

**Deschutes (WRIA13)
Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee
February 27, 2019 Meeting Summary**

Please send corrections to Angela Johnson (angela.johnson@ecy.wa.gov) by March 22, 2019.

Committee website:

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1962/37325/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_13.aspx

Next Meeting: March 27, 2019 9:00 am to 12:30 pm
Tumwater Fire Department Training Room
311 Israel Rd. SW, Tumwater, WA 98501

Meeting Information

Wednesday February 27, 2019 9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Tumwater Fire Department Training Room
311 Israel Rd. SW, Tumwater, WA 98501

Agenda

	Topic	Time	Action	Handouts	Lead
1.	Welcome and Introductions	9:00			Facilitator
2.	Approval of January Meeting Summary and Review of February Agenda	9:10	Decision	- January meeting summary (provided in email) - Agenda	Facilitator
3.	Committee Updates and Announcements	9:15	Discussion		Chair and All
4.	Public Comment	9:25			Facilitator
5.	Instream Flows*	9:40	Presentation		Jim Pacheco, Ecology
6.	Break	10:40			
7.	Operating Principles	10:50	Decision	Operating Principles	Chair/Facilitator
8.	Data Needs and Workgroups	11:40	Discussion		Chair
9.	Ex-Officio Decisions	12:00	Decision		Chair/Facilitator
10.	Action Items and Next Steps	12:15			Chair/Facilitator

**all handouts are available on the Committee website*

Committee Representatives and Alternates in Attendance

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Rebecca Brown	Department of Ecology	Sue Patnude	DERT
Scott Steltzner	Squaxin Island Tribe	Dave Monthie	DERT (alternate)
Cynthia Pratt	City of Lacey	Julie Rector	City of Lacey (alternate)
Cindy Wilson	Thurston County	Dan Smith	City of Tumwater
Donna Buxton	City of Olympia	Theresa Nation	WDFW
Erin Hall	Olympia Master Builders	Sarah Moorehead	Thurston Conservation District
George Walter	Nisqually Tribe (ex-officio)	Amy Hatch-Winecka	WRIA 13 Lead Entity (ex-officio)
John Kliem	Lewis County		

Other Attendees

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Paula Holroyde	League of Women Voters	Katilynn Nelson	Thurston County
Mike Noone	Department of Ecology	Jerilyn Walley	SPSSEG

Decision Items

The January meeting summary was approved by the committee. The committee approved four ex-officio members: Nisqually Tribe, WRIA 13 Salmon Recovery Lead Entity, City of Tenino, City of Yelm. The committee approved the Operating Principles and Charter.

Meeting Summary

Interim Committee Chair Rebecca Brown and interim facilitator Mike Noone kicked off the meeting. Ecology is in the process of hiring a long-term facilitator for the Committee.

Jim Pacheco, Department of Ecology biologist, provided a presentation on Instream Flows. The presentation was a general overview of the subject, with some information specific to WRIA 13. The presentation will be made available on the Committee website. Committee members participated in a thorough Q&A after the presentation and raised issues such as:

- How the seasonal closure helps with water usage from homes, and how water usage can be retimed.
- The uncertainty of what data instream flow closures are based on, and how one would change closures and mistakes.
 - Changing the typo on the Deschutes in November (missing from graph) would be an administrative fix.
- Adding more instream flow studies may be beneficial to the planning process – need to consider resources and time restraints.

- Irrigation methods have changed in recent years, and this may have a positive impact on instream flows due to better practices.
- Prioritization of water rights (senior vs. junior), instream flows, and priority dates. This is a topic that the Committee expressed interest in learning more about. Committee chair Angela Johnson will provide resources and will look into setting up a presentation for the Committee regarding water rights and tribal/treaty water rights.
- What data is available for the Deschutes in terms for number of exempt wells, number of water rights uses, etc? The Committee expressed interest in the chair putting together a data packet for meetings and presentations that the group can reference during the meetings.
- When considering proposals to changing the instream flow rule, it is important to consider where the rule would lose in priority date if it were changed.
- The Committee would like a copy of the Deschutes Instream Resource Protection Plan
- Data in the Deschutes: Consider the pros and cons of having a fresh look at old data vs. developing new data. WRIA 13 did not have a Physical Habitat Simulation (PHABSIM) study. A new toe-width study may only take about two days to complete.
- Consider how data collected for TMDLs may factor in the WREC planning (temperature is part of an instream flow rule, etc.)
- Hydrologic level – a question arose on whether or not the previous hydrologic level is based at the current level and how that impacts water rights needing to meet criteria. Committee chair will add this to the Parking Lot and follow-up with the Committee.
- Current water rights holders who mitigate for their water rights and how changes to the instream flow rule may affect them. Stream will likely not be opened up during the time period that mitigation is required.
- Key takeaways from the presentation:
 - November flow is missing from the graph, could be an administrative fix.
 - The Committee should look at stream closures (seasonal and year round).
 - Woodland creek has a high winter flow, but closed year round.
 - Would need a habitat study and negotiations within committee for a seasonal closure.
 - There is opportunity for water projects in the upland areas.

The Committee went through the Operating Principles and Charter revisions brought forward by the Chair. Additional changes were discussed and agreed upon by the Committee. The Committee approved the document (with one abstention, chair will follow up), and Ecology chair Angela Johnson will follow up with all members with a signature page and next steps.

Data needs were discussed by the Committee, and the chair asked for two work groups to be formed. The Committee formed the following workgroups:

Technical Workgroup: Thurston County, City of Lacey, Salmon Recovery LE, City of Tumwater, City of Olympia, Squaxin Island Tribe, Lewis County, Thurston PUD.

Subbasin Workgroup: Lewis County, Squaxin Island Tribe, Thurston County, Salmon Recovery LE.

The Committee chair will organize a meeting for the workgroups before the March 27th meeting, and will send out the meeting information to all committee members.

Data needs from the previous meetings were distributed during the meeting, however it was requested that this document be distributed electronically to the Committee for further comment. Additional data needs were identified during the discussion including:

- Better understanding of connectivity between WRIA 13 and Chehalis/Nisqually
- Water budget –inputs and outputs
- Consider literature review and using resources such as DNR’s Geology Division for historic data.

The Committee approved the participation of four ex-officio members including: WRIA 13 Salmon Recovery Lead Entity (Amy Hatch-Winecka), Nisqually Indian Tribe, City of Tenino, and City of Yelm. The Committee will continue to discuss the participation of other groups such as LOTT, and the Fire District in the near future.

Public Comment

No public comment was given.

Parking Lot

Parking lot items will carry over to future meetings until the Committee agrees that they have been addressed.

- 12/12/18:
 - Is funding available for WRIA 13 studies to support decisions? If so, how much? How will we access it?
- 1/23/19:
 - How will Ecology determine the timing components of projects (i.e. when mitigation benefits can be seen)?
 - Include a strategy in the plan to follow up on plan elements.
- 2/27/19
 - What are the conditions that old water rights need to meet?

Action Items

- Ecology chair will finalize the approved Operating Principles and will follow up with each entity for next steps and a signature page.
- Ecology chair will provide the Committee with resources on water rights, and will set up a presentation for further information.
- Ecology chair will distribute Deschutes Instream Resource Protection Plan and will make Jim Pacheco’s presentation available on the Committee website.
- Ecology chair will distribute data needs document and will inform the Committee of the date of the workgroup meetings.
- Ecology will continue to set up trainings and presentations over the next several meetings based on the draft timeline.