# 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**

March 25, 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

WebEx**Committee Chair**

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

1. Policy and Regulatory Idea List
2. Adaptive Management Idea List
3. Plan Review Memo

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Angela Johnson (*Ecology – Committee Chair)*

Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe)

Jeff Dickison (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

Dave Monthie (*Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team*)

Sue Patnude (*Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team)*

Adam Peterson (*Thurston Conservation District*)

Brad Murphy (*Thurston County*)

Kaitlynn Nelson (*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*)

Wendy Steffensen (*LOTT-Ex Officio*)

Dan Smith (*City of Tumwater*)

Julie Rector (*City of Lacey*)

Julie Parker (*Thurston PUD*)

Theresa Nation (*WDFW*)

Erin Hall (*Olympia Master Builders*)

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

### Other Attendees\*

Gretchen Muller *(Cascadia Consulting)*

Jimmy Kralj (*ESA*)

Mike Noone (*Ecology*)

Stacy Vynne McKinstry (*Ecology*)

Rebecca Brown (*Ecology*)

Mark Mazeski (DOH, *Office of Drinking Water*)

Tom Culhane (*Ecology*)

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (*PGG*)

Chad Wiseman (*HDR*)

Kevin Hansen (*Thurston County*)

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

## Welcome

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

## Approval of February Meeting Summary

Angela received comments on the implementation discussion during the January meeting and received a suggestion to add language about the feasibility of projects from the City of Lacey*.* Angela will work with the City of Lacey to resolve the language request and the meeting summary will be recirculated to the Committee for approval during the April meeting.

## Updates and Announcements

Angela provided updates from Ecology:

* All future meetings will continue to be held over WebEx until noted otherwise.
* The April WRIA 13 committee meeting will be held on the rescheduled date of April 29, 2020.
* Angela stated that as of 3/25/20, the Streamflow Restoration Grant application closes on March 31, 2020 at 5:00pm.
* Ecology Streamflow Restoration staff met with Squaxin Island Tribe staff to discuss the WREC planning process across all of the groups that the Squaxin Island Tribe is participating on – this is a recurring meeting approximately every 3 months. Angela noted that any entity can request a meeting with Ecology to discuss WREC planning.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe is working on developing a WRE Plan implementation proposal, which will be shared with the committee for consideration. DERT and other committee members expressed interest in this idea as well.
* Committee members interested considering inclusion of information to address water use beyond the consumptive use of new PE domestic wells over the next 20 years were asked to provide a formal proposal to the committee for consideration. The Squaxin Island Tribe and DERT expressed interest in doing so. Angela encouraged committee members interested to work together outside of meeting time to coordinate on development of proposals.

Updates from Committee members:

* DERT is working with Puget Sound Keepers Alliance to coordinate pollution monitoring efforts and training.
* Thurston Conservation District is in the process of creating a local buyers guide for local agricultural producers.

# Plan Review Process

Angela provided an update to the committee about the plan review process. Discussion included:

* Committee members were advised to plan on conducting additional work outside of committee meetings to accommodate the increased pace and progress of the planning process. This will ensure a smooth progression towards the creation of a draft plan in August 2020.
* As they become available, plan materials will be sent to committee members along with a comment tracker to organize feedback from committee members.
* Currently, the target date for a completed and Committee approved plan is February 1, 2021 to provide to Ecology for review. This will allow Ecology sufficient time for review prior to the June 30, 2021 adoption deadline established in the legislation.
	+ All committee members must approve the plan prior to submittal to Ecology.
	+ Ecology intends to review all approved plans that are submitted by committees, but must do so ahead of the statutory deadline of June 30, 2021.Once the plan is submitted Ecology will review the plan.
* Status updates regarding plan review will be shared with the committee by Angela when possible and as appropriate.

## Policy and Regulatory Actions

The Committee continued their discussion on potential policy and regulatory actions to include in the plan. Angela presented the results from an assignment distributed before the meeting to help guide the discussion on which items could have traction to move forward by the Committee.

* Angela provided a clarification that any policy or regulatory actions included in the plan will be considered recommendations and do not obligate Ecology or any other jurisdictions to execute any action. The Committee will continue to discuss which ideas they would support or take a leadership role on.
* Paul from the Squaxin Island Tribe described an outline of categorized policy and regulatory ideas that he had developed. These are ideas the Tribe are interested in, provided with the intent of helping the discussion by sorting ideas into broader topic areas.
* Prior to this committee meeting, members were asked to review the list of policy and regulatory ideas generated during a previous committee meeting and mark them with a green, yellow, or red flag. Those policy and regulatory ideas that received support from at least one committee member were discussed in further detail during this meeting, and were consolidated into a spreadsheet showing potential level of support for inclusion in the WRE Plan. This spreadsheet will be a working document and will continue to be revised as the Committee has future conversations on this topic. Angela will make the spreadsheet available on the Committee Box site.
* Committee discussion included (but was not limited to) the following general ideas as potential plan recommendations. Angela will work from the list discussed during the meeting to develop a refined list that categorizes topics, shows high-level support, and allows for identification of a committee member to take leadership of a topic.
* Inter-local agreement for plan implementation
* Funding strategies to allocate money to WRIA 13 projects
	+ Consider funding for other implementation needs instead of projects
	+ increased PE well fees
* Specific regulatory strategies for priority areas
* Fee in-lieu program in Thurston County to collect money for offsets
* Metering PE wells, including enforcing use limits, voluntary metering, or metering study
* Water use conservation/education and drought response programs
* Hook ups to municipal water systems
* Improved PE well enforcement at state level
* Stream buffers and shallow well protections
* Potential revisions to instream flow rules
* Updates to the Ecology well log database
* Changes to restrictions on reclaimed water use
* Water banking for offsets
* Recommendation to suggest legislation to increase Ecology’s role in implementation of plan implementation
* Angela will distribute a refined list that will allow for additional Committee member input and will allow members to designate if they would like to take a leadership role on a topic.
* No decisions were made on topics to include in the plan. Committee member concerns will continue to be addressed in future conversations. These policy ideas will be consolidated and brought to the committee at a future meeting for further discussions. The Squaxin Island Tribe proposed focusing on the intended purpose of each policy idea and finding ways to reach that purpose in ways that have as much support as possible.
* Committee members are encouraged to bring forward proposals for policy and regulatory items and can send a brief outline to Angela to flag for discussion.
* Items that are marked as “red flags” by some Committee members will not prevent them from being further discussed if an entity would like to bring forward a proposal. There is the potential for language changes and clarification on some topics that could make them more agreeable to the Committee as a whole.
* Angela will work with the facilitation team to develop a consolidated list based on this discussion, and group relevant items together as discussed during the meeting. A revised list will be distributed for discussion at a future meeting.
* Angela mentioned that Ecology is not promoting any policy or regulatory actions and will take a back seat to these conversations and follow the direction the Committee wants to go. Ecology will vet the Committee’s recommendations with Ecology leadership and bring back any concerns to the committee.

## Adaptive Management

This portion of the meeting was for committee members to discuss adaptive management ideas. Angela presented three ideas for including adaptive management components in the plan, based on previous committee discussions:

* Develop a recommendation to the legislature jointly with other WRIAs
* For each project, note what information needs to be collected to track and monitor results.
* A mechanism to assess whether the assumptions used in the plan are validated over time.

Paul Pickett from the Squaxin Island Tribe expressed concern that the bins were confusing and not adopted by the Committee. He had provided some edits to make the bins more general. Angela noted that these were just initial ideas and shared Paul’s edits.

Paul Pickett from the Squaxin Island Tribe then presented an outline with adaptive management ideas grouped into several broad categories:

* Implementation
* Reporting
* Financial and Funding
* Durability
* Enforcement

The Committee discussed some of the specific ideas, including more discussion of an Interlocal Agreement; WDFW’s proposal to use the Salmon Recovery Portal to track offset projects; and the idea of identifying an organization to continue to coordinate Committee meetings, to support projects and track progress.

The committee will continue to discuss adaptive management ideas at future WRIA 13 committee meetings and the list of ideas will be circulated to committee members.

## Projects and Other Technical Item

The committee received an update on the action items from HDR/Committee members on the projects currently identified for further analysis:

* Spooner Farms Water Rights Acquisition
	+ HDR/PGG is working with the City of Olympia to determine the viability of this project
* Donnelly Drive Infiltration Project
	+ This project is currently in the planning process with Thurston County, HDR will contribute as necessary to calculate offset potential.
* Vicinity of Rainier, MAR and Conservation Projects
	+ This project still needs to be defined. One suggestion was a meeting with Thurston County and City of Rainier to explore possibilities. Angela will add this to the next project meeting.
* Chambers Creek and Woodard Creek
	+ Thurston County has already conducted work to examine potential floodplain restoration projects and locations. HDR will contribute as necessary to calculate offset potential.
* Upper Deschutes River Off-channel Wetlands
	+ Specific locations and actions need to be defined – HDR will work with Amy Hatch-Winecka to discuss.
	+ HDR has reviewed the Coho Restoration plan for potential actions.
* Spurgeon Creek Re-meander Project
	+ Requires consent from a private landowner. Thurston County and HDR to coordinate.
* Beatty/McLane Creeks Upper Basin Restoration
	+ Specific actions need to be defined.
* Green Cove Creek
	+ Specific actions need to be defined.
* 26th and Lilly Stormwater Retrofit
	+ HDR is working with City of Olympia on project potential for offset.
* City of Lacey Hicks Lake Water Quality and Flow Retrofit
	+ HDR is working with City of Lacey on project potential for offset.

For each of these projects, committee members discussed recent updates, next steps, and identified where specific information was still required. HDR will identify projects in all subbasins, list projects by subbasins, identify gaps, and request assistance from specific committee members if additional support is needed for particular projects.

Pacific Groundwater Group provided an update on their work related to water rights acquisitions and managed aquifer recharge (MAR) projects.

* Both water rights and potential MAR sites were mapped to provide committee members with a sense of where potential opportunities exist for these types of projects in the watershed.
	+ This also allowed committee members to identify areas in the watershed where potential projects may be lacking.
* PGG presented their proposed prioritization approach for identifying potential water rights for acquisition:
	+ Focus on certificates/permits rather than claims
	+ Focus on surface water and irrigation rights
	+ Consider the size of the water right
	+ Prioritize by location (subbasin and proximity to streams)
* PGG presented their MAR evaluation approach:
	+ Identify favorable areas (not limited to public/conservation lands)
	+ Proximity to source water and buffer distance
	+ Current focus areas include the lower, middle, and upper Deschutes
	+ Secondary focus areas include Johnson Point and Woodland
* Committee members noted that the size of potential water rights may be a less important consideration for water rights identified for acquisitions in priority basins, and suggested that a small benefit would still be beneficial overall.
* The Committee suggested that PGG should initially focus on permits in the Middle Deschutes and Johnson Point areas, surface and irrigation rights, screened by proximity to surface waters. Once this process is completed, PGG will share the list with committee members to see if committee members are familiar with any of the rights or stakeholders identified. Ecology will work with PGG to finalize this approach.
* Angela will distribute the information presented by PGG for further discussion at the project subgroup meeting on 3/27/20.

## Public Comment

No public comment was made.

## Action Items for Committee Members

* Policy and regulatory ideas will be sorted and committee members should expect to continue discussions related to these ideas.
* The project subgroup meeting will take place on March 27, 2020.
* The next committee meeting will be on April 29, 2020.

## Action Items for Ecology:

* Angela will send the plan review memo to committee members
* Angela will work with the City of Lacey to provide clarification about project feasibility language in the February meeting summary.
* Angela will schedule the April 2020 project subgroup meeting.
* Angela will continue to coordinate with HDR and PGG to provide technical support to the Committee.

## Action Items for Technical Consultants:

* PGG will continue work on the water right evaluation and MAR site identification analysis for WRIA 13. PGG will provide an update on these items at the April 29, 2020 meeting.
* HDR will continue their work on further analysis of projects. HDR will work with the project subgroup to identify projects in each subbasin, identify gaps, and reach out to committee members if support for particular projects becomes necessary.