# 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**

January 9, 2020 | 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. Summary of Progress to Date
2. Water Right Analysis SOW

## 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)*

Kevin Shutty (*Mason County*)

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

Darrin Masters (*WDFW*)

Allison Cook (*WDFW)*

Paul Pickett (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)Fern Schultz *(DOH, ex-officio*)

Ron Gold (*Mason County PUD 1)*

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

Environmental Interests, WA Sierra Club

City of Shelton
Thurston County

### Other Attendees\*

Susan Gulick *(Sound Resolutions)*

Jimmy Kralj (*ESA*)

Paulina Levy (*Ecology*)

Rebecca Brown (*Ecology*)

Darin Hall (*Mason County PUD 1)*

Tom Culhane (*Ecology*)

John Bolender (*Mason CD*)

Regina Grimm (*Department of Health*)

Kell Rowen (*Mason County*)

Pat Vandeler (public)

\*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 December 2019 Meeting Summary

Angela received comments on the following sections of the December 2019 meeting summary:

* Workgroup Report
* Safety Factor Discussion

*All of the proposed changes were made. The Committee approved the December 2019 meeting summary.*

## Updates and Announcements

Angela provided updates from Ecology:

* The current representatives from the Sierra Club will be stepping down from their roles on the committee. The Washington Chapter of the Sierra Club hopes to identify a replacement by February 2020.
* Ecology will be hosting a Streamflow Restoration Grants Webinar on January 14th at 10:00am
	+ For those unable to view the presentation live, it will be recorded.
* Comments on the Plan Template are due from committee members by February 6th.
* Committee members were asked to return their Local Plan Approval Process Forms at the February committee meeting.

Other Committee members provided the following updates:

* Mason PUD is applying for a Streamflow Restoration Grant for a feasibility study for the use of reclaimed water at the Alderbrook Resort.
	+ There will be a presentation on project specifics at a future committee meeting and interested members are welcome to submit a letter of support.

# Review Progress to Date

Angela provided a summary of the various components of the committee’s progress to date.

* Subbasins:
	+ The committee has tentatively agreed on a draft delineation of WRIA 14 subbasins.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe suggested possibly splitting John’s Creek from the Oakland sub-basin because the creek has a unique set of associated issues.
		- Angela noted to keep in mind that creating a new subbasin for the creek would result in additional work to update PE well/connection growth estimates and consumptive use.
		- Mason County agreed that the creek has unique issues, but felt they could be addressed through projects and felt the creek could remain in the Oakland subbasin.
		- The Squaxin Island Tribe and Mason County agreed to discuss this further and report back at the next committee meeting.
* Permit Exempt Well/Connection Growth Projections:
	+ The committee has agreed to two methods for projecting future permit exempt wells: both with and without the assumption of wells being installed within water system service areas.
		- These two methods result in estimates of 4,006 and 4,294 new wells or connections respectively.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe noted that some committee members previously felt that the method assuming the installation of wells within water system service areas was more accurate, however Mason County does not fully agree so both methods will continued to be used for the time being moving forward.
* Consumptive Use
	+ The committee had not previously agreed on working numbers, but has been presented several calculations and options to consider.

## Consumptive Use Calculations

Committee members discussed the various consumptive use calculations that have been presented during previous meetings and moved closer towards selecting a consumptive use estimate to include in the planning process.

Committee discussion included:

* A review of the five calculations presented for estimating consumptive use
	1. HDR irrigated area initial analysis
	2. HDR irrigated area analysis with 0-acre values replaced by 0.05 acres
	3. HDR/GeoEngineers irrigated area initial analysis with correction factor
	4. HDR irrigated area analysis using the 95% upper confidence interval
	5. Water system service method (Cherry Park/Union/Harstene Retreat)
* Staff from Ecology expressed that it would not be their preference to use the correction factor method, however they are not in disagreement with it as a working number.
* Committee members had a robust discussion about the differences between the various irrigated area analyses and the data from the water service systems.
	+ Angela indicated that she would distribute a memo describing the methods.
		- Squaxin Island Tribe and WDFW would like to see the memo before deciding
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe noted that either ‘b’ or ‘c’ use methods that mirror standard methods to deal with data. Both are very similar, and are reasonable approaches.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe and WDFW suggested that ‘d’ could be used as part of the safety factor.
	+ Some members felt that the water system service method provided the most realistic estimate because the method employs actual water use data.
	+ Concerns were raised that certain irrigated area analyses were overly conservative and would lead to similarly conservative offset targets.
		- HDR noted that the 95% upper confidence interval method is probably conservative.
* Some committee members expressed an interest and desire to select a method to serve as the consumptive use estimate and shift the focus to in-depth project discussions.
* Ultimately, the committee chose to select the irrigated area analysis method with the 0-acre replacement as the primary working number, and carry forward the 95% upper confidence interval method and the water system service method as additional working numbers to serve as points of comparison.
	+ This will be confirmed during the February committee meeting, after committee members have had an opportunity to review the memo from HDR and GeoEngineers detailing their irrigated area analysis comparison study.

## Other Technical Issues

This portion of the meeting was for committee members to discuss other technical issues related to the planning process.

Committee discussion included:

* Paul Pickett from the Squaxin Island Tribe presented a sensitivity analysis he created to evaluate how changes to individual variables in the analyses or plan components (consumptive use estimates, population growth, average family size, etc.) impact final offset targets.
	+ This is intended to be used as a tool by committee members to understand how sensitive particular elements of the plan are on the outcome of the final offset target.
	+ Copies of the summary results table and the spreadsheet with calculations are available in the WRIA Box folders.
* Angela provided the committee with an update about the scope of work for the water rights analysis in WRIA 14.
	+ Pacific Groundwater Group (PGG) will be working on this analysis in WRIA 14.
	+ PGG will attend future meetings to provide updates on their work and receive input from committee members.
		- Their work will be focused in priority reaches identified by committee members.
	+ PGG will produce a draft memo of their findings by April.
	+ Angela will coordinate a WebEx meeting between PGG and interested committee members to discuss priorities, brainstorm ideas, and share knowledge before the February committee meeting.
* One committee member raised the idea of purchasing development rights as opposed to water-rights.
* Project Sub-group and Project Discussions
	+ Angela will work with Allison and Kaitlynn to schedule a project sub-group meeting before the February Committee meeting.
* Committee members were reminded to review the project list on Box and provide as much information as they can for the various proposed projects.
* HDR is providing additional review for four projects proposed by the committee. For each project, HDR will produce a scoping estimate to define their workload, estimate costs, and determine what information needs to be collected. The four projects are:
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe Skookum Creek Valley
	+ Mason County Evergreen Estates Project
	+ Mason County Rooftop Runoff Infiltration
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe and City of Shelton Reclaimed Water future phases
* Ecology met with Mason County to discuss their rooftop runoff infiltration proposal. Angela will send out a revised response memo to the project proposal when available.
* Committee members discussed nearshore and fish passage projects and how to consider them in the future for inclusion in a project list.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe suggested that projects be categorized as offset-only, habitat-only, and mixed habitat/offset
	+ The group decided that no projects should be off the table for now, but will be reevaluated during project prioritization.

## Public Comment

No public comment was made.

## Action Items for Committee Members

* Next meeting is February 13, 2020 (9 am) at Mason County Public Works – 100 Public Works Dr., Shelton, WA 98584.
	+ (This meeting may last longer than 12:30pm depending on the agenda)
* Committee members should review the project list on Box – Angela will send out information and a reminder.
* Committee members should read the HDR/GeoEngineers irrigated area analysis comparison study memo when it is available, and bring forward any questions or concerns at the February meeting.
* Paul Pickett will confirm the numbers in his sensitivity analysis and clarify which consumptive use calculations are used.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe and Mason County will meet to further discuss possibly separating John’s Creek from the Oakland subbasin if it is a proposal that continues to be perused.

## Action Items for Ecology:

* Angela will send a link to committee members for the January 14th Streamflow Restoration Grants Webinar
* Angela will send Paul Pickett’s sensitivity analysis to committee members and post in a Box folder.
* Angela will coordinate a WebEx meeting between PGG and interested committee members to discuss further the water rights analysis work.
* Angela will work with Allison and Kaitlynn to schedule a project sub-group meeting before the February Committee meeting.