# 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**

November 21, 2019 | 1:00 p.m.- 3:30 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. Local Plan Review
2. Draft Plan Outline
3. Adaptive Management Discussion Guide
4. Workgroup Meeting Draft Summary

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Angela Johnson (*Ecology – Committee Chair)*

Theresa Nation *(WDFW)*

Donna Buxton *(City of Olympia)*

John Kliem *(Lewis County)*

Paul Pickett *(Squaxin Island Tribe)*

Julie Rector (*City of Lacey)*

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

Adam Peterson (*Thurston Conservation District, agricultural interests)*

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

Kaitlynn Nelson (*Thurston County*)

Brad Murphy (*Thurston County*)

Wendy Steffensen (*LOTT, ex-officio*)

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance

City of Tumwater

Thurston PUD

WRIA 13 Salmon Habitat Recovery Lead Entity *(ex-officio)*

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*)

Mark Mazeski (*DOH*)

Paula Holroyde (*League of Women Voters Thurston County*)

\*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 October Meeting Summary

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

* Updates and Announcements – meeting schedule and information on Box
* City of Olympia past mitigation work – need clarification, flagged for review
* Consumptive Use analysis results included
* Clarification NEB/Plan Outline discussion relating to history of water use
* Clarification on climate change discussion and data available on Box

*All of the proposed changes were made. The Committee approved the October meeting summary, pending review and clarification of the City of Olympia item flagged.*

## Updates and Announcements

Angela provided updates from Ecology.

* WRIA 1 Rulemaking is in the draft process. The draft rule is now available for public comment, and Ecology will hold four public meetings.
* Proposal to shorten monthly meetings in 2020 and add time at the end of meetings for technical workgroup or technical sessions. Angela will schedule this proposal for the January meeting.
* Overview of WRIA 13 Box site
* Local Plan Review and Timeline
  + Suggestion to keep in mind that the review steps may be an iterative process by some entities.
* Draft Plan Outline
  + Committee members are to submit comments by January 15, 2020 – Angela will send out information on making edits on Box.

Committee members provide the following updates:

* LOTT is working with Pacific Groundwater Group to work on infiltration capacity – reports will be made available on Box.
* DES meeting about Capital Lake Estuary Restoration occurring same day as November WRIA 14 Committee meeting – EIS will not be released until early 2021, which is later than anticipated.
* Thurston CD hosting drought workshop on December 10, 2019

## Workgroup Report – Growth Projection and Consumptive Use Update

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 hold hydrogeology/workshop – for the time being, Angela has create a folder on Box for Committee members to upload relevant information.
* Angela is working to move forward with water right analysis for WRIA 13. The workgroup will need to develop priority areas/reaches for the analysis – Angela will make time on the December or January workgroup agenda to discuss.

Permit-exempt well/connection growth projections:

* Recommendation from workgroup to move forward using PE well/connection projection which assumes growth in water system service boundaries outside of the UGA. The projection number will be used to continue to calculate the consumptive use analysis.

Consumptive use analysis:

* HDR and GeoEngineers are continuing to go through a QA/QC exercise for the irrigated area analysis. Angela and HDR will have more information by the next workgroup meeting.
* A question was brought up regarding WRIA 1 and how the irrigated area acre was developed for the draft rule. Angela can provide more detailed information on this as requested, however the WRIA 1 draft rule is a maximum not to be exceeded as opposed to what the WRIA 13 committee is doing right now which is estimating water use.
* Committee member expressed concern that future projected growth may impact overall water availability, even in cities where more water will be withdrawn to support population growth. Question regarding how to plan for that with the process, and how this may impact streamflow and temperature.
  + City of Lacey provided comment that there was previous a moratorium on growth in the UGA, and all growth since then is from mitigated water rights. Much future water use from water rights is already being mitigated.
  + City of Olympia provided comment that they have mitigated for water rights through 2048 and represents full buildout.
  + Some Committee member comment that planning for other water use is outside of the scope of RCW 90.94, however some feel that the law applies to all future water use.
  + Suggestion to address this idea at future workgroup and committee meetings in how to account for uncertainty through a robust project list.
* The workgroup will continue to discuss consumptive use at the next workgroup meeting and a path forward for general agreement.

Projects:

* Project tracking sheet and other project information is available on Box.
* Project subgroup meeting will be held 11/25, hosted by Amy Hatch-Winecka.  
  A summary was provided of how the workgroup selected priority reaches for acquisition. The top 5 or 6 are noted on the list on Box. The can be additional conversations if folks want to add more priority reaches or change priorities.
* A clarification was provided that the list of questions in the workgroup summary was in reference to the hydrology/hydrogeology workshop proposal.

## Adaptive Management Considerations

The Committee discussed options for including adaptive management in the planning process. The group split into 4 break-out sessions, and reconvened to discuss each group’s thoughts. This was an initial brain-storm and the group will revisit some of these ideas at a later date with consideration on how to include this in elements of the plan.

Committee discussion included:

* Adaptive management will depend on what the project is and where it is.
* When the plan is written, how do we monitor projects, how do we make sure plans are succeeding?
* Track project effectiveness – include elements in the project description on performance measures and expectations
* Groundwater and flow monitoring
* Permit-exempt well metering
* Determine who is responsible for tracking plan implementation
* Water bank as a tracking mechanism
* The plan is based on a lot of assumptions, and overtime it’s important to track assumptions.
  + Need to track the number of wells and the number of projects being installed and implemented.
  + Idea of creating measures/regulations to implement if the plan is falling behind schedule.
  + Consequence of falling behind in the plan (i.e. restricting new wells)
* As ideas evolve and new opportunities arise, how can new projects be added to the plan.
  + Add projects to the plan after adoption so that the plan can claim that offset credit
  + Credits for offsets when well are decommissioned
  + Credits for a portion of a multi-purpose project
* Track total water use
* Tracking NEB
* Funding for adaptive management/implementation (to Ecology or another entity)
* Consider the roles of the Counties
  + Dedicated funding
  + Staff time
  + Ordinances
  + Long term stability of the plan and things that won’t shift with political winds.
* Preference for acquiring good data
* Project impacts, stream data, the amount of new wells and how much water they use
* Robust and flexible funding list
* Maintain the work of this committee and future meetings and progress made going forward.
* Buy-in from Policy Makers going forward.
* Need to ensure some entity is responsible for implementation and adaptive management
  + Foundational to an adaptive management component
* Difference between adaptive management on the project and plan levels
* Effectiveness monitoring at subbasin level
* Evaluating trends of development and accuracy of the consumptive use estimate.
* Annual report of plan implementation (Committee member noted that this was a required element for WRIA 11 as part of Ecology approval)

# Streamflow Restoration Grants Guidance

The Committee received a presentation from Mike Noone (Ecology) on the Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grants Guidance. The presentation will be made available on Box.

Committee discussion included:

* What information is available about Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) projects? Ecology will require supplementary information for MAR project proposals, more information will be available on the grant application website.
* Monitoring is grant eligible, however it will likely not be competitive as a standalone project. Incorporating monitoring as a component of a project will likely make it more competitive.
* Landowner agreement/support should be documented and is required when applications are submitted.
* A grant proposal could be to do a categorical feasibility study, i.e. a certain number of sites that will get detailed evaluation for a Phase 2 application. This would be eligible but would be more competitive if offset benefits are quantified.

## Public Comment

*No comments.*

## Action Items for Committee Members

* December meeting has been rescheduled for December 18, 2019 from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm, at the Tumwater Fire Dept. Training Room.
* Technical workgroup meeting will be scheduled for December, likely via WebEx.
* Committee members should return the local plan approval process form to Angela before the February meeting.

## Action Items for Ecology:

* Angela will schedule the next technical workgroup meeting
* Angela will put the plan outline on Box for Committee review and will send out link to members for comments by January 15, 2020.
* Angela will continue to work with HDR on consumptive use analysis, and provide update by the next workgroup/Committee meeting.
* Angela will send out WRIA 1 rulemaking information