# 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**

March 12, 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

WebEx**Committee Chair**

Angela Johnson
angela.johnson@ecy.wa.gov**Handouts**

1. Policy and Regulatory Idea List
2. Adaptive Management Idea List
3. Plan Review Memo
4. Project Subgroup Draft Mtg. Summary

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Angela Johnson (*Ecology – Committee Chair)*

Larry Boltz (*Agricultural Interests, Mason Kitsap Farm Bureau)*

Dana Sarff (*Skokomish Tribe)*

Seth Book (*Skokomish Tribe*)

Lois Ward (Environmental Interests, *WA Sierra Club)*

Ron Gold (*Mason PUD 1)*

Ken Gill (*City of Shelton*)

Kaitlynn Nelson (*Thurston County)*

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

Darrin Masters (*WDFW*)

Allison Cook (*WDFW)*

Paul Pickett (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

Ron Gold (*Mason County PUD 1)*

Fern Schultz (WA *Department of Health, ex-officio*)

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

Olympia Master Builders (*Residential Construction Industry*)
Mason County

### Other Attendees\*

Susan Gulick *(Sound Resolutions)*

Jimmy Kralj (*ESA*)

Rebecca Brown (*Ecology*)

Mugdha Flores (*Ecology*)

Chad Wiseman (HDR)

Peter Schwartzman (PGG)

Bennett Weinstein (*Ecology*)

Tom Culhane (*Ecology*)

Regina Grimm (*Department of Health*)

James Reyes (*Mason PUD 1*)

\*Attendees list is based on sign-in sheet.

## Welcome

Due to the spread of COVID-19 and the recommendations for social distancing, the March 12, 2020 WRIA 14 WREC meeting was held via WebEx conference. Angela and Susan kicked off the meeting and provided instructions for participants to participate remotely. Committee members introduced themselves. The group reviewed the meeting agenda.

## Approval of January 2020 and February 2020 Meeting Summaries

* Because not all comments on the January 2020 meeting summary were received prior to the February 2020 meeting, both the January 2020 and February 2020 meeting summaries were reviewed during the meeting.
* The January 2020 meeting summary was approved with one change to the attendance record.
* For the February meeting summary, comments were received on the following sections:
	+ Plan Development
	+ Projects
	+ Other Technical Issues
* The January 2020 and February 2020 meeting summaries were approved by the committee.

## Updates and Announcements

Angela provided updates from Ecology:

* Until further notice, upcoming WREC meetings (committee and subgroup) will be held remotely over WebEx.
* The Streamflow Restoration 2020 grant application round closes on March 31, 2020 at 5:00pm.
* The WRIA 14 informational brochure has been distributed to the committee.
* Committee members were reminded to review Ecology’s Policy Interpretation of the Streamflow Restoration Act for any questions regarding Ecology’s position on the minimum requirements to include in the WRE plan.

# Plan Review Process

Angela used this time to provide an overview of the upcoming steps in the plan review process.

* Committee members were advised to plan on conducting additional work outside of committee meetings to accommodate the increased pace and progress of the planning process. This will ensure a smooth progression towards the creation of a draft plan in August 2020.
* As they become available, plan materials will be sent to committee members along with a comment tracker to organize feedback from committee members.
* Currently, the target date for a completed and Committee approved plan is February 1, 2021 to provide to Ecology for review. This will allow Ecology sufficient time for review prior to the June 30, 2021 adoption deadline established in the legislation.
	+ All committee members must approve the plan prior to submittal to Ecology.
	+ Ecology intends to review all approved plans that are submitted by committees, but must do so ahead of the statutory deadline of June 30, 2021.Once the plan is submitted Ecology will review the plan.
* Status updates regarding plan review will be shared with the committee by Angela when possible and as appropriate.

## Policy and Regulatory Actions

The Committee continued their discussion on potential policy and regulatory actions to include in the plan. Angela presented the results from an assignment distributed before the meeting to help guide the discussion on which items could have traction to move forward by the Committee.

* Angela provided a clarification that any policy or regulatory actions included in the plan will be considered recommendations and do not obligate Ecology or any other jurisdictions to execute any action. The Committee will continue to discuss which ideas they would support or take a leadership role on.
* Prior to this committee meeting, members were asked to review the list of policy and regulatory ideas generated during a previous committee meeting and mark them with a green, yellow, or red flag. Those policy and regulatory ideas that received support from at least one committee member were discussed in further detail during this meeting, and were consolidated into a spreadsheet showing potential level of support for inclusion in the WRE Plan. This spreadsheet will be a working document and will continue to be revised as the Committee has future conversations on this topic. Angela will make the [spreadsheet available on the Committee Box site.](https://app.box.com/s/wbr8wxtqlqxziqlcgz0364fwwrbz1fvw)
* Discussions included specific observations and some higher level comments
	+ Several comments from the Squaxin Island Tribe:
		- Support for a conservation program for PE wells. They also support metering and fees based on use. These would create a “level playing field” with how Group A systems are managed. But resistance from landowners will be expected until a concept of responsibility to a public resource becomes widespread.
		- A drought response program will be critical for climate resilience and to address the most damaging conditions in the future.
		- Financing is important and needs discussion, maybe after identifying ideas that need funding.
* No decisions were made on topics to include in the plan. Committee member concerns will continue to be addressed in future conversations. These policy ideas will be consolidated and brought to the committee at a future meeting for further discussions.
* Committee members are encouraged to bring forward proposals for policy and regulatory items and can send a brief outline to Angela to flag for discussion.
* Items that are marked as “red flags” by some Committee members will not prevent them from being further discussed if an entity would like to bring forward a proposal. There is the potential for language changes and clarification on some topics that could make them more agreeable to the Committee as a whole.
* Angela will work with the facilitation team to develop a consolidated list based on this discussion, and group relevant items together as discussed during the meeting. A revised list will be distributed for discussion at a future meeting.
* Angela mentioned that Ecology is not promoting any policy or regulatory actions and will take a back seat to these conversations and follow the direction the Committee wants to go. Ecology will vet the Committee’s recommendations with Ecology leadership and bring back any concerns to the committee.

## Adaptive Management

This portion of the meeting was for committee members to discuss adaptive management principles for potential inclusion in the WRE Plan.

* Some ideas discussed include developing joint policy recommendations from several WREC groups, for each project in the plan to include what data needs to be collected to track results and note what would trigger adaptive management, and a mechanism to assess whether the assumptions used in the plan are validated over time and whether or not they need to be revised.
* Paul Pickett from the Squaxin Island Tribe reviewed the policy ideas from the various WREC groups, WRIA rules, and a couple settlements. He summarized the main elements of adaptive management suggestions and approaches in a document, which he requested that Angela distribute ahead of the meeting. Paul has asked for review of this document and feedback from Committee members. Ideas were grouped into broad categories such as:
	+ Implementation
	+ Reporting
	+ Funding
	+ Durability
	+ Enforcement
* The committee will continue to discuss adaptive management and plan implementation, both within recommended projects and for the plan as a whole.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe noted that the legislature has not been consistent in its support for watershed planning in the past, and that plan units survived because they became self-supporting.

## Projects

* Project Subgroup Meeting Summary
	+ The subgroup identified 14 projects for further analysis because of their potential for water offset. These 14 projects are an initial suggestion and do not preclude other project ideas from consideration. These projects and intended to serve as a starting point.
	+ Committee members will further investigate forest management projects, floodplain reconnection projects, fish passage projects, and project opportunities related to the WRIA 14 field trip in summer 2019.
* The 14 projects are:
	+ Permit Exempt Connection Change – City of Shelton
	+ Summit Lake Water Usage
	+ Steamboat Island North Wetland
	+ Steamboat Island Middle Wetland
	+ Skookum Creek Agricultural Areas
	+ Skookum Creek Water Rights Acquisitions
	+ Goldsborough Creek Hilburn Site Restoration
	+ Goldsborough Reclaimed Water
	+ Washington Corrections Center Water Supply Adjustment
	+ Evergreen Mobile Home Estates
	+ Mason County Rooftop Runoff LID
	+ General managed aquifer recharge projects
	+ General floodplain restoration projects
* Angela asked the group if there were any objections to moving forward with this list of projects for initial further analysis.  No committee members expressed concerns about moving forward with these project ideas for initial further analysis, however WDFW has previously expressed concerns about MAR projects that involve surface water withdrawal infrastructure.
* The workgroup discussed developing a template for project descriptions to organize and compile the information required to include a project in a plan. HDR and GeoEngineers will coordinate regarding this template.
* Pacific Groundwater Group (PGG) provided an update about their projects on their water rights analysis. PGG has received data from Ecology and will work using the priority reaches identified by the committee. PGG will produced a map that shows the type, location, and quantity of potential water rights.
* PGG is also continuing their work on potential managed aquifer recharge (MAR) projects. PGG reviewed a list of data sources they had requested input on from the Committee, and briefly discussed the responses and the path forward for using such data. By the April committee meeting, PGG will provide a working map of potential MAR sites.

## Other Technical Issues

* HDR is compiling technical memos and pilot sections for various plan components.
* Angela will be sending information to the committee about the working numbers that committee has been using and members are requested to review that information.
* NEB analysis: The committee will need to decide how/if to do NEB analysis as a committee. This will be an agenda item moving forward in future committee meetings.
* Committee members were reminded to be efficient between meetings so they are able to provide feedback and move along the planning process.

## Public Comment

No public comment was made.

## Action Items for Committee Members

* Next meeting is April 9, 2020 (9 am) held over WebEx (until further notice)
	+ Committee members should hold 9am – 3pm for the meeting. The final meeting duration will be determined through agenda development.
* Committee members should bring forward for proposals of policy or regulatory actions they would like to take a leadership role on.

## Action Items for Ecology:

* Angela will send the plan review memo and Ecology’s policy guidance to committee members and share any updates on the status of in-person meetings.
* Angela will compile a revised list of policy and regulatory actions based on Committee discussion.
* Angela will schedule the next project subgroup meeting.
* Angela will continue to coordinate with HDR and PGG to provide technical support to the Committee.