# 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**

April 29, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. |[committee website](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37326/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_14.aspx)

## Location

Webex**Committee Chair**

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

1. Follow-up Policy and Regulatory Idea List
2. Follow-up Climate Change Discussion Guide
3. Follow-up Adaptive Management Discussion Guide
4. Project Update

## 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*)

Adam Peterson (*Thurston Conservation District*)

Karin Strelioff *(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*)

Wendy Steffensen (*LOTT, Ex Officio*)

Dan Smith (*City of Tumwater*)

Julie Rector (*City of Lacey*)

Charlie Schneider (*City of Tumwater*)

Julie Parker (*Thurston PUD*)

Theresa Nation (*WDFW*)

Tristan Weiss *(WDFW)*

Kaitlynn Nelson *(Thurston County)*

Erin Hall *(Olympia Master Builders)*

Sue Patnude (DERT)

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

### Other Attendees\*

Gretchen Muller *(Cascadia Consulting)*

Madeline Remmen (*ESA*)

Mike Noone (*Ecology*)

Rebecca Brown *(Ecology)*

Mark Mazeski (*Office of Drinking Water*)

Tom Culhane (*Ecology*)

Stacy Vynne McKinstry *(Ecology)*

Jim Pacheco *(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 logistics. Gretchen took a roll call of all Committee member on the call. The group reviewed the meeting agenda.

## Approval of February 2020 and March 2020 Meeting Summaries

Angela received comments on the *Plan Development* section of the February 2020 meeting summary and the following edits to the March 2020 meeting summary:

* Updates and Announcements
* Policy and Regulatory Actions
* Adaptive Management
* Projects and Other Technical Items

*All of the proposed changes were made. The Committee approved the February 2020 and March 2020 meeting summaries.*

## Updates and Announcements

Angela provided updates from Ecology:

* All future meetings will continue to be held over WebEx until noted otherwise.
* The Streamflow Restoration 2020 grant round closed on April 30, 2020.
* The Ecology Streamflow Restoration planners met with WDFW staff and discussed general committee updates, next steps and WDFW concerns.
* HDR and Geoengineers have been developing pilot chapters for the plan that will be applied to all of the watershed groups.
	+ WRIA specific information will be available in the next few months (draft language).

Committee Updates:

* The Twin Harbors Water Keeper Alliance will be holding a zoom meet about the Chehalis Dam project on May 7th from 6:00pm to 7:00pm.
* The Thurston County Buyers Guide is now live on their website, linked here: <https://www.thurstoncd.com/education/buyersguide/>
* Paul Pickett resigned as a conservation supervisor at the Thurston Conservation District.

# Potential Plan Recommendations for Policy and Regulatory Actions

* Angela gave a recap of the revisions made to the policy and regulatory recommendations list during the March 2020 WREC meeting.
* Angela provide a reminder that policy and regulatory actions cannot obligate Ecology or any other entity to implement them.
	+ This is an optional element of plan and committee members are expected to take lead on recommendations, Ecology is able to provide some coordination as needed.
* The committee reviewed the [revised potential plan recommendation list](https://app.box.com/s/va7aoj6mx84nm406gbtiqg7fb6atsrly) and identified/confirmed leads for each recommendation.
* Entities taking the lead on recommendations include:
	+ Thurston Conservation District
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe
	+ Thurston County
	+ DERT
* Some policy recommendations might also have project tie-ins, this will be noted on the plan recommendation tracking sheet.
* All policy recommendations need full approval from the committee, good idea to reach out to committee members during the policy recommendation development if leads feel than an entity may not be able to approve their recommendation.
* Reach out to Gretchen to coordinate if small groups are required for the recommendation development.
* A draft template for policy recommendations was provided to the group. Some members expressed an interest in providing input on this document. Angela will distribute the document after the meeting.
* Gretchen will be reaching out to committee members who have identified themselves as leads for policy recommendations topics with next steps, and will coordinate obtaining draft recommendations.

## Other Potential Plan Recommendations

Tristan Weiss from WDFW presented a project tracking recommendation to the group, describing the potential to use the Salmon Enhancement Portal to track projects in all WRIA’s.

* This is “boiler plate” language and can be edited for each WRIA.
* Having an umbrella approach to tracking projects in all WRIAs would be beneficial when developing grants and identifying specific project needs.
* WDFW is working on three pilot projects in WRIA’s 11, 22 and 23 to work out any issues and identify cost associated with plan.
* UW data stewards would upload projects to the database.
* The overhead cost of the tool is expected to be low and WDFW will support initial and ongoing costs of data steward data entry for the first two primary phases.
* The Plan may need to include WRIA-level local support for data collection and input as part of implementation.

Feedback from committee members included:

* Several committee members expressed interest and support for this idea.
* Committee member expressed interest in holding an all WRIA meeting with WDFW to discuss the tool further.
* Paul Pickett also shared and discussed two documents (1) Policy and Regulatory Recommendations and (2) Adaptive Management Recommendations.
	+ This was an initial discussion to familiarize the group with these proposals and may be discussed at future meetings.
* The committee will table the climate change and adaptive management conversations for now, but committee members are encouraged to look at the discussion guides and plan to discuss at the next meeting

## Projects

Pacific Ground Water Group (PGG) gave the committee an update on the water rights assessment. They discussed the screening criteria and the preliminary results from the Johnson Point Subbasin and the Deschutes Middle Subbasin, two areas identified as a priority for this analysis. Ultimately, the group will need to identify 10-15 potential water rights for the basin for further analysis by PGG.

Committee feedback included:

* A lot of these rights are very close to the Puget Sound so getting off wells wouldn’t be very beneficial.
* Hawks Prairie is an area that is growing so that is not the best place to look for water rights projects.
* Having a quick review by the Department of Health would be beneficial because they could tell us if some of these water rights are not worth pursuing.
* A questions was raised that if a project has benefits in multiple basins how should the Committee address that.

Angela will distribute information from PGG’s water rights analysis and will solicit committee member feedback on the list of potential water rights to perform analysis on that was distributed at this meeting. The project subgroup will review the refined list at the next subgroup meeting and will update the Committee at the May meeting. An update on the MAR analysis will be available by the next WRIA 13 WREC meeting from PGG.

Angela walked through the project subgroup meeting summary and provided general project updates. Specific project updates can be found on the [project tracking sheet on Box](https://app.box.com/s/gg268q09qyl82egcxmruwhv3emmkqlx5). HDR and committee members provided updates and answered questions about projects that have been identified for further analysis. The Committee discussed areas where there may be project gaps and noted that this will need further discussion to address the issue. It was noted that a useful next step may be to create a descriptive list of projects in each subbasin – Angela will work with HDR to develop this for the next meeting. Committee members also requested images of maps with project areas circled.

HDR also presented on the Floodplain Screening tool used in WRIA 12, and discussed options for its use by the WRIA 13 WREC. Ecology will work with HDR on the availability of this tool for use by the WRIA 13 Committee, and may provide examples of its usage in identifying potential projects. This will be further discussed at the next project subgroup meeting.

## Other Technical Issues

* Angela will send be sending out technical memos for the committee to review. These will be used to help develop draft plan chapters.
* Chad is working on scoping projects for the committee’s review.
* The committee will discuss how the group wants to approach NEB at the next meeting.

## Public Comment

No public comment was made.

## Action Items for Committee Members

* The next full committee meeting is May 27, 2020 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.
	+ Angela will keep committee members updated on the status of in-person meetings.
* Committee members should send Angela comments on the Policy and Regulatory Recommendation spreadsheet by May 6th.
	+ Gretchen will follow-up on next steps after this.
* An optional meeting with Tristan Weiss from WDFW will be organized to allow committee members from all WRIAs to gain more information on the potential use of the Salmon Enhancement Portal to track projects.
* Policy leads continue to work draft recommendations to present to the Committee at upcoming meetings.
* Review the adaptive management and climate change discussion guides before the next meeting.
* The project subgroup will review the condensed list of water rights projects from PGG and present it at the May meeting.

## Action Items for Ecology:

* Angela will send the policy recommendation template to Committee members for feedback
* Angela will schedule the May 2020 project subgroup meeting.
* Angela will continue to coordinate with HDR and PGG to provide technical support to the Committee.
* Angela will develop a descriptive list of projects in each subbasin.
* Angela will update the Committee on technical memos and upcoming reviews.

## Action Items for Technical Consultants:

* PGG will continue work on the water right evaluation and MAR site identification analysis for WRIA 13 and will provide an update for the May 27, 2020 WREC meeting. PGG will attend the next WRIA 13 project subgroup meeting to review the refined list of water rights for analysis.
* 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. They will let the committee know when the floodplain tool is available.