# 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**

July 24, 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. June 2020 Draft Meeting Summary
2. Project Update
3. Policy Recommendation Proposals
4. Adaptive Management Discussion Guide

## 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 (*Tumwater City Council*)

Kaitlynn Nelson *(Thurston County)*

Erin Hall *(Olympia MBA)*

Sue Patnude (*Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team*)

Julie Parker (*Thurston PUD*)

Jessie Barham (*City of Olympia*)

Noll Steinweg (*WDFW*)

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

### Other Attendees\*

Gretchen Muller *(Cascadia Consulting)*

Jimmy Kralj (*ESA*)

Mike Noone (*Ecology*)

Tom Culhane (*Ecology*)

Paula Holroyde (*League of Women Voters*)

\*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 have been saved on Box [here.](https://app.box.com/s/fgz63dok4zbedmnvce3qbipczd105u5y)

## Approval of June 2020 Meeting Summary

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

* Plan Development
* Projects
* Project Updates
* Potential Plan Recommendations

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

## Updates and Announcements

* Meetings will continue to be help over WebEx for the foreseeable future.
* Angela provided committee members with an update to her furlough schedule: Angela will be furloughed the following days:
	+ July 24
	+ August 31
	+ September 4
	+ October 30
	+ November 30
* The WRIA 59 Watershed Plan Update was adopted by Ecology and is available for review on the Ecology website.

# Projects

The Committee received an update regarding project analysis and development.

Project undergoing analysis for offset potential include, but are not limited to:

* Schneider’s Prairie
	+ HDR has conducted a preliminary analysis on this project.
	+ The concept has been presented to Ecology wetlands specialists and this appears to be a viable project.
	+ This analysis is moving forward. HDR will continue to estimate the offset potential.
* Hick’s Lake SW Retrofit
	+ HDR is working with the City of Lacey to estimate offset potential.
* Spooner Farms
	+ Project evaluation is in process. This project can only be fully evaluated as an offset if the City of Olympia retires the water right. That decision is currently under consideration.
	+ Question was raised about the right retirement given there are no metering records.
		- Without metering, satellite data will be analyzed to estimate irrigation amounts.
* Lilly Road/26th
	+ Analysis in process. There are several scenarios that could determine the certainty of this project’s offset potential. Ecology wetlands specialists provided valuable feedback.
* Donnelly Drive
	+ HDR has completed their project analysis and is currently developing the project evaluation.

Status updates were provided for other projects:

* Chambers Creek, Woodard Creek, North Steamboat
	+ HDR is developing concepts in coordination with Thurston County and the WRIA 13 Lead Entity.
* McLane Creek and Green Cove Creek
	+ Thurston County is working to define restoration concepts in coordination with HDR.
* Floodplain Restoration
	+ HDR is developing the project evaluation and will seek input from the project subgroup.

Angela provided a brief update on the efforts of PGG and their work on Managed Aquifer Recharge projects and Water Rights.

* MAR Site Analysis
	+ PGG provided an update of their work to the project subgroup.
	+ PGG will develop suggestions for potential sites to investigate for further evaluation and will seek input from the project subgroup.
* Water Rights Analysis
	+ The project subgroup asked PGG to focus their efforts on developing a list of opportunities rather than individual water rights to balance concerns regarding specific landowner information since there has not been outreach to landowners.
* Project Next Steps
	+ HDR and committee/workgroup members will continue to analyze and define projects
		- Offset estimates will be generated over the next month.
		- Project descriptions will be included in the project template and plan chapter.
	+ PGG will continue their Water Rights and MAR analyses
	+ Next project meetings are July 27th and August 19th
	+ Committee members requested information from HDR regarding the proportion between the estimated water benefits of these projects compared to the total offset requirement in the watershed.

## Plan Development

This portion of the meeting was used to discuss the plan development process including the plan review timeline and comments on Chapters 1-3 from the committee.

Committee members were asked to provide feedback on the plan review process through the interactive Google Slides. Of those committee members who voted, all felt the process was above average.

* Plan Development Process
	+ Chapter 4 (PE well projections and Consumptive Use) will be distributed in August
	+ Chapter 5 (projects and actions) outline is being developed
	+ Chapter 6 (policies, implementation, adaptive management), outline is under development
	+ Chapter 7 (NEB analysis) outline is developed and will be updated after committee discussions
* Target Dates
	+ Mid-August goal for a draft version of the compiled plan
		- Likely will need additional work on projects and NEB chapters.
	+ October/November: Draft plan for local review
	+ February 1: Committee approved plan to submit to Ecology
	+ Timelines may shift due to workload, furloughs, and committee member/Ecology availability.
* Review of comments from committee members on draft chapters 1-3
	+ Of the comments received by committee members, 41 were “green”, 24 were “yellow”, 17 were “red”, and 15 were “unassigned”.
	+ Angela noted that she will be discussing comments to chapter 1 with Ecology management, as they are reviewing all comments from WRIAs on this chapter together to identify consistent revisions across committees. Angela will discuss WRIA 13 specific with management in August.
* Angela reviewed comments for Chapters 1-3 that were received by the due date of June 30, 2020. The spreadsheet to track Committee comments and changes made can be found on Box [here.](https://app.box.com/s/abmcede6wa3u9nvtzehlplid9b89yo3d) Angela received comments from several committee members, and focused on red/yellow comments to discuss with the committee. Committee members agreed to several suggested edits, topics included were:
	+ Additional context and details in chapter 1
	+ Language refinement
	+ Additional background on wells, growth management, and comprehensive planning
	+ More information on lead entities and local integrating organizations
	+ Suggested edit regarding tribal treaty rights
	+ Suggestions for revisions to maps and figures to include
		- Angela noted that Ecology is working across all WRIAs to develop template maps, and will have WRIA 13 specific maps over the coming weeks. Angela will take Committee comments into consideration when WRIA 13 specific maps are
* Angela will make edits to Chapters 1-3 based on the comments and committee discussion and provide an update to the committee.

## Policy and Adaptive Management Proposals

Gretchen provided a review of the current status of policy proposals and the survey that committee members were asked to take to provide feedback on current proposals.

* At the policy subgroup meeting, members discussed opportunities to combine proposals and identified needs for clarification and revisions. Additionally, the group discussed next steps for write-ups and policy chapter development.
* Opportunities for combining proposals: the following proposals were flagged to combine.
	+ DRIP/DROP, Deschutes Watershed Council, and Interlocal Agreement
		- Policy leads for each of these will discuss combining these proposals.
	+ South Sound Water Master and Drought Response Program
		- The Squaxin Island Tribe raised concerns about whether or not these proposals should be combined. Thurston County clarified their position about the role of a potential water master role in supporting plan implementation.
	+ Codify Implementation and Implementation Durability
	+ Amend Fee System and Other Funding Strategies
* The committee also reviewed proposals that were flagged for revisions and clarification
	+ Implementation Funding and IFR Revisions: several committee members noted they would like to avoid rule making processes.
		- The Squaxin Island Tribe noted that rulemaking processes are extremely important for their support of the plan and would like to further discuss these concerns and reach consensus on the issue.
		- Thurston County has concerns about rulemaking, but does agree with the Squaxin Island Tribe that rule making is important. They highlighted the need to carefully word rulemaking processes.
	+ Permit Exempt Well Withdrawal Limits and Promoting Group A Connections: more conversations need to be had with the Thurston Conservation District
		- The Squaxin Island Tribe is supportive of exemptions for food irrigation.
	+ Lewis County Policy Proposal Exemption
		- Lewis County has requested that several proposals include exemptions for the application in Lewis County. The group has not raised any concerns about this and it will be addressed in the proposals and draft plan.
* Next Steps
	+ Policy leads were asked to make revisions to proposals by August 7th.
	+ Consultants will draft the policy chapter by August 21st and it will be circulated for review on August 24th.
	+ Committee members proposed a summary of the policy development process including a list of the original proposals, how they were narrowed, and any revisions made.
	+ A second policy subgroup meeting will be scheduled for the week of August 10th.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe noted the importance of clarity around the decision making process in accordance with the operating principles.
	+ Committee members raised a concern about upcoming elections in November 2020 and implications on the planning process if political leadership changes while entities are seeking approval for the plan.
		- Committee members recognize that they may need to respond quickly to bring newly elected officials up to speed on the WREC process and draft plan if there are changes in leadership.
	+ The group agreed that the write-up for policy ideas in the plan should be relatively short and the full length proposals should be added as an appendix to provide additional information (as per the draft chapter template that was shared via the meeting packet and shared during the committee meeting).
* Adaptive Management: Gretchen led a discussion with the committee regarding a unified request for adaptive management.
	+ Information to track:
		- Committee members discussed tracking streamflow, offsets, new wells, mitigation goals, the success of projects, groundwater elevation, relationship between water quantity and quality.
		- The Squaxin Island Tribe also noted the need to track plan implementation as well as status and trends.
	+ What should happen if tracking shows significant diversion from planned outcomes?
		- Committee members mentioned that the group should reform to discuss next steps and requesting additional funding. Many groups referred to the draft AM proposals that describe establishing a committee/group that would continue to meet and advance the planning process in this watershed.
		- Other members stated that problems need to be evaluated and diversions from the plan should be reported to Ecology annually for them to take action as needed.
	+ Committee members agreed to support a standard request to the legislature for funding to support adaptive management.
		- The Squaxin Island Tribe noted that other funding mechanisms should be pursued as well (increased well fees, contributions through an inter-local agreement).
	+ What data gaps should be addressed?
		- Committee members mentioned metering data, streamflow monitoring (particularly for streams with an instream flow rule), water withdrawal amounts (McLane Creek example), how much water is available, needs of a long-term committee/group to advance the plan, improvements to groundwater models, mapping of critical recharge areas, causes of losing reaches on the Deschutes, metering of conservation sites.

## Public Comment

No public comment was made.

## Action Items for Committee Members

* Next committee meeting is August 26, from 9:00am to 1:00pm. This meeting may cover:
	+ Plan development update
	+ Policy and Adaptive Management update
	+ Project updates
	+ Other technical updates
* Project subgroup meeting will take place on July 27th from 1-3:30pm
* Any outstanding comments on Chapters 1-3 should be sent to Angela for review.
* Committee members should continue to coordinate on policy proposal revisions.
* Gretchen will be sending a Doodle Poll to schedule an additional policy subgroup meeting the week of August 10th.

## Action Items for Ecology

* Angela will keep committee members updated on the status of in-person meetings and plan development timeline.
* Angela will discuss Committee member comments on Chapter 1 with Ecology management.
* Angela will update Committee members of draft chapters or technical memos for review.
* The brainstormed list of adaptive management ideas generated in the fall will be recirculated with committee members.
* 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 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.

Angela will speak with HDR about offset estimates for the proposed projects and a proposed timeline for sharing this information with committee members.