# 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.APPROVED MEETING SUMMARY

**WRIA 13 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee**

January 22, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. |[committee website](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37325/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_13.aspx)

## Location

Tumwater Fire Department  
311 Israel Rd. SW   
Tumwater, WA 98501**Committee Chair**

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

1. Water Rights Analysis SOW

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Angela Johnson (*Ecology – Committee Chair)*

Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe)

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

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

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

Kaitlynn Nelson (*Thurston County*)

Brad Murphy (*Thurston County*)

John Kliem (*Lewis County*)

Julie Rector (*City of Lacey*)

Cynthia Pratt (*City of Lacey*)

Donna Buxton (*City of Olympia*)

Wendy Steffensen (*LOTT*)

Dan Smith (*City of Tumwater*)

Charlie Schneider (*City of Tumwater*)

Julie Parker (*Thurston PUD*)

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

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

Nisqually Tribe (*ex-officio)*

City of Yelm *(ex-officio)*

City of Tenino (*ex-officio)*

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

### Other Attendees\*

Susan Gulick *(Sound Resolutions)*

Jimmy Kralj (*ESA*)

Mike Noone (*Ecology*)

Paulina Levy (*Ecology*)

Glenn Matti-Driscoll (*PGG*)

Chad Wiseman (*HDR*)

Burt Clothier (*PGG*)

Mark Mazeski (*DOH*)

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

## Welcome

Susan Gulick joined the group as the facilitator for this meeting. Angela and Susan 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 December Meeting Summary

Angela received comments on the following sections of the December meeting summary:

* Technical Work Update
* Safety Factor
* Workgroup Report: Consumptive Use Update

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

## Updates and Announcements

Angela provided updates from Ecology:

* Angela provided committee members with the memo from HDR and GeoEngineers detailing the comparability study on the irrigated area analysis between the two firms.
* The Streamflow Grants open January 30, 2020 and will be open until March 31, 2020. Grants awards are expected to be announced in August 2020.
* Comments from committee members on the plan template will be discussed at the February meeting.
* Committee members were reminded to return their local plan approval process form at the February committee meetings.
* WRIA 1 Rule Making public comment closed last week. All comments are able to be viewed on the Ecology website.
* Several committee members discussed how the work of this planning process should be aligned with work being done for the TMDL on the Deschutes River. Angela mentioned that this could be a topic of discussion at a future Committee or workgroup meeting.

# Review Progress to Date

Angela provided a summary of the various components of the committee’s progress to-date.

* Subbasins:
  + Squaxin Island Tribe noted the Middle Deschutes subbasin is large, and diverse – for example Chambers Creek versus upstream of Rainier. The Committee may need to look at projects and impacts at a finer scale.
  + Committee members agreed to make no changes to the proposed subbasins.
* Permit-Exempt Well Growth Projections:
  + The committee agreed to use the method that assumes growth of permit-exempt wells within water system service area boundaries.
  + This amounts to 2,732 new wells or connections over the planning horizon.
  + A brief explanation of the methodology used to reach this scenario should be included.
  + It was also noted that the Lewis County portion of the Upper Deschutes subbasin does not have any expected growth of permit exempt wells.
* Consumptive Use
  + Committee members chose to move forward with the irrigated area correction factor method, the irrigated area 0.05 acre substitution for 0 values method, and the irrigated area method with the 95% upper confidence limit as the “working numbers” for consumptive use. The group will come back to this discussion at a later date to re-evaluate the working numbers and decide on a range or a primary number.
  + Other methods will be used in the narrative of the plan to provide context and comparison. These include: the irrigated area method with the statutory limit (0.5 acres), water system service method (using Prairie Ridge flat rate data), and the maximum legal limit of 950 gallons per day.

## WRIA 13 Water Right Analysis

This portion of the meeting provided the committee with an opportunity to meet the consultants from Pacific Groundwater Group (PGG) and discuss their role in conducting a water right analysis for WRIA 13.

Discussions included:

* PGG will work on their analysis between now and May 2020 and expects to produce a draft technical document for committee members to review in April 2020, with the final in May 2020.
* PGG will look at up to 10 priority reaches or areas within the WRIA, as defined by the Committee.
  + The committee discussed building off of the salmon priority streams list provide by Paul Pickett, and identified some initial priority areas for PGG to focus on, including: Upper Deschutes, McLane Creek, Middle Deschutes, Spurgeon Creek, Green Cove, Woodland Creek, Woodard Creek, Johnson Point Small Tributaries (i.e. Pleasant Forest Creek), Lower Deschutes, Ellis Creek, and Chambers Creek (tributary of Lower Deschutes).
  + The Committee will re-evaluate this list after some initial investigation from PGG.
* The influence that this water right analysis will have on an actual water right acquisition will be on a case-by-case basis and will depend on the information that is available.
* The focus and scale of the analysis.
  + A question was raised on whether partial relinquishment opportunities would be identified? PGG stated that will likely be outside scope of their work at this time.
  + A question was raised on if PGG will look for opportunities for water banking. PGG stated that their assessment might find water rights that would work with that model.
* Information needed for a robust analysis.
  + Thurston County shared a water rights assessment from 2002. PGG will evaluate it.
* Committee members were encourage to send any information they have that might be beneficial for PGG as they conduct the analysis.
* PGG is available to provide a hydrogeological assessment of WRIA 13 to help the committee identify potential areas to focus project types such as aquifer recharge (MAR) and floodplain reconnection.
* The Committee would like to see a presentation on MAR projects for WRIA 13, Angela will arrange this for the next meeting.

## Other Technical Issues

This portion of the meeting was for committee members to discuss other technical issues related to the planning process.

Committee discussion included:

* Paul Pickett from the Squaxin Island Tribe presented a sensitivity analysis he created to evaluate how changes to individual plan components (consumptive use estimates, population growth, average family size, etc.) impact final offset targets.
  + This is intended to be used as a tool by committee members to understand how sensitive particular elements of the plan are on the outcome of the final offset target.
  + Paul suggested a safety factor of 25% to 50%, to account for climate change and potentially high growth rates.
  + No decision was made on using this analysis. The group will continue to discuss this at the next meeting. Angela will send out additional materials from Paul for review.
* The committee discussed projects and the project screening criteria. The project tracking sheet is a working document on Box, and currently identifies project categories such as projects with water benefits, habitat benefits, or both.
* Committee members were urged to review the project list on the Box site and provide as much information as possible about the projects listed, especially the project descriptions and pros/cons. Also, initial comments to indicate who made them.
* Committee members were asked to consider which projects should be put forward for a more detailed analysis by HDR.
* The next project subgroup meeting is on February 7, 2020, and this group will focus on filling in missing information for projects, and identifying priority projects for further analysis.
* LOTT representative mentioned that the status on reclaimed water projects in WRIA 13 is an ongoing discussion with several entities, and the group should avoid spending a lot of time on these at the upcoming project subgroup meeting until more information is available.
* Angela noted that she is looking into getting and distributing data from metering pilot projects.
* Paul Pickett of Squaxin Island Tribe developed an inventory of flow data, which he posted in a Box folder.
* Thurston County provided county and land trust lands to HDR for the webmap, so they are available for project identification.

## Public Comment

No public comment was made.

## Action Items for Committee Members

* Committee members were asked to review the project list on the Box site and to provide any information they have that might benefit the water rights analysis work to Angela.
* Committee members with information to share with PGG should contact Angela.
* Project subgroup meeting is February 7, 2020 from 9 am – 3 pm at the Tumwater Fire Dept.
* Complete local approval form to discuss at February 26, 2020 meeting.

## Action Items for Ecology:

* Angela will arrange an MAR presentation for the February meeting.
* Angela will send out links to Box where Committee members have been uploading information for review.