# 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**

June 23, 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. 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.](https://app.box.com/s/lrq73z9549xje79jc3sjnlwc1f3g1kw8)

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 help 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.

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](https://hdr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0f269fb50de1483390df3d47f048d8ae) 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.
  + 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.

## 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.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 time will be challenging | Increase would be $1000, supports the idea of a split among multiple recipients. |  |  |  |
| 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 |

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.