# 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**

July 11, 2019 | 9:00 a.m.- 12:30 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

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Angela Johnson (*Ecology – Committee Chair)*

Ron Gold *(Mason PUD 1)*

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

Seth Book *(Skokomish Tribe)*

Dana Sarff (*Skokomish Tribe)*

Kevin Shutty (*Mason County)*

Barbara Adkins (*Mason Conservation District – ex-officio)*

Fern Schultz (*DOH – ex-officio)*

Kaitlynn Nelson (*Thurston County)*

Allison Cook (*WDFW)*

Darrin Masters (*WDFW)*

Paul Pickett (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

Josie Cummings (*residential construction industry, BIAW*)

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

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

City of Shelton

### Other Attendees\*

Susan Gulick *(Sound Resolutions)*

Jimmy Kralj *(ESA)*

Rebecca Brown (*Ecology*)

Tony Wilson (*citizen)*

Sarah Dunn (*USGS*)

Brandy Milroy (*USGS)*

Lonna Frans (*USGS*)

Sue Kahle (*USGS*)

\*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 June Meeting Summary

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

* Squaxin Island Tribe – Tribal Treaty Rights
* WRIA 14 Water Rights Assessment and Acquisition Opportunities
* Workgroup Report

*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 will be published near the end of July 2019 (anticipated July 31). Angela will provide an update and overview when the final guidance is available.
* File sharing – Ecology has approved the use of Box, and it will be set up for the Committees in the near future.
* The technical workgroup has begun discussing projects. If members are not on the workgroup and have project ideas, please send them to Angela.

## USGS – Mason County Groundwater Modeling Project

The Committee received a presentation from Lonna Frans from USGS on the Mason County Groundwater Modeling Project. This model, when completed, will be used for future predictions of impacts on water use. A copy of the presentation will be made available to the Committee.

Committee members raised several questions/comments following the presentation:

* The Committee can review the USGS model for WRIA 15 as an example of a successful model. However, this model cannot be used in WRIA 14.
* The model will address land use conditions such as impervious surfaces, forestry, land use changes, etc.
* The model will consider a variety of water use estimates to get a complete picture of how much pumping is occurring throughout Mason County.
* This is part of a region-wide effort in the Puget Sound. Funding is provided through federal appropriations, inter-agency partnerships, and through state and local stakeholders.
* The timeline for the development of this model will be in parallel to the Committee’s plan development. While a final model will not be developed in time for use by the Committee, the USGS is willing share preliminary results throughout their process to inform the Committee’s work. Angela will coordinate with USGS to better understand what data might be available and how the Committee could use it.
* Angela will share any existing information and reports with the Committee from this project.

## Field Trip Brainstorm

The Committee discussed several ideas for a field trip for the August 8th meeting. Sites were proposed that would show examples of project types or existing watershed conditions. Angela will keep a list of field trip ideas that the Committee can use for future dates as well.

Committee members proposed several ideas, and agreed that examples of fish barrier projects from WDFW could be a starting place. Angela will coordinate with WDFW to finalize the details.

Future site visits may include:

* LOTT reclaimed water ponds and recharge basins – WRIA 13 tour is August 28th, Angela will send details to WRIA 14 Committee if members would like to attend.
* Squaxin Island Tribe groundwater recharge area near airport and corrections facility.
* Floodplain reconnection projects – Angela will coordinate with Mason CD.
* Former hatchery on Lynch Road
* Lower Skokomish project – in progress by Army Corps of Engineers
* Mason county reclaimed water treatment plan in Belfair
* Skokomish restoration projects – coordinate with Skokomish Tribe
* Lake Limerick Damn
* Kennedy Creek salmon viewing area
* City of Shelton Oakland Bay wetland restoration project
* Skookum Creek habitat enhancement project

# Workgroup Report/Growth Projections

Angela and the workgroup members provided a summary of the previous workgroup meeting – see workgroup meeting summary from 7/9/19 for more details.

Reference Materials: 7/9/19 WRIA 14 Workgroup meeting summary

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

* Data needs
  + Next steps for data acquisition matrix – a revised version will be available based on Committee input.
  + Consider what is *essential* to plan development, and what is not.
* Growth projections
  + Thurston County provided initial growth projection data from TRPC. HDR has been coordinating with Mason County to develop suitable methodology for assessing parcel data. The Mason County methodology is currently presented in a decision tree, which workgroup members provided feedback on for clarity.
* Projects
  + HDR discussed the status and approach for developing projects. The workgroup provided feedback and discussed the need for project evaluation criteria. HDR will develop a criteria template for workgroup/committee review.
  + The workgroup agreed that it will be important to consider how the projects will be implemented and will need to plan to set them up for success.

Committee discussion:

* Data needs
  + Angela will combine the “data available/data needs” list with the HDR data acquisition matrix to clear up confusion on how information is being organized.
  + The dialogue for data needs is open throughout the entire planning process.
* Growth projections
  + Some Committee members expressed concern that the City of Shelton had not been participating in the technical workgroup and was not involved in developing the methodology for analyzing parcel data in Mason County. Angela will coordinate with the City of Shelton to ensure they do not have any concerns with the initial growth projection methodology – The City of Shelton was not present at the Committee meeting.
  + HDR will use the initial growth projection methodology to provide the Committee with a first-cut of data to review. HDR will provide up to four additional growth projection scenarios.
  + Angela will provide clarifying language to the decision tree for assessing Mason County parcel data, as was discussed by the workgroup.
  + Committee members agreed to move forward with the initial Thurston County (TRPC) and Mason County methodology – pending considerations from the City of Shelton. They discussed that it is important to clearly document the assumptions made for each growth projection scenario.
  + Next steps will be for workgroup and Committee members to review the initial data when it is distributed, and propose different growth projection scenarios based on this review.
* Projects
  + It is important to coordinate with the WRIA 14 Salmon Recovery Lead Entity on projects.
  + HDR is developing a template for project evaluation criteria. This will be used to evaluate new and existing projects.
  + Consider the timeline of implementation of projects through the 20-year plan implementation period – taking into consideration potential project sponsors, as well as future monitoring efforts.
  + Suggestion to create a template for members to communicate with colleagues and partners to solicit project ideas.
* Other considerations
  + Important to keep in mind that cooperation among Committee members is the key to success for this plan.

## Committee Check-in

The Committee participated in a discussion on the process to date, lingering questions from presentations, information needs, etc.

Several questions, comments, and considerations were made:

* Suggestion to include meeting materials with calendar invites – Angela will start to do this for future meetings. Previous meeting materials are available on the Committee website.
* Ecology is taking the lead on the SEPA process – Angela will share more information with the Committee when that process is more clearly defined by Ecology (including SEPA checklist).
* Long-term planning process: There is no legislative mandate that the WREC will have a role after June 30, 2021, additionally there is no funding for continued planning. The Committee would like to consider how this impacts implementation of the plan over the next 20 years.
* Consider how to better use data-sharing programs for Committee communication.
* Angela will coordinate with the Ecology technical team for their review on the project evaluation criteria being developed by HDR.
* Consider having facilitation at workgroup meetings.
* Angela will keep the Committee informed on additions to the Ecology technical team and any changes to who will review the plan for NEB.
* Need current inventory of projects that are being proposed by existing groups. HDR is starting this process – Committee members will have a chance to review lists and provide input.
* Additional request for presentations/information:
  + Presentation on fish populations in WRIA 14 – WDFW and/or WRIA 14 Salmon Recovery Lead Entity
  + Presentation on climate change, as well as any specific information available for WRIA 14 – Angela is coordinating with UW Climate Impacts Group.
  + Project constraints: land use codes, water rights, legal issues on land ownership, etc.
  + BIAW is developing a one-pager on property rights – Angela will distribute when available.
  + Method for recommending legislative needs and policy changes.
  + Drought planning – could be part of climate change information.
  + Municipal water laws – consider how to coordinate with tribal interests.
  + Move from presentation-heavy meetings to discussing projects.
  + Group coordination and cooperation is essential to this process.

## Public Comment

Tony Wilson (citizen) provided suggestions for online collaborative communication resources.

## Action Items for Committee Members

* Next meeting is August 8, 2019 (9 am ) at the Mason County Public Works – 100 Public Works Dr., Shelton, WA 98584. The group will have a short meeting followed by a field trip. Angela will send more information on the field trip in the next couple of weeks.

## 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 send out information from USGS presentation
  + Copy of presentation
  + John’s Creek study
  + Follow-up on extent and validity of WRIA 15 USGS model
* Angela will plan August field trip and follow-up with Committee members who proposed sites
* Angela will set up the next technical workgroup meeting, and distribute HDR slides on project information from previous workgroup meeting.
* Angela will coordinate with City of Shelton on workgroup participation, and growth projection methodology.
* Future meetings
  + Discuss products from consultant and work group
  + Initial assessment of growth projections
  + Discussion on project types, phasing, and evaluation criteria