# 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 14 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee**

August 8, 2019 | 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. |[committee website](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37326/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_14.aspx)

## Location

Mason County Public Works  
100 Public Works Dr.   
Shelton, WA 98584**Committee Chair**

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

1. Workgroup meeting summary
2. Field trip map

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Angela Johnson (*Ecology – Committee Chair)*

Ron Gold *(Mason County PUD 1)*

Larry Boltz (*agricultural interests, Mason Kitsap Farm Bureau)*

Seth Book *(Skokomish Tribe)*

Dana Sarff (*Skokomish Tribe)*

David Windom (*Mason County)*

Craig Gregory (*City of Shelton)*

Fern Schultz (*DOH – ex-officio)*

Kaitlynn Nelson (*Thurston County)*

Allison Cook (*WDFW)*

Darrin Masters (*WDFW)*

Paul Pickett (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

Shelley Spalding *(environmental interests, WA Sierra Club*) Marilyn Vogler *(environmental interests, WA Sierra Club)*

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

Olympia Master Builders (*residential construction industry)*

### Other Attendees\*

Susan Gulick *(Sound Resolutions)*

Rebecca Brown (*Ecology*)

Erica Marbet (*Squaxin Island Tribe)*

Gino Lucchetti (*Squaxin Island Tribe)*

Regina Grimm (*DOH*)

Paula Holroyde (*League of Women Voters*)

Brandy Milroy (*Mason County PUD 1)*

\*Attendees list is based on sign-in sheet.

## Welcome

Angela and Susan kicked off the meeting with meeting location logistics. Committee members and other meeting attendees introduced themselves around the room. The group reviewed the meeting agenda.

## Approval of July Meeting Summary

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

* USGS – Mason County Groundwater Modeling Project
* Workgroup Report/Growth Projections
* Committee Check-in
* Action Items for Ecology

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

## Updates and Announcements

Angela provided updates from Ecology:

* NEB final guidance is published online. The Committee will be going over this document in more detail at the September meeting – Committee members should take the time to review.
* Ecology’s Streamflow Restoration Policy and Interpretive Statement is published online.
* Grant funding guidance will be made available on Ecology’s website for public comment

Other Committee member announcements:

* Kevin Hanson (Thurston County) is looking into setting up a site visit at the Ohop Creek restoration project. Angela will coordinate with Kevin on this potential future field trip.

# Workgroup Report

Angela and the workgroup members provided a summary of the previous workgroup meeting – see workgroup meeting summary from 8/6/19 for more details.

Reference Materials: 8/6/19 WRIA 14 Workgroup meeting summary

The workgroup summary was presented and included a brief explanation of the following items:

* Data needs
  + Review of ongoing data needs considerations
* Growth Projections
  + Review of initial growth projection analysis memo from HDR. Information was provided on Thurston County and Mason County for workgroup members to review. Based on comments from this initial analysis, the workgroup and Committee will select growth projection scenarios (up to 4) for comparison.
* Consumptive Use
  + HDR presented a work plan for the consumptive use analysis step. HDR will develop a draft consumptive use calculation (based on growth projections) for the workgroup to review by the next workgroup meeting.
* Projects
  + Update and discussion on existing project list, project evaluation criteria, and project ideas.

Committee discussion:

* Growth projections
  + Mason County mentioned that they are analyzing the trends of 1st grade enrollment to get an idea of future population growth. The recent numbers are smaller than expected, and may fluctuate depending on the housing market.
  + Explore some of the assumptions and understand what the uncertainty is without using too much time/resources?
    - Find a comfortable low-growth and high-growth estimate, work within those parameters
    - As an example, WRIA 11 doubled their consumptive use in the end – that is where they applied the “safety-factor” to account for uncertainty
  + There will be up to four additional growth projection scenarios that HDR will run, based on group feedback. When identifying scenarios, the group may consider several elements that may affect growth:
    - Consider if the wells are being installed where we think they will
      * The regulatory environment has changed, which may impact where homes are built.
      * Keep in in mind that building permits do not necessarily mean that there is a completed home, or a well was installed.
    - Consider what information would come from buildable lands analysis – lot consolidations, subdivisions, etc.
    - Consider how frequent are exemptions to the 1-acre limit for septic requirements? (Mason County will provide more information on this)
      * Waivers, repairs vs. new construction, lot consolidation, upgrade issues, conversions of cabins to home lots, etc.
      * The workgroup will discuss this in more detail, with input from Dave Windom (Mason County). Mason County has taken the position that several of these considerations may be minor exceptions.
* Consumptive Use
  + Mason PUD #1 has metering data to provide to HDR – DOH may have some information as well.
  + There is interest in looking at water use in a system that just came under metered water with tiered rates, to see if there a decline in use.
* Water right acquisitions
  + The group may consider focusing on specific locations where more effort should be spent identifying acquisition opportunities– the workgroup will consider this at the next meeting.
* Project evaluation criteria
  + HDR is developing a draft document that will be provided to the workgroup for review, followed by full Committee review. The Committee will ultimately decide on the final criteria that will be used moving forward.

Several project ideas were mentioned, including stormwater retention, and an ongoing proposal in Mason County at a mobile home site. The group will further discuss these ideas and have more time for project discussion at future workgroup and Committee meetings.

## Overview of Site Visits

The Committee visited three sites during the field trip portion of the meeting. Background information and reports on site visits will be made available on the committee website.

1. **Likes Creek –** example of post-construction fish passage project, led by Brian Combs (SPSSEG).
2. **Coffee Creek –** example of pre-construction conditions at future fish passage project scheduled for late summer 2019, led by Allison Cook (WDFW).
3. **Goldsborough Creek Floodplain Restoration –** example of floodplain restoration site, led by Brian Combs (SPSSEG).

## Public Comment

No public comment.

## Action Items for Committee Members

* Next meeting is September 12, 2019 (9 am ) at Mason County Public Works – 100 Public Works Dr., Shelton, WA 98584.
* Committee members should review the final NEB guidance and Ecology’s policy document.

## Action Items for Ecology:

* Ecology technical staff review of Mason County water use model.
  + Angela will send comments to Committee when available.
* Angela will provide a timeline check-in at next Committee meeting.
* Angela will set up the next technical workgroup meeting
* Future meetings
  + Discuss products from consultant and work group
  + Continue assessment of growth projections
  + Discussion on project types, phasing, and evaluation criteria