# 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.APPROVED MEETING SUMMARY

**WRIA 14 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee**

February 13, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 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. Progress Summary
2. Consumptive Use Overview
3. Water Rights 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)*

Seth Book (*Skokomish Tribe)*

David Windom (*Mason County)*

Lois Ward (*WA Sierra Club)*

Ken Gill (*City of Shelton*)

Kaitlynn Nelson (*Thurston County)*

Brad Murphy (*Thurston County)*

Kevin Shutty (*Mason County*)

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

Darrin Masters (*WDFW*)

Allison Cook (*WDFW)*

Paul Pickett (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

Ron Gold (*Mason County PUD 1)*

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

### Other Attendees\*

Susan Gulick *(Sound Resolutions)*

Jimmy Kralj (*ESA*)

Rebecca Brown (*Ecology*)

Paula Holroyde (*League of Women Voters*)

Tom Culhane (*Ecology*)

Regina Grimm (*Department of Health*)

Erica Marbet (*Squaxin Island Tribe)*
James Reyes (*Mason PUD 1)*Darin Hall (Mason PUD 1)Peter Schwartzman (*PGG)*

\*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. New committee representatives from the Sierra Club and the City of Shelton were introduced to the group.

## Approval of January Meeting Summary

* WDFW representative was uncomfortable with the portion of the meeting summary regarding consumptive use calculations that stated “…the committee tentatively agreed to select the irrigated area analysis method with the 0-acre replacement as the primary working number”. Instead, they proposed changing the language to read “… the committee chose to select…”.
* Some comments from committee members were not received by the Chair prior to the meeting, and the committee decided to formally review the meeting summary at the March 12, 2020 meeting.

## Updates and Announcements

Angela provided updates from Ecology:

* The Streamflow Restoration Grant Application is now open and will close on March 31, 2020.
* Ecology planners met with WDFW regional biologists and water science/policy staff to continue their coordination on the planning process.
* Angela has updated the 2020 work plan to plan committee meetings and actions over the coming months.
* Angela noted that she is aiming to have an approved WRIA 14 WREC Plan to submit to Ecology by February 1, 2021 and that she will have more information to present on Ecology’s plan review/adoption process at the March 12, 2020 meeting.

# Plan Development: Update

Committee representatives explained their internal review process and provide an estimate of how much time would be needed for review and local approval before a final Committee approval can occur. At this time, it is estimated that some Committee members may need up to 3 months for their internal review and approval. This information is an estimate, however it will be continued to be taken into consideration by Angela as she develops the 2020 work plan for the group.

The Squaxin Island Tribe noted their view that the more important question is how to resolve disagreements before the plan is final.

## Projects

The Committee continued its ongoing discussion of projects, and received an update from the project subgroup on their February 11, 2020 meeting. Mason PUD 1 and the Squaxin Island Tribe presented various project ideas to the committee. Tom Culhane (Dept. of Ecology) presented to the group on managed aquifer recharge (MAR) projects, including how to identify potential sites where MAR projects may be best suited in WRIA 14.

* Update from the Project Subgroup Meeting
	+ The project subgroup discussed the four projects identified by the committee for further analysis by HDR.
		- Evergreen Mobile Home Community project
		- Mason County Rooftop Runoff project
		- Shelton Reclaimed Water
		- Skookum Valley Restoration Project
	+ HDR has provided initial estimates for time and budget to determine what work would need to be done for them to provide sufficient project information for inclusion in the WRE Plan.
	+ HDR noted that aside from these projects, many of the other ideas on the project list are general, and any specific information that committee members can provide regarding project types or locations would be helpful for their analysis.
	+ Moving forward, committee members expressed interest in discussing policy and regulatory ideas at the full committee level, and not at the project subgroup.
* Mason PUD 1 - Alderbrook Resort Reclaimed Water Project
	+ James Reyes from Mason PUD 1 presented on a feasibility study to move water from the output of Alderbook Resort’s wastewater treatment plant to the Alderbrook Golf Course for irrigation use. James provided a handout to the group.
	+ Mason PUD 1 is submitting an application to Ecology’s Streamflow Restoration Grant program to fund a feasibility study for this project, and requested letters of support from Committee members interested in doing so.
	+ The project would entail using reclaimed wastewater for irrigation on the resort’s golf course to limit their water consumption from wells during summer months and reduce the outflow of wastewater into Hood Canal. Some monitoring would also be included.
	+ Mason PUD 1 has been receiving letters of support from community members and is looking for support from WRIA 14 committee members.
	+ Several committee members expressed interest and support of the project, and the group will further discuss inclusion of the project on the project list.
* Squaxin Island Tribe Streamflow Restoration Projects (Erica Marbet)
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe is applying for funding under the Streamflow Restoration Grant program to support a proof of examination for the full or partial termination of various water rights in the Skookum Valley.
	+ The tribe is also interested in restoring a historic channel of the mainstem Skookum Creek and enhancing monitoring efforts throughout the watershed.
	+ Streamflow monitoring will likely be included.
* Managed Aquifer Recharge Presentation
	+ Tom Culhane from the Department of Ecology gave a presentation on managed aquifer recharge projects (MAR) in Washington State and presented an option for how the Committee could begin to think about potential locations for these projects in WRIA 14.
	+ Committee members expressed interest in these projects but noted concerns related to fish impacts, water quality, and proper siting. Timing of benefits and management requirements were also discussed..
	+ Pacific Groundwater Group (as subcontractor to HDR), can provide a hydrogeologic assessment of WRIA 14 to help the group focus in on potential areas for MAR projects. The Committee gave direction to PGG to do this work, indicating that they would like to see a strategy brought forward as the first step in that process.

## Other Technical Issues

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

* Pacific Groundwater Group discussed their work regarding water rights acquisition opportunities in WRIA 14. PGG will plan to use the Ecology database as a starting point for this work. Committee members discussed considerations for agricultural water rights, well depth, partial relinquishment, and rainwater capture systems. More information will be available at the March 12, 2020 meeting after PGG has begun to analyze the available information for WRIA 14.
* Committee members briefly discussed ways to incorporate adaptive management discussions into future meeting agendas. Squaxin Island Tribe noted that these might be difficult discussions, so it might be better to start conversations earlier and have discussions in smaller steps.
* Members discussed identified parameters to measure (number of wells, offset projects, etc.) and collecting monitoring data to include in adaptive management procedures.

## Public Comment

No public comment was made.

## Action Items for Committee Members

* Next meeting is March 12, 2020 (9 am) at Mason County Public Works – 100 Public Works Dr., Shelton, WA 98584.
	+ Committee members should hold 9am – 3pm for the meeting. The final meeting duration will be determined through agenda development.
* Committee members interested in supporting the Alderbrook Reclaimed Water Project proposed by Mason PUD 1 should work with Mason PUD 1 to submit a letter of support.
* The project workgroup will continue to refine and focus project ideas.
* Committee members may be asked to review and provide feedback on PGG’s strategy for the hydrogeologic mapping exercise to identify potential managed aquifer recharge project locations.

## Action Items for Ecology:

* Policy ideas and actions and Adaptive Management strategies will be advanced through future discussions with the committee. Angela will provide committee members with the list of their brainstorm ideas from a previous meeting, as well as a WREC-wide list of ideas to stimulate thinking.
* The draft scope of work for Pacific Groundwater Group will be shared with the committee.
* Angela will share PGG’s strategy for the hydrogeologic mapping exercise to identify potential managed aquifer recharge project locations when it is available.
* Angela will arrange the next project workgroup meeting.