# 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**

September 12, 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. Revised Timeline
2. Workgroup Meeting Summary

## 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)*

Randy Neatherlin (*Mason County)*

Craig Gregory (*City of Shelton)*

Fern Schultz (*DOH – ex-officio)*

Kevin Hansen (*Thurston County)*

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

Allison Cook (*WDFW)*

Darrin Masters (*WDFW)*

Paul Pickett (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

Erin Hall (*residential construction interests, Olympia Master Builders)*

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

### Other Attendees\*

Susan Gulick *(Sound Resolutions)*

Rebecca Brown (*Ecology*)

Chad Wiseman (*HDR*)

John Bolender *(Mason Conservation District)*

Tristan Weiss (*WDFW*)

\*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 August Meeting Summary

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

* Workgroup report

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

## Updates and Announcements

Angela provided updates from Ecology:

* Public comment for Streamflow Restoration grant guidance has closed. Ecology will release the final guidance sometime in October. Mike Noone (Ecology) has offered to speak to the committee about the grant guidance – the group suggested that this occur in November after the release of the final guidance. The next Streamflow Restoration grant cycle is expected to be in February 2020.
* Angela distributed a revised Committee Timeline for review. Several comments were made to clarify the items for the 3rd and 4th quarter, and to include implementation as a discussion item.

# Workgroup Report and Growth Projection Update

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

Reference Materials: 9/9/19 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
	+ Update on initial growth projection analysis memo revisions – clarifications to methods for Mason County and Thurston County. The group specifically wanted clarification on the variable in the Mason County methods which states that if a parcel is smaller than 1 acre it cannot have a permit-exempt well, and how that affected the analysis. HDR will be looking into this concern and will have more information by the next workgroup meeting.
* Consumptive Use
	+ Update on consumptive use analysis and discussion of methodology.
* Projects
	+ Update and discussion on existing project list, project evaluation criteria, and project ideas. The group decided to form a project subgroup, which will be led by Allison Cook (WDFW).

Committee discussion:

* General
	+ At the previous workgroup meeting, Dave Windom (Mason Co) raised an issue regarding permit-exempt domestic wells that are on a shoreline in geographic areas that outflow directly to marine or freshwater. The Committee will include these in the analysis for now, with the option of readdressing the issue later.
	+ Kevin Hansen (Thurston Co) has arranged a meeting with Kelsey Collins (Ecology) on October 2nd to do an overview of projects and receive input on the water right acquisitions components. Kevin will distribute this meeting invitation.
* Growth projections
	+ HDR provided an update on initial growth projection analysis. Thurston County provided clarification of their process with TRPC, and the group discussed the Mason County methodology.
	+ As mentioned above, HDR is provided clarification on a concern regarding 1 acre parcel sizes in the analysis. The workgroup will discuss this in more detail at the next meeting, and will bring that back to the Committee for further discussion.
	+ A suggestion was made to look into if developable parcels under 1 acre in Mason County could be combined and put on Group B systems – with the thought that this could increase consumptive water use. Mason County believes that this would be a small number, however HDR will attempt to create a numerical estimate for the workgroup’s review. Suggestion to look at an overlay of critical areas along with that estimate.
	+ HDR reviewed potential scenarios to consider for looking at the projection of new permit-exempt domestic wells. While HDR will continue to look into suggestions brought forward by the workgroup and Committee members, Mason County noted that they will not go outside of the purview of their Comprehensive Plan for growth projections. Important for the group and HDR to consider other methodologies or “safety factors” that can be addressed without implying changes to the Comprehensive Plan.
	+ The group discussed concerns regarding implementation of the plan. It was mentioned that while Ecology does not have a legal requirement to implement the plan, several Committee members expressed their commitment to doing so. The group will have further discussion about adaptive management and implementation in order to address these concerns.
	+ Suggestion for Mason PUD to look into whether new Group B systems are more common that new connections to existing group B systems, as this is the case in Thurston County. This may have implications for the unused capacity of Group B systems.

## Consumptive Use Presentation

Chad Wiseman (HDR) provided an overview presentation of consumptive use, how the Committee will use this information, and how local information informs consumptive use calculations. Chad went into detail on the specific methodology proposed by HDR to complete several components of this analysis including indoor water use, and outdoor water use. Angela will provide the presentation on the Committee website.

Committee discussion:

* Question raised concerning the number of parcels used for the outdoor irrigation analysis, and if the selected number of parcels was based off of a statistical power analysis. HDR responded that it was not, however they could provide information to determine statistical significance of their results after the analysis is complete.
* Question raised regarding indoor water use calculations using local water system data, and if a sliding parcel size would be used for WRIA 14 for this analysis. HDR responded that the calculation will rely on an average parcel-size. It was proposed to further discuss this at the next workgroup meeting.
* When considering seasonal vs. steady state analysis, a concern was raised to keep in mind that impacts on low flows in summer months will have significant impacts on fish.
* Suggestion for the Committee to make clear assumptions about the spatial impacts of project well construction and how that affects the consumptive use analysis.

## NEB and Plan Outline

Angela provided and overview of the final NEB guidance document, and discussed how this will factor into the development of the watershed restoration and enhancement plan. The presentation will be made available on the Committee website.

* Suggestion to have further discussions about some elements of the plan at future meetings, including: incorporation dissenting views, funding strategy, and a plan for committee members to involved their elected officials (if appropriate) early on in the planning process to ensure they are on board.

## Projects

The Committee participated in a discussion to reflect on site visits from last month’s field trip, brainstorm project types, project phasing, project evaluation criteria, etc. It was encouraged for Committee members to think about what they do or do not want to see in a project.

Committee discussion:

* Feedback on site visits
	+ Site visit to the culverts exposed the Committee to the option of expanding projects beyond a single benefit.
	+ Interest in Shelton’s efforts with reclaimed water infiltration – City of Shelton suggested that they could provide a presentation on this at a future meeting.
* Project lists
	+ Suggestion to have an inventory of projects to understand what is happening across the landscape. Angela noted that HDR is in the process of compiling an existing project list for the group to review.
	+ Comment to be sensitive about incorporating existing projects into the development of the WRE plan.
	+ Suggestion to further collaborate with the WRIA 14 Salmon Recovery Lead Entity when discussing projects. Angela noted that the Mason CD is an ex-officio member for this reason, and she will continue to engage the LE.
* Project types/development
	+ Suggestion to contact Department of Natural Resources to identify potential fish passage projects for the Committee to consider. Angela will work with HDR to look into this further.
	+ Note that culvert projects may fall lower in the priority rankings for NEB (additional note that any culverts which are required by regulations to be installed will not be counted for NEB and will not be included in the plan).
	+ Suggestion for the Committee to have access to more mapping tools to guide the discussion of project development and selection and to identify impact areas. Angela will continue to work with HDR on needs of the workgroup and Committee.
	+ Paul Pickett noted that he has developed a project brainstorm spreadsheet that he would like to share with the Committee. Angela will distribute this to the Committee as a tool for future workgroup or project subgroup meetings.
	+ Comment that identifying headwaters of Goldsborough Creek and surrounding tributaries on mapping tools would be helpful to show where projects would be most beneficial.
	+ Suggestion to investigate late-comer fees for City of Shelton water service hook-up, and to look into City of Shelton’s capacity to provide water in the Goldsborough Creek service area. The City of Shelton noted that they can provide this information with a targeted area map.
	+ Suggestion to talk to land trusts about areas that be identified for projects
* Project criteria
	+ HDR is developing a draft project screening criteria that will be distributed after it is reviewed by Ecology. Each WRIA group will have the ability to comment and review on this draft, and to tailor it to their individual needs. The group will discuss this over the next couple of months at workgroup and Committee meetings. Note that this is a tool that the Committee can use to make an initial scoring of projects, however the group can choose to rank projects however they feel is best for the WREC.

## Public Comment

No public comment.

## Action Items for Committee Members

* Next meeting is October 10, 2019 (9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) at Mason County Public Works – 100 Public Works Dr., Shelton, WA 98584.
* Committee members should look into their internal review process for plan approval. Angela will be coordinating with Committee members on this over the next couple of months.

## Action Items for Ecology:

* Ecology technical staff review of Mason County water use model.
	+ Angela will send comments to Committee when available.
* Angela will set up the next technical workgroup meeting.
* Angela will set up al Committee members for file-sharing on Box as soon as it is available.
* Future meetings
	+ Discuss products from consultant and work group
	+ Continue assessment of growth projections and consumptive use
	+ Presentation from WDFW on salmon priorities
	+ Discussion on climate change considerations
	+ Discussion on adaptive management/implementation