# 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**

April 9, 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. Follow-up Policy and Regulatory Idea List
2. Follow-up Climate Change Discussion Guide
3. Project Subgroup Draft Mtg. Summary

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Angela Johnson (*Ecology – Committee Chair)*

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

Dana Sarff (*Skokomish Tribe)*

Seth Book (*Skokomish Tribe*)

Darin Hall (*Mason PUD 1*)

Lois Ward (*WA Sierra Club, environmental interests)*

Ron Gold (*Mason PUD 1)*

Ken Gill (*City of Shelton*)

Kaitlynn Nelson (*Thurston County)*

Brad Murphy (*Thurston County*)

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

Darrin Masters (*WDFW*)

Alison Cook (*WDFW)*

Paul Pickett (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

Jeff Dickison (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

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

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

### Other Attendees\*

Susan Gulick *(Sound Resolutions)*

Jimmy Kralj (*ESA*)

Rebecca Brown (*Ecology*)

Chad Wiseman (HDR)

Kell Rowen (*Mason County*)

Peter Schwartzman (PGG)

Stacy Vynne McKinstry (*Ecology*)

Tom Culhane (*Ecology*)

Eric Schallon (*Green Diamond Resource Company*)

Paula Holroyde (*League of Women Voters*)

Fern Schultz (*Department of Health*)

Regina Grimm (*Department of Health*)

John Turk (*Aspect Consulting, Skokomish Tribe*)

James Reyes (Mason PUD 1)

Erica Marbet (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

## Welcome

Due to the spread of COVID-19 and the recommendations from Public Health Officials, the April 2020 WRIA 14 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 March 2020 Meeting Summary

* Comments were received on the following sections:
	+ Policy and Regulatory Actions
	+ Adaptive Management
	+ Projects

The suggested changes were made and the Committee approved the March 2020 meeting summary.

## Updates and Announcements

Angela provided updates from Ecology:

* Until further notice, all future WREC meetings (committee and subgroup) will be held remotely over WebEx. Ecology recognizes the hardship the current situation has placed on many of our members. At this point our plan is to continue meeting regularly via remote meetings. This will be reassessed on a month-by-month basis and committee members will be informed of any changes. Committee members should reach out to Angela if they have any changes in their ability to participate.
* The Streamflow Restoration 2020 grant application round has been extended to April 30, 2020 at 5:00pm.
* Ecology held a meeting with WDFW to continue their coordination on the plan development process.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe is advancing their proposal for the Skookum Valley surface and groundwater rights project for this round of Ecology’s Streamflow Restoration Grant Program and requested letters of support from interested committee members. The current proposal is somewhat broader than what was presented at an earlier meeting.

# Potential Plan Recommendations

Handouts: Follow-up Policy and Regulatory Action Idea List, Follow-up Climate Change Discussion Guide

Angela started the discussion by summarizing the previous steps the Committee has taken to discuss potential plan recommendations for policy and regulatory actions. The previous exercise of the group showing levels of support with green/yellow/red flags to the initial brainstorm list was used to develop the “Follow-up Policy and Regulatory Action Idea List” that Angela discussed during the meeting. The most recent document was intended to be used categorize topics from the initial list, show overall level of support, and provide a format that would indicate which topics Committee members were interested in taking a leadership role on developing a draft proposal for.

* Ideas discussed included:
	+ Rainwater capture systems
	+ Education and outreach.
		- This might fit well with the CD
		- HDR developed a memo on this topic, which might be a good presentation for a future meeting.
	+ Conservation and drought response programs
		- Suggestion to have a future discussion on this topic
	+ Longer forestry rotations
		- Suggestion to continue to include this topic on the project list and discontinue the discussion at the plan recommendation level
	+ Fee based on water use
	+ Protection of groundwater recharge areas
		- This could be improved regulations, programs, and incentives, addressing both new and existing development
	+ Water use conservation
	+ Codifying plan implementation and adaptive management
	+ Use of building permit fees from PE wells for WRIA 14 projects or programs
		- Squaxin Island Tribe noted that funding is an important discussion, but projects already have dedicated funding
	+ Funding - support of Group A systems, affordability, etc.
		- Suggestion to have a future discussion on the topic of funding
	+ Voluntary metering
	+ Update to Washington Irrigation Guide and use of Ag Weather Net
* The committee also discussed what it means to take the lead on these various ideas and further develop them for inclusion in the plan.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe proposed discussing broad policy categories that focus on the purpose of actions and use those discussions to define specific ideas that reach the intended purpose.
	+ Committee members noted that time to work on the Plan has been a challenge recently because of grant deadlines and Covid-19 response.
	+ The committee agreed an appropriate approach might be to develop discussion guides centered around broad categories and bring those to future meetings for further discussion, beginning with a couple selected topics.
		- Angela and Susan will work to bring this information forward to the Committee at an upcoming meeting if appropriate.
	+ The revised document developed by Angela will be maintained to serve as a record of support or concern from committee members regarding specific ideas, and to show potential leads for development of draft proposals. It will be maintained on [Box.](https://app.box.com/s/wbr8wxtqlqxziqlcgz0364fwwrbz1fvw)
* WDFW announced that they are not in a position to take the lead on policy ideas, but will offer as much support as possible.
* The committee also discussed climate change considerations to include in the plan.
	+ These considerations are not required in the plan, but in previous meetings, the committee expressed an interested to include climate change in plan elements.
	+ The committee agreed to further discuss improving drought resilience through policy action, evaluating which projects face threats from climate change, and further discussing the topic around the issue of a consumptive use safety factor.

## Projects

This portion of the meeting was used to provide updates on project selection and analyses by the committee’s technical consultants.

* Angela provided the committee with a summary of the April 2020 project subgroup meeting:
	+ The group discussed project prioritization, HDR provided an update on their project analysis, and a project description template was discussed. The project description template will be brought forward for review at a future meeting.
* HDR provided an update on the projects currently identified for additional analysis.
	+ HDR’s focus has been to develop analysis on reclaimed water opportunities, Skookum Valley projects, the Evergreen Estates mobile home park, and Mason County rooftop runoff infiltration.
	+ HDR is working with relevant committee members and stakeholders to advance analysis.
	+ GeoEngineers has proposed a methodology for estimating water offset amounts from habitat projects. The group may consider using this approach, when appropriate, for projects currently on their list.
* The committee also discussed gaps in projects and the distribution of projects across the various subbasins within the watershed.
	+ The group discussed that MAR, water rights, and floodplain restoration projects may allow for identifying additional projects. PGG is currently working to provide an analysis on MAR site locations and water right acquisition opportunities, and will provide more information at the next Committee meeting.
	+ HDR has developed a tool for screening floodplain projects. Angela will add this to the project workgroup agenda.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe noted that the Oakland subbasin had several specific areas needing projects with local benefits, including Johns Creek, Sherwood Creek, and the east side of the bay.
	+ The group discussed mapping projects on the WRIA 14 webmap to show distribution and assist future discussions about filling in any gaps in projects by location.
* Pacific Groundwater Group (PGG) provided an update on their work regarding the water rights analysis and MAR site identification analysis:
	+ Water rights analysis
		- PGG reviewed the guidelines and process they used to preliminarily identify potential water rights acquisitions in the watershed.
		- PGG found that the four highest quantities for groundwater rights come from commercial/irrigation, fire protection, domestic, and municipal rights.
		- The committee agreed to remove claims from the analysis as claims are rarely valid.Municipal and domestic rights will be a low priority, since they are rarely relinquished and not worth considering for acquisition, but in a few cases they still may have larger rights than are needed.
		- Committee members were also urged to review potential water rights as local knowledge is especially helpful in this analysis.
		- Angela will work with PGG to create a way for committee members to provide feedback, and PGG will shift the focus of their analysis to only include industrial, commercial, and irrigation sources and they will provide an update to the committee at the next meeting.
			* Adding information to the WRIA 14 Webmap was discussed as a possible way to for Committee members to review and provide feedback.
	+ Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)
		- PGG requested information about wastewater treatment plants and gravel mines as potential MAR opportunities.

## Other Technical Items

* HDR is developing plan templates for the various sections of the plan, which will provide the framework for plan sections that will be brought forward for Committee review in the coming months.
* HDR is working to develop an outline for the group to consider regarding the NEB analysis, if the group chooses to include that in the plan. This will be a topic at a future meeting.
* Angela will provide updates about the draft working numbers for consumptive use and growth estimates for the committee to consider at future meetings.

## Public Comment

No public comment was made.

## Action Items for Committee Members

* The next meeting is May 14, 2020, from 9 am – 1:00 pm.

## Action Items for Ecology:

* Ecology was asked to consider holding technical meetings at a different time since travel is no longer an issue with virtual meetings.
* Angela will work with Susan on next steps for the policy/regulatory action proposal 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.