# 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**

November 14, 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. Local Plan Review
2. Draft Plan Outline
3. Regulatory and Policy Actions Discussion Guide
4. Workgroup Meeting Summary

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Angela Johnson (*Ecology – Committee Chair)*

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

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

Dana Sarff (*Skokomish Tribe)*

Seth Book (*Skokomish Tribe)*

David Windom (*Mason County)*

Kevin Shutty (*Mason County)*

Craig Gregory (*City of Shelton)*

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

Kaitlynn Nelson (*Thurston County)*

Brad Murphy (*Thurston County*)

Allison Cook (*WDFW)*

Darin Hall (*WDFW*)

Paul Pickett (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)Shelley Spalding *(environmental interests, WA Sierra Club)*Fern Schultz *(DOH*)

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

Mason County PUD 1

### Other Attendees\*

Susan Gulick *(Sound Resolutions)*

Jimmy Krajl (*ESA*)

Erica Marbet (*Squaxin Island Tribe)*

Regina Grimm (*DOH*)

Paula Holroyde (*League of Women Voters*)

Brandy Milroy (*Mason County PUD 1)*

Evan Bauder (*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 October Meeting Summary

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

* Workgroup Report/Growth Projections
* Climate Change Considerations
* Adaptive Management Considerations

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

## Updates and Announcements

Angela provided updates from Ecology:

* 2020 Meeting Schedule
	+ The committee discussed options for an alternative meeting schedule moving forward in 2020. Some members expressed a desire to not lose momentum on crucial issues or push them too far out in the process. Some members also noted they had more time in the winter than in other seasons for meetings. However members felt there were opportunities to consolidate meetings for more efficiency.
	+ Angela will continue to hold the regular standing meeting date of the 2nd Tuesday of the month, however some meetings may be shortened, cancelled, or developed into focused technical discussions as workload allows. A suggestion was made to streamline the technical workgroup and project workgoup meetings with the full Committee meeting. Angela will work with Susan to outline future meeting schedules and agendas.
* Overview of WRIA 14 Box site
	+ Angela provided an overview of the WRIA 14 Box site for sharing documents and data.
* Local Plan Review and Timeline
	+ Angela provided a form for Committee members to fill in to provide information for each entity’s anticipated internal approval process and timeline for plan approval. Committee members were asked to bring this document back to the February meeting. There was a suggestion
	+ Members noted that governing bodies need time to put it on their meeting agendas, and that the plan may need more time for review if there are issues that need to be addressed.
* Draft Plan Outline
	+ Angela provided a draft plan template developed by Ecology as starting place for the Committee to develop their plan. Committee members are encouraged to provide feedback on this draft document. It is available on Box, Angela will send a timeline for review.
	+ Angela noted that Ecology will develop drafts and use Box for group edits and comments.
* Mike Noone (Ecology) will present to WRIA 14 on the Streamflow Restoration Competetive Grants Guidance at the December 12 meeting.
* Ecology and HDR held a consumptive use “deep dive” webinar for Committee members to learn more about the consumptive use analysis thus far. The WebEx was recorded and will be sent out to Committee members.

# 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 11/12/19 for more details.

Reference Materials: 11/12/19 WRIA 14 Workgroup meeting summary

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

* Data needs
	+ Suggestion from workgroup to hold hydrogeology/hydrology workshop in January in order to identify data gaps and how this information can be used to develop and refine projects. Meanwhile, committee members can provide data and information in a Box folder.
	+ Suggestion for Ecology to set up a statewide webinar on Managed Aquifer Recharge – Angela will discuss with Ecology colleagues.
	+ Angela is continuing to set up a water rights analysis for WRIA 14. The project subgroup and workgroup have identified priority streams/reaches for a focused review. The Skokomish Tirbe has conducted an idenpendent wate rights analysis, and will share this information with the Committee as an additional resource during this analysis.
* Growth Projection Update
	+ Discussion on recommendation from workgroup to consider two alternatives for PE well/connection projection – one method assuming no growth within water system boundaries, another method assuming growth within water system boundaries. The latter method results in a higher PE well/connection projection. Some Committee members are comfortable using both alternatives as a range. However, some members would prefer to only use the second alternative assuming PE well/connection growth in water system boundaries, since they see this as a refinement of the method that is more accurate. The workgroup may have a refined recommendation by the next Committee meeting. Angela and HDR will revise the growth projection memo and provide to workgroup/Committee members for comment and discussion.
	+ Suggestion to provide clarity on how Ecology will review the plan, and if their review will take into consideration higher population estimates.
	+ Some Committee members would like to see higher population growth included in an alternative analysis, however other members disagree with this approach. Members discussed considering a “safety factor” within the offset target to account for this uncertainty, and agreed that the Committee needs to have an in-depth conversation on how to define reasonable assumptions for safety factors.
* Consumptive Use
	+ Discussion on consumptive use analysis performed so far by HDR, with a comparison on the consumptive use results using both PE well/connection projections discussed in growth projections. The workgroup will continue to discuss this analysis and the methodologies used, including water system data and the irrigated area analysis.
	+ The workgroup will further discuss the irrigated area analysis at the next meeting. HDR and GeoEngineers and continuing to compare results and perform data QA/QC.

## Project Subgroup Report

Allison Cook (WDFW) and Kaitlynn Nelson (Thurston County) reported on the October 14, 2019 project subgroup meeting. A draft meeting summary was provided.

Committee discussion:

* WRIA 14 Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Coordinator Evan Bauder (Mason CD) was introduced to the group as a resource for project discussions.
* The project subgroup will meet in December to hold a project workshop to run through the project evaluation crtieria, and determine any refinements necessary for this tool.
* A project inventory list is available on Box where Committee members can add projects. Suggestions were made to add information to the spreadsheet so that a working map can be created – Angela will work with HDR to begin this.
* The part of WRIA 14 that drains to Hood Canal is managed by an additional Salmon Recovery LE Coordinator at Hood Canal Coordinating Council. The project subgroup will coordinate with that LE coordinator to collaborate on projects within the four-year work plan.

## Policy and Regulatory Actions

The Committee participated in a discussion to policy and regulatory actions in the planning process, and provided a brainstorm on possible items that could be included in the plan. The list developed by WRIA 14 will be compiled with that of other planning groups, and will be made available on Box. Ecology and the facilitation team will take note of common suggestions shared among planning groups, and can provide information for a unified recommendation as a result of the planning process. The Committee generated a list of ideas for policy and regulatory actions that *could* be included in the plan. The purpose of this list is for initial discussion only, and these ideas have not been evaluated for feasibility nor have they been agreed upon by the Committee.

The list includes:

* City and Water Utilities policy regulation that results in a change in water consumption
	+ Outdoor irrigation
	+ Conservation oriented
		- Could expand this to water use efficiency goals to account for leakages in distribution systems
		- Create incentives towards water use efficiency and adding compliance and enforcement.
* Design plans and incentives for rainwater capture
* Metering permit-exempt wells
* Fees based on water use
* Conservation and Drought Response Program
	+ Develop outreach programs
* Designated sensitive areas, i.e. buffers on creeks, where shallow wells cannot be allowed.
	+ Need to deal with the wells that have seasonal impacts.
* Zero water use sewage systems, thinking about ways to work with the state to advance some of these ideas.
* Purple pipe irrigation, including for household irrigation use
* Protecting recharge areas
* No net loss of recharge in critical areas
* Stricter exemptions for connecting to a water system
* Encourage deeper well drilling coupled for households with a septic system to improve recharge to shallow aquifers
* Ensure funding for Group A water system infrastructure
* Fire safety allowance in rural water conservation proposals/concepts
* List of recommendations for the SMP and CAO updates for Mason County and Shelton.
* Policy to address the requirements and/or incentives to hook up to municipal water
* Updating instream flow rules and adequate monitoring to support enforcement of rules
	+ Resources for enforcement of instream flow rules
* Water storage tanks
* Compliance program for surface water diversions
* Soil conservation
* Use of pasture grass that requires less ater (WSU research)
* Longer forestry rotations
* Pilot program rural lot water budget management
	+ Cisterns, rain water capture, runoff management, septic waste management
* Permit-exempt well (building permit) $350 fee collected by Ecology from counties being provided to the WRIA 14 committee for projects
* New government construction must have rain water retention for their sewage systems, or reclaimed water, or LEED certification.
* Kittitas County type rule where new permit-exempt wells pay into a fund and it supports expansion of the water right.
* Real-time conservation measures based on indicators like streamflow.
* Updates to the Ecology Well Log database and tracking permit-exempt wells, including updates to past records
* Long-term creative funding to encourage Group A water systems
* Make it easier for counties to implement and permit rainwater collections.
* If fees are required for rainwater, set fees to incentivize people to collect rainwater
* Coordinated Water System Plan for Mason County
* Codify plan implementation and adaptive management in Thurston and Mason County
	+ Mandate state level funding for positions
* Ensure costs for programs promote affordable housing and keep front-end costs of home building as low as possible.
	+ Suggestion for sliding scale of building permit costs
* Basin Plans
* Create an organization to implement the plans: inter local agreement or permit-exempt well utility
* Metering exemption for clustered developments
* Water-harvesting from air
* Suggestion to do an economic analysis of these options

## Public Comment

No public comment was made.

## Action Items for Committee Members

* Next meeting is December 12, 2019 (9 am) at Mason County Public Works – 100 Public Works Dr., Shelton, WA 98584.
* Technical workgroup and project subgroup will be scheduled for December.

## Action Items for Ecology:

* Angela will set up the next technical workgroup meeting
* Future meetings
	+ Discuss products from consultant and work group
	+ Continue assessment of consumptive use
	+ Streamflow Restoratin Competitive Grants Guidance presentation
	+ Discussion on safety factors