



APPROVED MEETING SUMMARY

WRIA 13 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee

June 23, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | [committee website](#)

Location

Webex

Committee Chair

Angela Johnson
angela.johnson@ecy.wa.gov

Handouts

1. Plan review outline
2. Project update
3. Policy Recommendation Proposals

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*)
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*)
Theresa Nation (*WDFW*)
Sue Patnude (*Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team*)
Julie Parker (*Thurston PUD*)
Jesse Barham (*City of Olympia*)
Noll Steinweg (*WDFW*)
Jeff Dickison (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

Committee Representatives Not in Attendance*

Erin Hall (*Olympia Master Builders*)

Other Attendees*

Gretchen Muller (*Cascadia Consulting*)
Jimmy Kralj (*ESA*)
Mike Noone (*Ecology*)
Tom Culhane (*Ecology*)
Mark Mazeski (*Office of Drinking Water*)
Chad Wiseman (*HDR*)
Paula Holroyde (*League of Women Voters*)
Marina Magana (*City of Tumwater*)
Kevin Hansen (*Thurston County*)

*Attendees list is based on WebEx attendance.

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.

Committee members were provided with a link to an interactive Google Slides presentation to promote engagement and capture comments during the discussion. These slides were converted to a PDF and can be found in the [June 2020 meeting materials folder on Box](#).

The Committee was introduced to a new WDFW representative Noll Steinweg, who will be replacing Theresa Nation on the WRIA 13 WREC. The group welcomed Noll and thanked Theresa for her contributions to the Committee.

Approval of May 2020 Meeting Summary

Angela received comments on the following sections of the May 2020 meeting summary:

- Policy Recommendations and Proposals
- Other Potential Plan Recommendations
- Project Ideas

All of the proposed changes were made. The Committee approved the May 2020 meeting summary.

Updates and Announcements

- Meetings will continue to be held over WebEx for the foreseeable future.
- WDFW has a new representative on the committee, Noll Steinweg who will replace Theresa Nation.
- Due to the financial impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, state employees have been furloughed the first four Fridays of July and one day per month from August through November.
- The November and December 2020 meetings will be rescheduled due to conflicts with holidays.
- Angela will create and send a new calendar invitation that includes the WebEx information. The existing calendar invite will be cancelled and replaced.
- Ecology and the Squaxin Island Tribe met as part of their quarterly meetings to discuss ongoing planning across the WREC groups that the tribe is participating on.
 - All committee members and entities are welcome to request single or recurring meetings with Ecology staff.
- The WRIA 1 rule amendment was adopted by Ecology, more information is available on Ecology's website.

Plan Development

Angela provided committee members with an update regarding the development of various sections of the plan, the timeline for distribution of plan chapters, and the review process.

- Technical Memos
 - Angela is working with HDR to finalize the information included in the memos. These memos will be used to inform the development of the related plan chapters.
 - These memos will be distributed to the committee for review prior to Chapter 4 of the plan.
- Chapters 1-3
 - Draft versions of these chapters were distributed to the committee on June 16th for review. Comments are due from committee members on June 30th.
- Chapter 4 (Growth Projections and Consumptive Use)
 - Draft is in development and will be distributed to the committee for review in early to mid-July.

- Chapter 5 (Projects and Actions)
 - Outline is currently in development
- Chapter 6 (Implementation and Adaptive Management)
 - Outline is currently in development
- Chapter 7 (NEB Analysis)
 - Outline is currently in development, and will need further discussion by the Committee on how to shape this chapter.
- The policy proposals generated by committee members will be included in either chapters 5 or 6, Angela will clarify.
 - Some committee members inquired about a separate chapter for these proposals.

Angela also provided a brief review of the status of plan components (growth projections, consumptive use estimates, policy proposals, etc.) and the plan review timeline.

- Summer through Fall 2020
 - The Chair and Facilitation Teams will track and coordinate the review of draft plan chapters, compile a draft plan by mid-August, and work to build consensus and address comments from committee members.
 - The committee will provide comments on draft chapters, review the compiled draft plan, discuss comments, and meet as necessary to finalize plan development before the plan is sent for local review and approval.
- The target date to submit a Committee approved plan to Ecology is February 1, 2021.
- Kevin Hansen of Thurston County wanted to know how to deal with projects in the plan, if they are not fully analyzed.
 - Ecology replied that they expect to fill in details as time goes by, recognizing that some information will be incomplete, but providing as much information as possible, while taking uncertainty into account.
 - Paul Pickett of the Squaxin Island Tribe noted that the WRIA 11 experience showed the importance of continuing to develop projects as part of implementation.

Committee members were provided with a brief review of how to use the comment tracker tool.

Projects

PGG provided an update of their work on the Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Analysis.

- PGG presented their progress and updated [webmap tool](#) to identify areas favorable for MAR projects in the watershed.
- These maps will be posted online and will include additional layers of information including salmon streams.
- One committee member requested adding a layer displaying gravel pits.
- PGG may have an initial analysis for Committee review by the July meeting. When the group has received the initial information from PGG on this analysis, the next steps will be for committee members to determine how many sites they would like to move forward for additional analysis and include in a project description in the WRE Plan.

PGG also provided an update on their Water Rights Analysis efforts.

- PGG provided revised tables and maps showing prioritized water rights in the Johnson Point and Middle Deschutes subbasins, based on Committee input.
- PGG shared an example from King County of a deep dive analysis to provide an idea of what that could look like in WRIA 13, should the group decide to provide that level of detail.

- Squaxin Island Tribe suggested looking for opportunities to combine water systems and relinquish all or part of a water right.
- Thurston Conservation District expressed concerns about how this water rights information is reported for agricultural rights. Suggested PGG look at a suite of opportunities to reflect irrigation efficiencies instead of providing specific water right information.
- Angela will investigate the minimum amount of information needed to include water rights projects in the plan that would qualify as an offset.

Angela provided a summary of the June Project Subgroup Meeting and the specific projects under further analysis by HDR and the technical consulting team.

- Schneider's Prairie
 - HDR will analyze this project for further offset potential.
 - This project will create and enhance an off-channel connection from the Deschutes River to a digressional off channel feature by deepening an existing channel.
 - Soils in this area are amenable to infiltration and potential exists to re-time water during high flow events.
 - The project subgroup suggested that Angela discuss this project with an Ecology wetlands specialist to identify any red flags.
- Spooner Farms
 - HDR originally estimated that the future park would use more water than the current use of the farm, however, the City of Olympia clarified that the park will likely use artificial turf, depending on the design selection, which may reduce the total anticipated water consumption. HDR will update their potential water use estimate based off of this information and provide an update to the group in July.
 - The City of Olympia remains open to the discussion of the project, however the usage of the existing water right for the future City Park is still yet to be determined.
- Lilly Road/26th
 - HDR estimates potential for 100-120 acre feet per year to be diverted from this project.
 - Committee agreed to continue analysis of this project.
 - The project subgroup recommended that Angela discuss this project with an Ecology wetlands specialist to identify any red flags.
- Some committee members expressed concerns with the amount of time it takes to analyze these projects, and is eager to see an estimate of project offset from projects.
- A suggestion was made to tag projects for which get offsets and which don't, given the WDFW memo.

Other Technical Items

- Angela provided an update regarding the permit exempt well and consumptive use estimate values for the Silver Hawk Development area.
 - TRPC recommended removing 116 PE wells from the growth estimate to account for the analysis error, which over-estimated future PE wells due to a lack of information in the mapping data used for the analysis.
 - This revised the estimates for both PE wells and consumptive use, which Angela displayed in the meeting presentation.
 - The technical workgroup provided the following recommendation:
 - Remove 116 PE well connections from Johnson Point subbasin
 - Agree that the approach is within the initial methodology for PE well connection estimate initially agreed to by Committee.

- Angela and HDR will clarify how this impacts overall PE connection growth and consumptive use.
- Suggestion from Squaxin Island Tribe that this is an implication to revisit the safety factor conversation
 - An example of why the Committee may want to account for uncertainty in the methodology.
- Suggestion from DERT to cite this as a specific example of uncertainty in the technical memo, to highlight assumptions that were made in the analysis.
- The Committee agreed with this approach.

Potential Plan Recommendations

This portion of the meeting was used to discuss the policy and adaptive management recommendations from Committee members. Questions and concerns are captured in the table below. Notes captured in the interactive slides are included below as an Appendix.

Policy Proposal	Lead	Comments from Committee Members				
Study of County Planning Streamflow Restoration Effectiveness	Paul Pickett	LOTT	DERT	City of Tumwater	City of Olympia	Thurston County
		Would this be done by a state agency?	Supports the idea	What would be done with the results?	Supportive of idea to identify what works well	Would need funding from the state.
County Policies to Promote Connections to Group A Systems	Paul Pickett	Thurston CD	City of Lacey	City of Tumwater	City of Olympia	DERT
		Concern about how this could impact small scale farmers who use PE wells for irrigation	Needs coordination with cities and regulation with Lacey	Coordinated Water System Plan has standards that may be good to update.	Important to include municipalities and Group A systems	Supports the idea.
Water Supply Data for Comprehensive Water Planning	Paul Pickett	City of Tumwater	DERT			
		Is this being proposed for the plan? Or to be done afterward?	Fully support and consider to be mandatory and would have difficulty approving			

			plan without it.			
Upgrade Well Reporting	Paul Pickett	City of Olympia	LOTT	Thurston CD	Ecology	City of Lacey
		Fully support this proposal	Important to have good quality data	In favor of the proposal	Will provide updates to this at the subgroup meeting	Necessary
		City of Tumwater	Thurston PUD	DERT		
		Supportive of the proposal	Supportive	Supporting		
Permit-exempt Well Withdrawal Limits	Paul Pickett	Thurston CD	City of Olympia	DERT		
		Suggest grouping with drought PE limits discussed at last meeting. Concerns about land owner impacts	Permit exempt well metering program suggest average water use is 500 gpd	Fully support and suggest 350gpd for indoor use.		
Monitoring and Research	Paul Pickett	WDFW	City of Tumwater	DERT	LOTT	
		Ongoing baseline data is a big need	Supportive of collecting more data	Supportive, more information needed for funding sources	Supportive. This information helps inform decisions	
Funding for Plan Implementation	Paul Pickett	LOTT	DERT			
		Funding is important, but this topic needs further discussion. Raising fees at this	Increase would be \$1000, supports the idea of a split among multiple recipients.			

		time will be challenging				
Durability of Implementation	Paul Pickett	City of Olympia	Thurston County			
		Views this as a mechanism to add certainty to plan being put into practice.	Language is already in the Comp. Plan			
Instream Flow Rule Revisions	Paul Pickett	DERT				
		Agree these revisions are overdue				
Amend Fee System	Kaitlynn Nelson	Squaxin Island Tribe	DERT			
		Are you proposing increased fees? Tiered fees?	Would it be easier to get the Board to keep the \$500 fee and propose adding more \$\$ as an outcome of this plan?			
Codify Implementation	Kaitlynn Nelson	Squaxin Island Tribe	DERT			
		Supportive of this proposal	Individual water system plans have to be consistent with the Comp Plan. Supportive			

Inter-local Agreement	Kaitlynn Nelson	Squaxin Island Tribe	WDFW	City of Olympia	DERT	City of Lacey
		Good to propose for ongoing work	How does this interact with the DRIP/DROP proposal?	Is this a broad ILA for implementation or specific ILA for projects/actions.	Supportive of this proposal	Makes sense to have an ILA for long term planning
Revise Thurston County Critical Areas Code Regarding Reclaimed Water	Kaitlynn Nelson	Squaxin Island Tribe	City of Lacey	City of Olympia	DERT	
		Supportive of idea	How would county residents pay for it since they don't have waste water through the cities?	Is there a parallel for rural areas paying stormwater fees to consider for rural areas paying for wastewater?	Great idea would help offset water use in rural areas	
Deschutes River Opportunity/ Implementation Partnership	Dan Smith	LOTT	Squaxin Island Tribe	WDFW	City of Olympia	Thurston CD
		Does this need an ILA? Likely, yes.	Supportive, but important to consider and respect tribal sovereignty	Agrees with idea	Support for DRIP name and idea	Supports idea

Paul Pickett of the Squaxin Island Tribe asked that outstanding issues be documented. Gretchen said she was looking at a survey of issues, and Angela said she would look into adding a tab to the spreadsheet.

The Lewis County representative mentioned that several of these policy ideas would be problematic for the county to support, and suggested the committee consider exemptions for Lewis County in several of these proposals to enable Lewis County to support approval of the plan.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Action Items for Committee Members

- Next committee meeting is July 22, from 9:00am to 1:00pm. This meeting may cover:
 - A review of the comments received for Chapters 1-3
 - Plan proposals and next steps
 - Project updates

- Other technical updates
- Committee members should provide comments to draft chapters 1-3 by June 30, 2020.
- Policy leads should continue to develop their proposals and work with other Committee members as needed to address concerns.
- A new workgroup will be established to further discussion policy and adaptive management proposals – Gretchen will work with the Committee to set this up.

Action Items for Ecology

- Angela will keep committee members updated on the status of in-person meetings.
- Angela will update Committee members of draft chapters or technical memos for review.
- Angela will schedule the July and August 2020 project subgroup meetings.
- Angela will continue to coordinate with HDR and PGG to provide technical support to the Committee.
- Angela will report back to the committee regarding how the Committee can discuss what level of information to include for water rights projects in the plan.
- Angela will clarify flexibility in the plan structure for a potential separate chapter of policy proposals.
- Angela will follow up with the Committee on any discussions with Ecology wetlands specialists for projects.

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 July 22, 2020 WREC meeting. PGG may attend the next WRIA 13 project subgroup meeting as well if needed.
- 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.

Appendix- Notes on Policy Discussion from Interactive Slides

DRAFT

Deschutes River Opportunity/Implementation Partnership - City of Tumwater

Squaxin Island Tribe

Keep Foster reference general.
Respect tribal sovereignty.
Funding and scope assumptions should be general.
Combine with DERT proposal?

Thurston CD

This sounds like a good idea, agree with Oly focus on implementation.

Thurston County

Lewis County

WDFW

Sounds like a good path forward

City of Lacey

City of Tumwater

City of Olympia

I prefer DRIP to emphasize the Implementation focus of the effort.

Olympia Master Builders

DERT

Particularly like the linkage to the TMDL and water quality. Will look at linking with the proposal we put forward.

Ecology

Enter your comment here like this!

Thurston PUD

LOTT

This is a good idea. Does it need an ILA?

Salmon Recovery LE

Study of County Planning Streamflow Restoration Effectiveness - Squaxin Island Tribe

Squaxin Island Tribe

Thurston CD

Thurston County

Would need funds from state

Lewis County

WDFW

City of Lacey

City of Tumwater

City of Olympia

This sounds like an efficiency evaluation. Good for establishing "where we're at" and seeing what's working well (or not).

Olympia Master Builders

DERT

Great idea. Not a subject that gets much attention.

Ecology

Thurston PUD

LOTT

This sounds like something that would be done by a state agency. Is that your thought?

Salmon Recovery LE

County Policies to Promote Connections to Group A Systems - Squaxin Island Tribe

Squaxin Island Tribe

Thurston CD

Concern about how this could impact small-scale farmers who use PE-exempt well allowances for irrigation. Farmers could face new utility bills for their water and hookup costs which could impact ag viability. Support considering an exemption for agriculture.

Thurston County

Lewis County

WDFW

DERT

Very good idea from a water management perspective. CWSP doesn't usually have standards, and is not enforced. County could place it in Comp Plan, and review/approve as part of WSP approval process. DOH has taken a run at defining T&R but has never finalized. Take a look at what King County does.

City of Tumwater

Coordinated Water System Plan has standards... may be good to update. In Tumwater, we require new developments to connect. 300' is our general distance, altho that is fuzzy when dealing with large developments. When a new water system MUST use PE well, we have a "temp water system agreement" we use.

City of Olympia

Key players would also be the municipalities / the Group A systems.

Olympia Master Builders

City of Lacey

If done with coordination with city, it would be a good idea, but it needs clear regulations with Lacey.

Thurston PUD

LOTT

Salmon Recovery LE

Water Supply Data for Comprehensive Water Planning - Squaxin Island Tribe

Squaxin Island Tribe

Thurston CD

Thurston County

Lewis County

WDFW

City of Lacey

City of Tumwater

Is this being proposed for the plan that is currently being developed? Or afterward?

City of Olympia

Olympia Master Builders

DERT

We fully support this, and actually consider it to be mandatory part of the plan, so would have difficulty approving the plan without it. I think HDR has time to do some of the analysis, and much of the information can be harvested from Water System Plans.

Ecology

Thurston PUD

LOTT

Salmon Recovery LE

Upgrade Well Reporting - Squaxin Island Tribe

Squaxin Island Tribe

Thurston CD

Definitely in favor of more accurate data on wells.

Thurston County

Lewis County

WDFW

City of Lacey

Necessary in my opinion!

City of Tumwater

Definitely support as well.

City of Olympia

Fully support this proposal. Happy to hear Ecology is interested.

Olympia Master Builders

DERT

Would be great if we can do this.

Ecology

I can provide updates to the status of this in Ecology at the subgroup meeting.

Thurston PUD

In support of this proposal.

LOTT

It is important to have good quality data.

Salmon Recovery LE

Permit-exempt Well Withdrawal Limits - Squaxin Island Tribe

Squaxin Island Tribe

Thurston CD

Would suggest considering this one alongside the drought PE limits discussed at last meeting, to understand it all in context. Concern that 1/12 acre is insufficient for landowners who want to put in a large garden or orchard. Perhaps a larger allowance, but part of it specific to food production. Also, is a fire buffer considered here like with the drought PE policy proposal? Also want to confirm this wouldn't impact 5000 gpd irrigation allowance.

Thurston County

Lewis County

WDFW

City of Lacey

City of Tumwater

City of Olympia

The 4/17/20 "permit-exempt well metering programs and metering data" draft summary indicates average water use is less than 500 gpd.

Olympia Master Builders

DERT

Fully support. Suggest the 350gpd for inside use.

Ecology

Thurston PUD

LOTT

Salmon Recovery LE

Monitoring and Research - Squaxin Island Tribe

Squaxin Island Tribe

Thurston CD

Thurston County

Lewis County

WDFW

Ongoing baseline data is a big need,

City of Lacey

City of Tumwater

More data please. :)

City of Olympia

Olympia Master Builders

DERT

It would be so nice to have all this. Just a matter of money! And consolidation of existing information would be a good start.

Ecology

Thurston PUD

LOTT

Flow monitoring, groundwater info, etc- good. Hard data helps jumpstart projects/ informs decisions.

Salmon Recovery LE

Funding for Plan Implementation - Squaxin Island Tribe

Squaxin Island Tribe

Thurston CD

Thurston County

Lewis County

WDFW

City of Lacey

City of Tumwater

City of Olympia

Olympia Master Builders

DERT

Current exempt well fee is \$500, so it would be a \$1000 increase. Like the idea of the split among multiple recipients.

Ecology

Reminder that Erin from OMB was interested in this conversation.

Thurston PUD

LOTT

Yes to need for funding. How we get there needs discussion. Raising fees in time of economic downturn/ covid will be challenging.

Salmon Recovery LE

Durability of Implementation - Squaxin Island Tribe

Squaxin Island Tribe

Thurston CD

Thurston County

Language already in
Comp Plan

Lewis County

WDFW

City of Lacey

City of Tumwater

City of Olympia

I see this as a mechanism to
add certainty to implementation
of the plan.

Olympia Master Builders

DERT

Ecology

Thurston PUD

LOTT

Salmon Recovery LE

Instream Flow Rule Revisions - Squaxin Island Tribe

Squaxin Island Tribe

Thurston CD

Thurston County

Lewis County

WDFW

City of Lacey

City of Tumwater

City of Olympia

Olympia Master Builders

DERT

Agree that these types of revisions are overdue. State rules are also a mishmash re inclusion of exempt wells, and should be explicitly included.

Ecology

Thurston PUD

LOTT

Salmon Recovery LE

Amend Fee System - Thurston County

Squaxin Island Tribe

Are you proposing increased fees? Tiered fees?

Impact of fees on home prices is miniscule (less than 0.5%)

Thurston CD

Thurston County

Lewis County

WDFW

City of Lacey

City of Tumwater

City of Olympia

Olympia Master Builders

DERT

Would it be an easier life to get Board to propose keeping existing fee of \$500, and consider adding \$\$ as an outcome of this study?

Ecology

Thurston PUD

LOTT

Salmon Recovery LE

Codify Implementation - Thurston County

Squaxin Island Tribe

Very good - thank you!

Thurston CD

Thurston County

Lewis County

WDFW

City of Lacey

City of Tumwater

City of Olympia

Olympia Master Builders

DERT

It's important to note that individual water system plans have to be consistent with the Comp Plan, so this is a great idea.

Ecology

Thurston PUD

LOTT

Salmon Recovery LE

Interlocal Agreement - Thurston County

Squaxin Island Tribe

Good to propose as an ongoing effort.

Perhaps note the challenges that Nisqually WRIA 11 have had - discussed for year but hasn't happened.

Thurston CD

Thurston County

Lewis County

WDFW

How would this interact with DRIP/DROP?

Would it be one or the other or both?

Good to keep plan moving forward.

City of Lacey

Makes sense to have an ILA for long-term implementation; should discuss at policy sub-committee

City of Tumwater

City of Olympia

Is this about an umbrella ILA for broad implementation of the plan or separate ILAs for specific actions/projects?
(Umbrella - thanks!)

Olympia Master Builders

DERT

We like it! Lot of overlap with the Watershed Council proposal.

Ecology

Thurston PUD

LOTT

Is this different than the DRIP/DROP?

Salmon Recovery LE

Revise Thurston County Critical Areas code regarding reclaimed water use - Thurston County

Squaxin Island Tribe

Good idea.
"...rural county does not provide wastewater to LOTT's systems..."
But rural residents use businesses or work in facilities served by LOTT, so shouldn't they enjoy some of the benefits? Just sayin'...

Thurston CD

Thurston County

This would likely go beyond LOTT reclaimed water, to include County-owned generation, and future other generators.

Lewis County

WDFW

City of Lacey

How would county residents pay for it, since they don't have wastewater through the cities that actually has authority over this?

City of Tumwater

City of Olympia

Is there a parallel with rurals paying stormwater fees to consider for rurals paying for wastewater/ reclaimed water?

Olympia Master Builders

DERT

Great idea. And would help offset water uses in rural areas. County obligation to protect critical areas applies to all rural areas, not just those served by LOTT. LOTT also benefits by just having a place to send the treated wastewater rather than discharging to Budd Bay.

Ecology

Thurston PUD

LOTT

I submitted some draft language to County to amend this policy idea.

Salmon Recovery LE

Upcoming Policy Proposals

Squaxin Island Tribe

Compliance approach,
including metering

Thurston CD

Thurston County

Lewis County

WDFW

City of Lacey

City of Tumwater

City of Olympia

Olympia Master Builders

DERT

Ecology

Thurston PUD

LOTT

Salmon Recovery LE