# 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**

October 10, 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/ Project subgroup meeting summary
2. Climate Change Discussion Guide
3. Adaptive Management Discussion Guide

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Angela Johnson (*Ecology – Committee Chair)*

Ron Gold *(Mason County PUD 1)*

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

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

Dana Sarff (*Skokomish Tribe)*

David Windom (*Mason County)*

Kevin Shutty (*Mason County)*

Brent Armstrong (*City of Shelton)*

Barbara Adkins (*Mason CD, ex-officio)*

Kaitlynn Nelson (*Thurston County)*

Brad Murphy (*Thurston County*)

Allison Cook (*WDFW)*

Paul Pickett (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)Marilyn Vogler *(environmental interests, WA Sierra Club)*

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

### Other Attendees\*

Susan Gulick *(Sound Resolutions)*

Rebecca Brown (*Ecology*)

Erica Marbet (*Squaxin Island Tribe)*

Regina Grimm (*DOH*)

Paula Holroyde (*League of Women Voters*)

Brandy Milroy (*Mason County PUD 1)*

Megan Kernan (*WDFW*)

Tristan Weiss (*WDFW*)

John Bolender (*Mason CD)*

\*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 September Meeting Summary

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

* Workgroup Report/Growth Projections
* Consumptive Use Presentation
* Projects

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

## Updates and Announcements

Angela provided updates from Ecology:

* Kevin Hansen (Thurston Co.) hosted a project seminar to discuss some project ideas with regional participants in WRE Committees and Ecology staff.
* Grant applicant workshops will be held throughout the state in November. There is a workshop at Ecology’s headquarters office in Lacey November 1 from 9 am – 11 am.
* Mike Noone (ECY) will attend one of our upcoming meetings to talk through the final SFR grants guidance.
* Box file sharing is available – Angela will send out invitations and more information.
* Ecology and WDFW Water Science and Water Policy teams have had higher-level discussions about consumptive use analysis

# Workgroup Report – Growth Projection and Consumptive Use Update

Angela and the workgroup members provided a summary of the previous workgroup meeting – see workgroup meeting summary from 10/8/19 for more details.

Reference Materials: 10/8/19 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.
	+ Update on water right analysis and SOW.
* Growth Projections
	+ Review of initial growth projection analysis for Thurston and Mason County, and revisions to initial analysis based on workgroup/committee suggestions. Update on “higher” scenario for PE well projections.
* Consumptive Use
	+ Update on consumptive use analysis – irrigated area analysis and water system data.
* Projects
	+ Brief introduction to project evaluation criteria, and next steps.

Committee Discussion:

* Water right analysis
	+ Angela has presented draft SOW with a focused review of water right analysis. The workgroup will identify priority streams/reaches to for an initial focus within the WRIA. Angela will work with the workgroup to define “reach” in for this purpose.
	+ Skokomish Tribe has independently generated information that could help inform a more focused review, which they will share with the workgroup and committee.
	+ Committee member commented that there may be few water rights in WRIA 14, and potentially a small amount of water associated with those water rights.
* Growth Projections
	+ An updated growth projection scenario will be available in the coming weeks from HDR and will present revised information for the workgroup and Committee to review for Mason and Thurston County.
	+ Workgroup members had previously had questions regarding a 1-acre parcel size requirement within the analysis, however this issue has been resolved.
	+ Workgroup members had discussed a “higher” PE well project scenario which would involve addressing potential new PE well connections that could occur in water system service areas. This scenario would be in addition to the initial Mason/Thurston County analysis and would give the Committee a range of new PE well connections. HDR will have more information on this scenario at the November workgroup meeting.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe stated that they are not “comfortable” with Growth Projections, but will “stand aside” to see what the final package looks like. Their goal is a plan with moderate and high estimate of future PEW consumptive use and a list of projects that go well beyond either estimate.
	+ The workgroup and Committee will have a discussion in November on agreement around the projected numbers and range.
* Consumptive Use
	+ HDR has compiled consumptive use calculators (spreadsheets) for the irrigated area analysis method and for the water system data method. Angela will post these on Box for the Committee to review.
	+ The irrigated area analysis from HDR was completed and an average acre size for irrigated lands was determined, however HDR will be fine-tuning this analysis based on Committee input and QA/QC. Numerous parcels were identified as having no irrigated area, thus HDR has proposed to consider a “detection limit” instead of using 0 acre values. Additionally, there are statistical analyses that can be done to determine the 95% confidence interval which could be an alternative number to use. The workgroup will discuss this at the next workgroup meeting.
	+ WDFW representatives posed additional questions on the irrigated area analysis regarding parcel selection and statistical analysis. It was determined that a WebEx meeting with HDR would be beneficial for WDFW and other Committee members to be able to ask more questions about the analysis. Angela will work with HDR to set this up.
	+ Comment to lay out very clearly technical information and assumptions in future technical memos.
	+ The workgroup and Committee will continue to discuss consumptive use through November and December, and work to develop a path to agreement.
* Projects
	+ Angela has provided the draft project screening criteria for committee review, which is being discussed at the project subgroup.
	+ Angela will provide the committee with a template spreadsheet for project ideas on Box.
	+ Dave Windom (Mason County) presented a project idea to the Committee at the “Evergreen Mobile Home Park” in Shelton. Angela will provide slides from this presentation to the Committee, and the workgroup/Committee will continue to discuss this project idea. Mason County would like to seek Committee support of this project for the upcoming round of Streamflow Restoration grants.

## WRIA 14 Salmon Priorities

Allison Cook (WDFW) presented the Committee with information on salmon populations and priority areas in WRIA 14. Angela will put the presentation on the Committee Box site.

Committee discussion:

* Consider reviewing the previous limiting factor analysis for WRIA 14 An update is currently in progress.
* Consider providing an assessment of flow data for streams in WRIA 14
* Consider documenting flow benefits for salmon restoration projects.
	+ Concern about the focus on water offset quantifications. There may be projects that are beneficial for fish that would be difficult to estimate for streamflow benefit.
* WDFW would like to see as many habitat projects identified as possible.

## Climate Change Considerations

The Committee participated in a discussion to consider climate change concerns in the planning process, and if climate change should be considered in the plan as it is not a requirement. A climate change discussion guide was distributed and will be available on the Committee Box site.

Committee discussion:

* Potential areas to address climate change in the plan are in the consumptive use calculation (evapotranspiration likely to change with higher temperatures), and resiliency of projects.
* Consider projects with higher resiliency and effective risk management.
* WDFW commented that they have done an analysis for sizing factors of culverts with climate change considerations in mind.Paul Pickett presented an example calculation of impacts on consumptive use from climate changes, based on local historical climate data and future projections from the Northwest Climate Toolbox. The analysis estimated 1.25 inches of additional evapotranspiration by 2040.
* Consider conditional addition of metering to address changes in water use due to climate change – some Committee members expressed concerns with this approach.
* There was disagreement on whether consumptive use calculations should be changed to factor in climate considerations on the front end. Some committee members felt that climate change calculations were “speculative”, while others felt those calculations are “good science”.
* Consider weighting projects in regards to climate considerations – Angela commented that this is a component of the draft project screening criteria.
* The Committee discussed other adapative management approaches to climate change.
* The Committee will need to consider how to use climate project data.
* Angela will incorporate more climate discussions in future meetings.

## Adaptive Management Considerations

The Committee participated in a discussion to consider adaptive management in the planning process. This is not a requirement, however the Committee can provide suggestions in the plan to account for uncertainty.

* Ecology’s position on implementation is that RCW 90.94 does not give Ecology the authority to implement the plan. However, Committees can bring forward ideas for implementation to suggest in the plan.
* Comment that the best way to ensure funding and to implement a plan is to agree upon a plan from the Committee with strong adapative management elements.
* Committee members expressed interest in understanding how Mason County and Thurston County will commit to plan implementation.
	+ Thurston County mentioned that they are considering an inter-local agreement for implementation of the WRIA 11 plan, and could be similar for WRIA 14.
* Committee members recommend to have a place-holder for future discussion on implementation and consider steps for adaptive management.
* Comment that the ability of the Committee to adaptively manage plans is contingent upon agreement between Committee members.
* Consider how Ecology rule-making results in “implementation”
* Angela will continue to bring forward the discussion on adaptive management as the Committee moves through components of the plan, and will work to focus future discussion.

## Public Comment

Paula Holroyde (League of Women Voters) - Commenter has discussed with legislators the difficulties that some committees are having in regards to understanding the intent of the legislation and suggested they come and listen to a committee meeting to better understand the process. The legislators were interested in this idea.

## Action Items for Committee Members

* Next meeting is November 14, 2019 (9 am ) at Mason County Public Works – 100 Public Works Dr., Shelton, WA 98584.
* Technical workgroup and project subgroup will be scheduled for November.

## 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
* Future meetings
	+ Discuss products from consultant and work group
	+ Continue assessment of growth projections and consumptive use
	+ Committee discussion on policy/regulatory actions
	+ SFR Grant Guidance