**WRIA 14 Homework Assignment**

This exercise is intended to aide in the continuing discussion of policy and regulatory actions, and adaptive management strategies to potentially include in the WRIA 14 plan. ***Please read the instructions carefully*** and return this document to Angela by **Monday March 9, 2020** so that we may have an in-depth discussion at the March 12, 2020 WRIA 14 meeting.

**Your Name: ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

# **Policy and Regulatory Actions**

## **Instructions**

Please review the list below.

* Highlight items in GREEN that you believe are important for the committee to discuss AND that you would be willing to lead or take an active role in development.
* Highlight items in YELLOW that you would like the committee to consider but aren’t items that you have time or interest in taking an active role.
* Highlight items in RED that are red flag for your entity and that inclusion would make it very difficult for you to approve the plan.

You may also make comments on any of the items, but please put your comments in a different color font, use a comment box, highlight the comment, or any other method that will make your comments stand out from the list.

* 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 water (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

Other Ideas  
(based on the list compiled from all WRIAs on Box here: <https://app.box.com/s/7co1lti4mwchcy6vasxwesjwywddm0l8> or new ideas you have thought of…)

# **Adaptive Management**

## Background

The Committee will need to further discuss how to address adaptive management in the WRE Plan. Based on previous Committee discussion, some ideas for doing so are:

1. Develop a recommendation to the legislature jointly with other WRIAs to request funding to allow WRIAs to continue to meet and monitor implementation of WRIA plans, and adaptively manage implementation as necessary.
2. For each project included in the plan, include what data need to be collected to allow adequate tracking of results and note what would trigger adaptive management.
3. A mechanism to assess whether the assumptions used in the plan (e.g. growth, outdoor watering, etc.) are validated over time or will need to be revisited as part of adaptive management.

We will be discussing these three aspects in much more detail at future meetings.

## **Instructions**

Please list your ideas regarding Adaptive Management that DO NOT fit under the three topics above. Please be as specific as possible in describing the plan language or action that you would like the Committee to discuss.

In case it is helpful, here are the notes from the Meeting Summary where we discussed Adaptive Management:

* 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 adaptive 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.

**You can also find the list compiled from other WREC groups on Box here:** [**https://app.box.com/s/45enxsvlrskvm8fexqompxvwdg2uzpnm**](https://app.box.com/s/45enxsvlrskvm8fexqompxvwdg2uzpnm)

## Other Ideas