# 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**

October 8th, 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. Summary of September Meeting
2. Project Update
3. Plan Review Timeline
4. Chapter 4 Comments
5. Draft Chapter 6

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Angela Johnson (*Ecology – Committee Chair)*

Dana Sarff (*Skokomish Tribe*)

John Turk (*Skokomish Tribe*)

Ron Gold (*Mason PUD 1)*

Darin Hall (*Mason PUD 1*)

Kevin Shutty (*Mason County*)

Dave Windom (*Mason County*)

Kaitlynn Nelson (*Thurston County)*

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

Allison Cook (*WDFW*)

Lois Ward (*Sierra Club*)

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

Paul Pickett (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

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

Erin Hall (*Olympia Master Builders*)

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

Ken Gill (City of Shelton)

Larry Boltz (*Mason Kitsap Farm Bureau*)

### Other Attendees\*

Susan Gulick *(Sound Resolutions)*

Jimmy Kralj (*ESA*)

Chad Wiseman (*HDR*)

Mike Noone (*Ecology*)

Tom Culhane (*Ecology*)

Erica Marbet (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

James Reyes (*Mason PUD 1*)

\*Attendance is based on WebEx participation

## Welcome

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

Participants were provided with a link to [interactive slides](https://app.box.com/s/3whmc9mlge7xbkf216b0xllyaxfbykv3) to express concerns, make comments, and ask questions. This document has been saved and can be accessed on Box.

## Approval of September 2020 Meeting Summary

* Angela received suggested revisions on the following sections of the September 2020 Meeting Summary:
	+ Projects
		- Ecology provided clarification of the timing of the existing water right associated with the Schneider’s Creek Source Switch project.
	+ Plan Proposals
	+ Other Technical Items
* The committee approved meeting summary with these revisions.

## Updates and Announcements

* Streamflow Restoration Grant awards were announced on October 7, 2020.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe Skookum Valley Water Rights Investigation project was funded.
* Plan Cover Photo Contest
	+ For those interested, committee members can submit photos for consideration for the cover of the WRIA 14 plan. Interested members should upload their photos to the folder on Box with their name in the file name of the image, Angela will send out a link
* WRE Plan Presentation
	+ Ecology has developed a presentation for WRIA 14 committee members to use when presenting information related to the plan to their leadership during the local review period.
* Comments on the draft compiled plan are due on October 15, 2020.
* Ecology is slated to work remotely though June 2021, and all future meetings will continue to be held through WebEx.

## Projects

* Summary of the Project Workgroup Meeting
	+ Water Rights Assessment
		- Angela is working with PGG to finalize the water rights analysis and to develop a summary document regarding water rights.
		- Any information included in the plan will not include identifying information associated with water rights.
		- Erica will be conducting windshield surveys of irrigation water rights in early October. Additional information from Thurston County will also be included in the plan. This information will be noted as a “field check” in the plan.
		- Statement on water right opportunities:
			* Angela will draft language for a general statement about water right opportunities to include in the second draft of the plan.
	+ Offset Projects
		- HDR is working to finalize the project analysis and descriptions for water offset projects
			* Mason County Rooftop Runoff: Technical memo and description is out for review by workgroup members. Ecology, HDR, and several entities discussed further comments and revisions. This includes the Skokomish Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, Suquamish Tribe (WRIA 15), Mason County, and WDFW.
			* City of Shelton Reclaimed Water: Project description is complete. The workgroup recommends using an 80% efficiency rate for the project.
			* Evergreen Mobile Estates: HDR is working to finalize the project description, and HDR will confirm with the current water right holder the possibility of putting the right into trust.
			* Schneider Creek Source Switch: Thurston County is developing a project description and offset quantification.
			* MAR: HDR and PGG are working to finalize an analysis of favorable sites for MAR projects. PGG will provide a write-up of the methods used and results.
				+ WDFW expressed concerns about the level of support for these project types and their associated uncertainty.
				+ Mason County and Thurston County expressed support for these projects, particularly higher in the watershed. WDFW was pleased to hear committee support for the projects.
	+ Project recommendations from the project subgroup meeting
		- MAR projects should be focused in subbasins with insufficient projects or with higher projected PE well growth. Specifically, Sherwood Creek and Kennedy Creek.
		- MAR projects should have a project sponsor identified when possible to have more certainty on implementation.
		- The committee will need to determine the amount of offset assigned to this project package.
* Habitat Benefit Projects
	+ HDR is working to finalize project descriptions for the list of prioritized projects:
		- Skookum Valley Ag: HDR will complete the project description. An additional project should be included in the plan that adds a fish passage project in this vicinity. The fish passage project will address the railroad blockage.
		- Steamboat Upper: HDR and Thurston County are working on the description. The parcel is privately owned and there is some freeboard to increase the surface elevation of the pond. This project is primarily focused on adding water to the shallow end of the aquifer on the peninsula.
		- Goldsborough Creek-Hilburn Restoration: This project is part of the WRIA 14 Lead Entity four-year work schedule. HDR will work with the lead entity to get more information about this project for inclusion in the plan.
* Categorical Projects
	+ HDR and PGG are finalizing project descriptions for prioritized projects:
		- Floodplain Restoration: HDR and committee members are using the Paleo Mapper tool to identify potential project locations. HDR is reviewing a write-up.
		- Forest Stand Age: The Squaxin Island Tribe will develop a write-up summary for inclusion in the plan.
* Recommendations
	+ The workgroup has recommended projects be organized and categorized in the following manner:
		- Projects with quantifiable offset benefits
		- Projects with non-quantifiable offset benefits
		- Projects that provide only habitat benefits
		- Projects that cannot currently move forward at this time and conceptual projects.
	+ Project descriptions for prioritized projects with quantifiable benefits and detailed habitat projects will be included in the body of the plan.
	+ The full project inventory including conceptual projects and those without detailed descriptions will be included as an appendix to the plan.

## Plan Development

* Angela provided a summary of the WRE Plan Chapter Development Status
	+ Chapter 1: Comments have been incorporated.
	+ Chapter 2: Comments have been incorporated.
	+ Chapter 3: Comments have been incorporated.
	+ Chapter 4: Comments will be discussed during today’s meeting.
	+ Chapter 5: Project descriptions and in development, and some information is incorporated in the draft plan. The chapter will be completed in the second draft.
	+ Chapter 6: Comments have been incorporated.
	+ Chapter 7: Outline is included in first draft and HDR and Ecology will develop a draft to be included in the second draft of the compiled plan.
* Fall Plan Review
	+ September 25th: Chair distributed the first complied draft for review.
		- Comments are due on October 15th.
	+ November 12th: Committee meeting to discuss draft review comments.
	+ November: Chair will revise and complete draft compiled plan and distribute for 2-week review prior to approval for local review process.
	+ December 10th: If the plan is not approved for local review in November, committee will discuss in December.
	+ December-February: Local decision makers review plan as needed. Average of 12-week review.
	+ January 14th: Committee meeting, depending on status of local review. If the plan is not agreed upon for distribution in December, the chair will continue revisions as appropriate. If the committee is unable to reach agreement by the end of 2020, this puts the committee at risk of missing the June 30th deadline for Ecology approval.
	+ February 11th: Committee meeting TBD depending on the status of local review.
	+ March 11th: If the plan is not approved at February meeting, the goal is to have the plan approved in March.
		- If the plan is approved in March, the chair will submit the final plan to Ecology.
	+ June 30th: Ecology director will make plan approval decision.
* If the committee does not reach consensus on the plan, Ecology will take over writing the plan and technical review will be completed by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.
* Thurston County raised concerns about the plan approval process given their involvement on other committees.
	+ Mason County and the Squaxin Island Tribe expressed similar concerns.

## Plan Comments

**General Plan Comments**

* WRIA 14 committee members have submitted comments that include differing interpretations of the law. How should the committee address these concerns in the plan?
	+ Susan suggested including a record of how consensus was reached and document differing opinions and concerns.
		- Mason County: Differences of interpretations should be documented by local entities in a statement that could be included in a plan appendix.
		- Squaxin Island Tribe: The tribe agrees with the approach proposed by Mason County. Differing opinions will help provide context around how decisions were made.
	+ Susan and Angela will develop a proposal on how to include this information based on discussions with Mason County, Thurston County, and the Squaxin Island Tribe.

**Chapter 4 Comments**

* The first draft of Chapter 4 was previously reviewed by the Committee. This chapter includes:
	+ Agreed upon language regarding growth and consumptive use.
	+ Suggested edits for clarification and corrections.
	+ Placeholders where more information was requested.
* Angela walked through information updated in Chapter 4:
	+ Clarified language around wells and connections and refers to them as Permit-Exempt Wells throughout the document.
	+ Mason County added language regarding water system expansions which may reduce the number of new permit exempt wells.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe added language regarding uncertainty and growth scenarios.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe proposed language regarding climate calculations and their potential impact on water use in the basin.
	+ The Skokomish Tribe proposed language regarding their assessment of precipitation variability on outdoor irrigation amounts.
* All revised language can be seen in [track changes in Chapter 4](https://app.box.com/s/z0u0mjps44yxvbvarnywollwjjdv9x3j), and was included in the first draft compiled plan – Angela made notes throughout the draft plan to draw attention to these changes.

**Chapter 6 Comments**

* Proposals not included in Chapter 6 include:
	+ South Sound Water Master
	+ Mason County Policies to Promote Connections to Group A Systems
	+ Drought Limits
	+ Instream Flow Updates
	+ PE Well Withdrawal Limits
	+ Study of County Planning Streamflow Restoration Effectiveness
	+ 100 Xeriscapes
* Proposals included in the Chapter:
	+ Tracking Wells
	+ Monitoring and Research
	+ Revolving Fund for Local Water Systems
	+ Mason County Outreach
	+ Water Supply Data for Comprehensive Planning
	+ Sports Field Irrigation Conservation
	+ Group A Water System Infrastructure Improvements.
* Erica Marbet (Squaxin Island Tribe) provided the committee with an update on the 100 Xeriscapes proposal:
	+ Mason Kitsap Farm Bureau was concerned about the metering associated with this proposal.
	+ The original intent of the proposal was to find a measurable change in water use through the conversion of residential landscaping from lawns to native vegetation landscaping.
	+ The proposal has now become “Waterwise Landscaping”.
		- Some sort of monitoring would take place for outdoor use only.
		- The proposal now focuses on new homes developed on rural lots in the hope this will help to increase participation.
		- Mason Kitsap Farm Bureau supports these changes.
	+ The updated proposal will be included in the 2nd draft of the plan (late November) for committee review.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe proposed reviewing alternatives to policy ideas that were blocked by certain entities. This included a suggestion that the policy recommendations that don’t currently have support could be addressed in the future by an implementation group, and would be described in the plan’s adaptive management section.
	+ Skokomish Tribe supported this suggestion.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe will take the lead on this effort to see if there is support from the entities that raised red flags on those recommendations.

## Public Comments

* No public comments were provided.

## Next Steps and Adjourn

* Committee members should make comments on the new Waterwise Landscaping policy from Erica and the new draft chapter components.
* Next committee meeting is November 12, 2020
	+ If necessary, the meeting will go until 2:00pm. Committee member should plan for the additional hour.
* Comments on the first draft of the compiled plan are due October 15, 2020, and will be discussed at the November committee meeting.
* Angela will schedule the next project subgroup meeting.
* Angela will work with the WRIA 15 committee chair to schedule a follow up meeting regarding the Mason County Rooftop Runoff project.
* Angela will send out the [plan development timeline.](https://app.box.com/s/gm7mnmktgpgeg1j9rwoxolgtn07ld4k9)