change in the planning process.
* Suggestion that climate change should be used as a way to think about ecosystem management: A way to connect the dots between all the things that need to be considered.
* Suggestion to consider the impact of climate change on growth estimates – the Committee can continue to discuss this as part of adaptive management.
* Suggestion to align our work with the county-wide climate action plans and the LE salmon recovery plan update process.
* Angela will create a WRIA 13 climate folder in the Box account for committee members to share information.

## Public Comment

*No comments.*

## Action Items for Committee Members

* November meeting has been rescheduled for November 21, 2019 from 12:30 pm – 4 pm, at the Tumwater Fire Dept. Training Room.
* Technical workgroup meeting will be scheduled for November.

## Action Items for Ecology:

* Angela will schedule the next technical workgroup meeting
* Angela will circulate the WRE plan template and project screening criteria before the next meeting.
* Angela will continue to work with HDR on growth projection and consumptive use analysis, and provide update by the next workgroup/Committee meeting.