# 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**

August 13th, 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*)

Ron Gold (*Mason PUD 1)*

Darin Hall (*Mason PUD 1*)

Kevin Shutty (*Mason County*)

David Windom (*Mason County*)

Kaitlynn Nelson (*Thurston County)*

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

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

Lois Ward (*environmental interests, Sierra Club*)

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

Allison Cook (*WDFW)*

Paul Pickett (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

Erica Marbet (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

Patti Case (*Green Diamond Resource Company, ex-officio*)

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

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

### Other Attendees\*

Susan Gulick *(Sound Resolutions)*

Jimmy Kralj (*ESA*)

Chad Wiseman (*HDR*)

Mike Noone (*Ecology*)

Stacy Vynne McKinstry (*Ecology*)

Tom Culhane (*Ecology*)

Paula Holroyde (*League of Women Voters*)

James Reyes (*Mason PUD 1*)

## Welcome

Due to the spread of COVID-19 and the recommendations from Public Health Officials, the August 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.

A collection of interactive slides was put together to promote engagement during the meeting. These slides can be found on Box in the [meeting materials folder for August 2020.](https://app.box.com/s/24aklhynwgrq18mmg84jg6pawijmz1a8)

## Approval of June 2020 and July 2020 Meeting Summaries

* Minimal changes were made to the June meeting summary; a few lines were removed where there was not clarity in regards to next steps for policy proposals.
* Angela received comments on the following sections of the July meeting summary:
	+ Projects
	+ Water Rights Analysis
	+ Plan Development
	+ Water Offset Projects
	+ Policy Proposals
* The committee approved both the June 2020 and July 2020 meeting summaries.

## Updates and Announcements

Angela provided updates from Ecology:

* WebEx meetings will continue for the foreseeable future.
* Ecology staff are currently under a mandatory furlough schedule. Angela will be furloughed August 31st, September 25th, October 30th, and November 30th
* Streamflow Restoration Grant announcements will be made in September or October 2020.

# Green Diamond Resource Company as an *Ex-Officio* Member

* Patti Case provided members of the committee with a brief description of Green Diamond Resource Company and their work in the watershed.
* Committee members approved adding Green Diamond Resource Company as an Ex-officio member of the committee.

## Projects

This portion of the meeting was used to provide updates on the Project Subgroup meeting, Water Rights analysis work, Managed Aquifer Recharge projects, and water offset projects.

* MAR Analysis
	+ PGG provided draft MAR maps for subgroup review. The subgroup provided feedback and maps will be updated by PGG.
	+ PGG will provide a suggested list of potential sites for MAR projects for the workgroup and committee to review.
	+ PGG will work with HDR to add this information to the webmap and develop project descriptions as potential sites are identified.
	+ HDR will include offset quantifications when appropriate.
	+ The committee discussed water sources for MAR projects including wells and streams. Angela will discuss sources with Peter and communicate that stream sources are preferable to wells, however wells should not be excluded from the project description.
	+ Patti Case (Green Diamond) expressed a willingness for potential projects on Green Diamond Land.
* Water Rights Analysis
	+ Thurston County has been conducting windshield surveys and Erica from Squaxin Island Tribe offered to do so in Mason County. Any windshield surveys would be conducted from public roads/lands.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe would like more information about the Bayshore Sand and Gravel water right. Potential outreach options were discussed during the subgroup meeting.
	+ Angela will work with PGG to include water rights information in the plan.
* Project Subgroup Meeting
	+ Schneider Creek source exchange project: recommended to include as a standalone project and remove it from the overall water rights analysis.
	+ Ecology and HDR met with the WRIA 14 Lead Entity about their priorities and to coordinate with their 4-year work plan where appropriate.
* Project Offset Update
	+ High and low offset estimates have been generated by HDR for a handful of water offset projects. This information has been paired with the highest estimate of subbasin consumptive use (these values have been provided for reference and do not reflect an official committee decision).
	+ The current draft WRIA-wide offset estimate is 760 acre feet/year (high end of the estimate and working number for consumptive use). This number will continue to be updated as project analysis continues. More information on project analysis can be found in the [Projects folder](https://app.box.com/s/wo251rux3r5ups0sun74i8mwhtn83f27) on Box.
	+ Water offset projects have been the priority, but more updates will be coming soon regarding habitat projects.
	+ HDR will begin developing project descriptions for offset projects, habitat projects, and categorical projects.

## Plan Development

* Angela provided an update to the plan development process
	+ Chapters 1-3: Angela will make the agreed upon edits.
	+ Chapter 4: To be distributed to the committee soon for review by the end of August.
	+ Draft compiled plan will be distributed to the committee in early September.
		- Additional work may be needed on chapters 5, 6, and 7.
	+ The target date for distributing a draft plan for local review/approval is October/November 2020.
	+ February 1: Target date for Committee approved plan to submit to Ecology
* Thurston County will review the plan with the Thurston County Board of Supervisors in August.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe asked about the gaps and missing sections in Chapter 1 and whether or not those will be filled in by the time the draft is compiled in September.
	+ Updated language will be included in the next draft.
* Additionally, the Squaxin Island Tribe requested clarification about additional opportunities for committee review before sending the plan for local review.
	+ Angela clarified that there will be an iterative review process, and she will make this more clear in future descriptions of the timeline.

## Adaptive Management

* Susan provided an overview of the adaptive management approach and asked for feedback from the committee about the aspects of adaptive management.
* Tracking and monitoring
	+ The committee recommended tracking four elements: Building permits issued with a PE well, ongoing list of new PE wells in each subbasin (map too), status of project implementation, status of policy recommendations
	+ The committee discussed having a monitoring and research strategy explicitly developed with a list of general topics that should be covered. The following items should be included in the Monitoring and Research Strategy:
		- Streamflow monitoring
		- Groundwater monitoring
		- Precipitation and drought conditions
		- Land use changes
		- Water usage and water supply data
	+ Next Steps: Susan will write up a summary that includes the four elements to be specifically tracked and will note that a monitoring and research strategy should be developed.
* Reporting
	+ The committee discussed submitting annual reports to Ecology detailing the number of new building permits with PE wells, status updates of projects, and implementation actions to date.
	+ Additionally, a five-year self-assessment would be submitted to Ecology discussing new building permits, status of projects, estimates of water and instream flow benefits realized through actions, as well as recommended project substitutions.
		- The Squaxin Island Tribe suggested this self-assessment include locations of wells on a map.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe asked how the Salmon Recovery Portal would be updated with project information
		- The WDFW Project Tracking proposal would collect this information.
		- Committee members requested more information about how projects will be fed into the WDFW project tracking tool.
	+ Summary: Annual reports will be submitted to the County and Ecology and a five-year self assessment will also be submitted to Ecology.
* Adaptation
	+ The committee expressed interest in continued group involvement.
	+ There are currently no existing groups in WRIA 14 that have similar membership to continue meeting regarding this planning effort in the future.
		- The committee expressed interest in using the Nisqually and Chehalis Implementation Groups as a model for WRIA 14.
	+ The committee recommended that a group with similar representation continue to meet at regular intervals to implement the plan and support the annual and five-year reporting processes.
		- Mason County stated that the Chehalis Basin Bylaws would be a useful resource to inform the development of such a committee in WRIA 14.
		- Mason County also expressed a desire for consistency with WRIA 15 and the other WRIAs that Mason County covers.
* Funding
	+ The committee supports a request to the legislature for additional funding after the current biennium to allow for continued implementation.
	+ The committee will discuss additional funding opportunities later including fees on PE wells and money contributed by entities through interlocal agreements.
* Durability
	+ Mason County strongly supports an implementation approach.
	+ A short section should be included in the plan that states the committee intends for the plan to be implemented and outlines how implementation will be carried out.

## Policy Proposals

Committee members will be asked to complete a survey to provide more detailed feedback about the policy proposals put forward for consideration. Members will be asked whether or not they support the proposal and if they have any concerns or questions. This will help the committee narrow the list of policy proposals to those with broad support, and subsequent development of Chapter 6.

Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe) gave a brief update to the proposals he has developed:

* Funding for Plan Implementation
	+ Spoke with Olympia Master Builders about the possibility of tiered PE well fees.
* Monitoring and Research
	+ Updates provided during adaptive management discussion
* South Sound Water Steward
	+ Originally this proposal was for a Water Master position but it has been restructured to explain that this position would work with the WRIAs in the South Sound region to support implementation. The primary duties of this position would be technical support and outreach, but the Squaxin Island Tribe would like the position to have some level of authority as well.
* Drought Limits
	+ Updated to support the continued limits identified in the law. Additionally, the proposal now states that drought limits should have an exemption for outdoor watering for the purposes of growing food, environmental projects (new plantings), and fire protection.
* Instream Flow Updates
	+ The proposal has been simplified to consider closing streams that have important salmon resources during the summer low flow season.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe would like to see existing protections revised using the latest methodologies and techniques. Some rules were set in the 1980s and have not be reevaluated.
	+ The proposal would require new applications for a water right that would impact a stream with an instream flow rule to include additional mitigation measures.
* Permit Exempt Well Withdrawal Limits
	+ The proposal was revised to allow exemptions for food production.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe believes its reasonable to look at information from WRIA 1 and see if their numbers would be appropriate for WRIA 14.
* Study of County Planning
	+ No significant changes.
* Upgrade Well Reporting
	+ No significant changes. Ecology does not believe rule writing would be required.
* Water Supply Data
	+ This proposal will be rolled into the implementation monitoring piece.
* County Policies to Promote Connections to Group A Systems
	+ This proposal has been split into two different ideas.
	+ Some counties do not have a coordinated water system service plan. The proposal would request for counties to review their current plans and consider a right of first refusal for water purveyors.
	+ Mason County, Squaxin Island Tribe, and the Department of Health had a discussion about requirements in Mason County and how that relates to this proposal and connection policies.
* Revolving Loan and Grant Fund
	+ There is a similar approach used in the Nisqually Plan.
	+ If there is interest, local entities could develop a revolving loan fund that would help alleviate hook-up fees and infrastructure costs.
* Committee members were encouraged to review the Cross-WRIA water conservation policies while completing the survey.
* Lead Organization for Implementation
	+ Discussed during the adaptive management portion of the committee meeting.
* Mason County-wide Conservation Outreach Program
	+ Several committee members requested a county wide conservation program.
	+ This proposal would establish incentives and outreach efforts.
* Sports Field Irrigation Conservation
	+ This proposal would direct Shelton to review all of its parks and sports field to learn about novel irrigation infrastructure and consider new practices that would save water in the long term.
* 100 Xeriscapes
	+ This proposal would encourage people to voluntarily join the program and receive financial support to install a meter to measure water use over a few years, then install a zero irrigated landscape and measure how water use changed.
	+ Financial incentives for low water landscaping

Committee members were reminded to complete the survey and spend time to thoroughly and thoughtfully review each policy proposal.

## Public Comment

* No public comments were provided.

## Next Steps and Adjourn

## Action Items for Committee Members

* The next committee meeting is September 10th from 9:00am to 1:00pm
* At the next meeting, the committee will discuss projects, the draft of Chapter 4, next steps for plan review, and NEB.
* Committee members with action items for project development will continue to provide information to the project subgroup and Committee.

## Action Items for Ecology

* Angela will schedule the next project subgroup.
* Angela will send out draft chapter 4 and the associated technical memo for Committee review
* Angela will continue to work with the technical consultants on products and providing information to the Committee.

## Action Items for Technical Consultants

* HDR will continue work on the projects identified for their analysis.
* PGG will continue work on the MAR analysis and water right analysis.