# 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**

February 26, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 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. Project Meeting Summary

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Angela Johnson (*Ecology – Committee Chair)*

Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe)

Dave Monthie (*Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team*)

Adam Peterson (*Thurston Conservation District*)

Brad Murphy (*Thurston County*)

John Kliem (*Lewis County*)

Cynthia Pratt (*City of Lacey*)

Amy Hatch-Winecka (*WRIA 13 Lead Entity – Ex Officio)*

Donna Buxton (*City of Olympia*)

Dan Smith (*City of Tumwater*)

Julie Rector (*City of Lacey*)

Charlie Schneider (City of Tumwater)

Theresa Nation (*WDFW*)

Wendy Steffensen (*LOTT-Ex Officio*)

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

Julie Parker (Thurston PUD)

Erin Hall (Olympia Master Builders)

### Other Attendees\*

Gretchen Muller *(Cascadia Consulting)*

Jimmy Kralj (*ESA*)

Mike Noone (*Ecology*)

Paula Holryde (*League of Women Voters*)

Mark Mazeski (DOH *Office of Drinking Water*)

Tom Culhane (*Ecology*)

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (*PGG*)

Chad Wiseman (*HDR*)

Burt Clothier (*PGG*)

\*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 January Meeting Summary

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

* Review Progress to Date
* Water Rights Analysis
* Safety Factors
* Project Review

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

## Updates and Announcements

Angela provided updates from Ecology:

* Due to conflicts with the April WRIA 13 meeting date and the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference, the WRIA 13 April 2020 committee meeting will be rescheduled.
* Ecology planners met with WDFW staff to continue their coordination regarding the WRE plan development process across all of the Committees WDFW is participating on.
* Ecology has developed an informative brochure for WRIA 13 WREC members to use to communicate information about the planning process with individuals and other representatives from their organizations.
* Angela is in the process of developing a work plan for 2020 that will outline the steps the committee needs to take before the anticipated submission of a plan for review by Ecology in February 2020.

Updates from other Committee members included:

* The League of Women Voters is holding two “Where’s the Water? –II” presentations in March 2020.
* DERT is hosting a forum on March 12, 2020 at the Olympia Center from 6 p.m. -.8 p.m. regarding dams.
* Theresa Nation (WDFW representative on WRIA 13 WREC) has taken a new position within WDFW. She will continue to represent WDFW on the committee until a replacement is found for her position.

# Plan Development: Update

Angela discussed that she received edits on the WREC plan outline from several Committee members, and provided an update to the committee about the plan development process. Suggested edits will be taken into consideration by the Ecology Streamflow Restoration Team, and Angela will provide a revised outline with any changes that are made.

* Committee members discussed certain elements of the plan and planning process, including:
* Issues around implementation and commitments to implementation. Squaxin Island Tribe is concerned that plans will “sit on a shelf”, which could open liability for not demonstrating offsets have occurred for PE well impacts. They want to hear from local government about how they can provide certainty. Several Committee members offered suggestions and examples.
* Addressing water use beyond new permit-exempt wells/connections
	+ Some committee members expressed that they interpreted RCW 90.94 to require the committee to include information about other types of water consumption, not just consumption from new permit-exempt wells/connections.
	+ Ecology encouraged interested committee members to create a formal proposal to share with committee members for a strategy to include all water uses in the plan. Such a proposal would be for review and approval by the entire Committee for inclusion in the plan.
* Committee representatives explained their internal plan review process and provide an estimate of how much time the Committee members would for review and local approval before a final Committee approval can occur. Paul Pickett from the Squaxin Island Tribe raised concerns about the process to resolve disagreements and integrate parts of the plan into package, all of which will take time and be necessary for an approvable plan. At this time, some Committee members indicated that they may need up to 4 months for their internal review and approval. This information is an estimate, however it will continue to be taken into consideration by Angela as she develops the 2020 work plan for the group.
* Committee members also discussed that it will be important to have a follow-up discussion on policy and regulatory ideas soon so that any potential actions for inclusion in the plan can be vetted internally by entities.

## Projects and Actions

The Committee received a presentation from Tom Culhane (Dept. of Ecology) on managed aquifer recharge (MAR) projects, including how to identify potential sites where MAR projects may be best suited in WRIA 13. The Committee also continued its ongoing discussion of projects, and received an update from the project subgroup on their February 7, 2020 meeting.

Managed Aquifer Recharge Project Presentation

* Tom Culhane from the Department of Ecology gave a presentation on managed aquifer recharge projects (MAR) in Washington State and presented an option for how the Committee could begin to think about potential locations for these projects in WRIA 13.
* Ecology technical staff provided results of an initial exercise on how to identify potential sites, and showed some examples. Tom Culhane noted that analytical modeling and other analyses would need to be completed to provide a more clear understanding of how effective these or other sites would be.
* In general, the committee expressed interest in MAR projects and recommended that HDR or PGG initiate an analysis to identify potential sites in WRIA 13. PGG will begin this work and will provide an update at the March 2020 WRIA 13 WREC meeting for Committee input.

WRIA 13 Project Sub-Group Meeting Summary
Handout: WRIA 13 2/7/2020 Project Subgroup Meeting Draft Summary

* During the February project subgroup meeting, the group went through all of the projects currently on the project tracking sheet and discussed them in terms of their priority for investigative action either by HDR or another entity.
* The subgroup identified 16 project for further action because of their potential for water offset, or because of their habitat benefit. During Committee discussion, the group suggested that “forest stand age preservation” projects should also be included on this list. Angela will provide an updated table of projects identified for investigative action.
	+ HDR provided a recommendation to address a “top-ten list” of projects for HDR to analyze further for inclusion into the plan. This set of 10 projects is a working list that have water offset benefits and/or habitat benefits, however there is capacity for more than these 10 projects. This is list is intended to serve as starting point. It was suggested that the group should consider “lumping” MAR projects together at this time for more general investigation.
	+ These projects have not been prioritized based on location of projects within subbasins where impacts are expected to occur. HDR will map these projects and investigate this further as they complete their analysis.

## 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:

* PGG provided an update regarding water right acquisitions: PGG will begin their analysis and identify areas where projects might occur, where salmon benefits are high, and where water right acquisition opportunities may exist.
* The sensitivity analysis developed by Paul Pickett will be discussed at a future meeting with the intention for it to be included in a discussion on safety factors.

## Public Comment

No public comment was made.

## Action Items for Committee Members

* As the planning process moves forward, committee members should expect to do more work outside of committee meetings to come prepared for committee discussions.
* Committee members are also welcome to submit agenda items for future meetings.
* Committee members were asked to review the list of policy and regulatory ideas sent to them by Angela and provide feedback. In particular, members were asked to note any ideas that would be considered “red flags”.

## Action Items for Ecology:

* Angela will send a Doodle poll to committee members to reschedule the April committee meeting because of conflict with Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference.
* Angela will send out information for Committee members to review in advance of the policy and regulatory action discussion at the March meeting.
* Angela will schedule the next project subgroup meeting.
* Angela will put meeting materials and presentation materials on Box.
* Angela will continue to work with technical contractors HDR and PGG on the following items:
	+ Project development
	+ Water right analysis
	+ MAR site analysis