# 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**

May 14, 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. Project update
2. Draft template for policy recommendations
3. Potential Policy and Regulatory Recommendations Tracking Sheet
4. Proposals for Potential Plan recommendations

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Angela Johnson (*Ecology – Committee Chair)*

Dana Sarff (*Skokomish Tribe)*

Seth Book (*Skokomish Tribe*)

Darin Hall (*Mason PUD 1*)

Ron Gold (*Mason PUD 1)*

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

Kevin Shutty (*Mason County*)

David Windom (Mason County)

Kaitlynn Nelson (*Thurston County)*

Brad Murphy (*Thurston County*)

Paul Pickett (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

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

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

Ken Gill (*City of Shelton)*

Tristan Weiss *(WDFW)*

Alison Cook (*WDFW)*

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

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

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

### Other Attendees\*

Susan Gulick *(Sound Resolutions)*

Jimmy Kralj (*ESA*)

Rebecca Brown (*Ecology*)

Mike Noone (Ecology)

Chad Wiseman (HDR)

Peter Schwartzman (PGG)

Stacy Vynne McKinstry (*Ecology*)

Tom Culhane (*Ecology*)

Patti Case (*Green Diamond Resource Company*)

Paula Holroyde (*League of Women Voters*)

Regina Grimm (*Department of Health*)

James Reyes (Mason PUD 1)

Erica Marbet (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

Parker Wittman (*Aspect Consulting)*

Jon Turk (*Aspect Consulting)*

Kevin Hansen (*Thurston County*)

### \*Attendees list is based on WebEx attendance

## Welcome

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

Comments were received on the following sections:

* Updates and Announcements
* Potential Plan Recommendations
* Projects

Committee members approved the April 2020 meeting summary.

## Updates and Announcements

Angela provided updates from Ecology:

* All Committee meetings are expected to be held using WebEx for the foreseeable future.
* The Streamflow Restoration 2020 Grant round closed on April 30th, 2020. Angela will distribute information on the applications received to the Committee when it is available. Ecology will review applications through August and anticipate leadership determination of final list for funding in September.
* The WRE plan development process continues to move forward. Pilot versions of select plan chapters have been developed and are in the process of being developed/specialized for WRIA 14. Angela will be distributing WRIA 14 specific chapters in the upcoming months for the Committee to review as they are developed, and will discuss chapter reviews with the Committee at future meetings.

# Projects

Reference Materials:

1. [Project Tracking Spreadsheet](https://app.box.com/s/ya9fk9goiwh4qxja58rw1xigaqx8loti)
2. [WRIA 14 Webmap](https://hdr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=81789289a8a94435b8b5d3a823f29751)

Angela used this time to provide an update regarding the project development process for WRIA 14.

Angela has updated the [project tracking spreadsheet](https://app.box.com/s/ya9fk9goiwh4qxja58rw1xigaqx8loti) and added information about the anticipated workload required by HDR to continue their project development efforts. Angela also added a tab in the spreadsheet to track updates to projects undergoing additional analysis by HDR or Committee/workgroup members.

The follow projects are currently undergoing further analysis by HDR or Committee/workgroup members:

* Reclaimed water use in WRIA 14 (multiple projects)
* PE Connection Conversion to City of Shelton Water
* Summit Lake Water Use
* Skookum Creek Agricultural Areas
* Steamboat Island North Wetland
* Skookum Creek Hurley Creek Water Right retirement
* Goldsborough Creek – Hilburn Site Restoration
* Evergreen Mobile Home Estates
* Mason County Rooftop Runoff LID
* General MAR projects
* General floodplain reconnection projects

Committee/workgroup members have recently added the following projects to the general project list for consideration and development:

* Skookum Valley railroad blockages
* Mason Lake beaver management
* Mason Lake/Sherwood Creek MAR
* Low-water Use Landscapes Program Development

The Committee also discussed a floodplain reconnection project screening tool developed by HDR.

* This tool will be developed by performing a technical analysis of historic floodplain areas to identify opportunities for reconnection actions. The tool can be used by Committee/workgroup members to help identify potential sites for floodplain reconnection projects in WRIA 14.
* HDR has developed a similar tool for the WRIA 12 Committee and can make a similar product for the WRIA 14 Committee.
* The WRIA 14 Committee gave direction to HDR to develop this screening tool. Angela will send out information to the Committee when it is available.

Pacific Groundwater Group (PGG) provided updates on their water rights analysis and managed aquifer recharge (MAR) analysis:

* Water Rights Analysis
	+ PGG has worked with HDR to provide initial information from the water rights analysis on the [WRIA 14 webmap](https://hdr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=81789289a8a94435b8b5d3a823f29751), and emphasized irrigation and industrial rights.
	+ The Committee discussed direction to give to PGG to narrow down the list of initial water rights based on factors the Committee could choose for prioritization. The Committee discussed focusing on water rights within the focus areas of the 11 priority streams/reaches previously identified by Committee members for this analysis.
		- The Committee determined that these priority streams/reaches should be used to analyze the water rights and the MAR opportunities.
	+ The committee agreed to further review these potential opportunities and utilize the Mason Conservation District (CD) to further discuss opportunities with landowners, if appropriate and at the CD’ discretion.
	+ Representatives of the Squaxin Island Tribe, Skokomish Tribe, Thurston County, and Mason Conservation District agreed to further analyze the list of opportunities developed by PGG to bring forward recommendations to narrow down the list for additional analysis by PGG.
	+ Committee members were encouraged to review the new map and provide any additional information to inform the work.
	+ As a next step, Angela will set up a WRIA 14 water rights “deep dive” meeting to continue this discussion and give direction to PGG to narrow down the initial list based on feedback from the Committee for prioritization. Angela will send out an Doodle poll to select a date.
* MAR Updates
	+ PGG proposed to use the same list of 11 priority streams/reaches to guide the MAR work. Committee members agreed with this initial approach.
	+ PGG and Ecology participants had a discussion regarding the merits of deep wells and the “pump-and-dump” approach to MAR projects. This conversation may need to be revisited at a future meeting when the Committee reviews the information of the MAR analysis for potential sites and projects.

## Potential Plan Recommendations

Reference Materials:

1. [Policy Proposal Template](https://app.box.com/s/op8dp8hdm559o6hl2o5mrsik46m0zupq)
2. [Policy Tracking Spreadsheet](https://app.box.com/s/wbr8wxtqlqxziqlcgz0364fwwrbz1fvw)
3. [Potential Plan Proposals on Box](https://app.box.com/s/xs5o54e7hp1r77g1mz5zb9g5yo8i9anz)

This portion of the meeting was used to provide updates on potential proposals for policy/regulatory and adaptive management considerations to include in the WRIA 14 WRE plan.

Policy proposal development:

* Angela will be distributing a template for policy proposal development. This process will be coordinated across several WREC groups, however WRIA 14 may choose to provide specific feedback.
	+ The proposal template will include sections that describe the proposed idea as well as its purpose and associated concerns. It will also identify what the policy will accomplish, information regarding implementation, and its cost and potential funding sources.
	+ This process will provide Committee members with ample information regarding each proposed policy idea to consider for inclusion in the plan.
* Updates were made to the [policy tracking spreadsheet on Box](https://app.box.com/s/wbr8wxtqlqxziqlcgz0364fwwrbz1fvw).
	+ Policy ideas were grouped into similar categories and include a description, purpose, level of support (as indicated by the previous exercise of green/yellow/red flags from a previous meeting).
	+ Items on the spreadsheet were reviewed and leads were identified to bring draft proposals forward to the Committee for review.
	+ These individuals will be responsible for developing the policy proposals using the template mentioned above.
* Next steps:
	+ Angela will distribute the template for Committee member feedback.
	+ Jimmy Kralj (ESA) will reach out to Committee members who have identified themselves as leads for draft proposals with a timeline and process for submitting proposals.

Tristan Weiss from WDFW presented a project tracking recommendation to the group, describing the potential to use the Salmon Enhancement Portal to track projects in all WRIA’s.

* This is “boiler plate” language and can be edited for each WRIA.
* Having an umbrella approach to tracking projects in all WRIAs would be beneficial when developing grants and identifying specific project needs.
* WDFW is working on three pilot projects in WRIA’s 11, 22 and 23 to work out any issues and identify cost associated with plan.
* UW data stewards would upload projects to the database.
* The overhead cost of the tool is expected to be low and WDFW will support initial and ongoing costs of data steward data entry for the first two primary phases.
* The Plan may need to include WRIA-level local support for data collection and input as part of implementation.
* Committee members expressed interest in a webinar for all WREC groups to participate and further discuss this work
	+ Tristan will distribute information on this meeting as it is developed.

The Squaxin Island Tribe presented a proposal regarding South Sound Water Master Positions.

* The proposal would create a new position for a Water Master in the South Sound region.
* Mason County and Mason PUD 1 noted that they would prefer Mason County to lead implementation and enforcement and will provide feedback regarding the proposal.

[Plan proposals](https://app.box.com/s/xs5o54e7hp1r77g1mz5zb9g5yo8i9anz) received from Committee members will be kept on Box.

## Other Technical Items

Reference Materials:

1. [Skokomish Tribe/Aspect Consulting Irrigation Analysis Presentation](https://app.box.com/s/9pkjstjoansna2r8cegyti1b2hixbmrm)

Parker Wittman (Aspect Consulting, consultant to the Skokomish Tribe) presented the results of Aspect’s irrigation analysis for the Skokomish Tribe, and showed this information as it relates to the current consumptive use calculations for WRIA 14. . The results of the Tribe’s analysis help validate consumptive use assumptions. The Committee may consider including the results memo as a reference or appendix in the WRE plan as an approach to planning for dry years.

HDR provided an update on their technical work progress.

* Ecology is working with HDR to provide updated technical memos for PE connection growth and consumptive use. These technical memos will serve as the foundation to chapters of the WRE plan. The Committee may use these memos to revisit the working numbers established for projected PE connection growth and consumptive use.
* HDR is also working on project descriptions and developing pilot sections and chapters for the plan.

## Public Comment

Patti Case from Green Diamond Resource Company provided comment on Green Diamond and their relation to the planning process. Green Diamond is willing to serve as a partner in projects and throughout the plan development process. The Committee may want to consider inviting Green Diamond to serve as an ex-officio or ad-hoc member of the Committee.

## Action Items for Committee Members

* Committee members who identified interest in advancing policy ideas will be provided a template to describe the policy proposal. Jimmy Kralj will reach out with next steps.
* Committee members should continue to review the project list.
* Committee members will be asked to provide feedback on PGG’s water rights analysis.

## Action Items for Ecology

* The next meeting will be June 11, 2020 from 9:00am to 1:00pm on WebEx.
* Angela will set up the next project subgroup meeting.
* Angela will set up a water rights “deep dive” meeting with PGG to review initial results.
* Angela will send Committee members updates on information from the Streamflow Restoration 2020 grant round.
* Angela will distribute the policy recommendation template for Committee feedback.
* Angela will distribute information on the WRIA 14 floodplain screening tool when available.

## Action Items for Technical Consultants

* HDR will continue work on the projects identified for their analysis.
* HDR will move forward with developing a floodplain screening tool for WRIA 14.
* HDR will work with Ecology to update technical memos for distribution.
* PGG will revise the water rights analysis at Committee direction for prioritization.
* PGG will continue work on the MAR analysis.