# 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**

November 12th, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 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 October Meeting
2. Project Update
3. Draft Plan Compiled Comment Tracker
4. Proposal of Chapter 6 Language
5. Plan Review Timeline

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Angela Johnson (*Ecology – Committee Chair)*

Dana Sarff (*Skokomish Tribe*)

Seth Book (*Skokomish Tribe*)

Ron Gold (*Mason PUD 1)*

Kevin Shutty (*Mason County*)

Dave Windom (*Mason County*)

Kaitlynn Nelson (*Thurston County)*

Ken Gill (*City of Shelton*)

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

Lois Ward (*Sierra Club*)

Larry Boltz (*Mason Kitsap Farm Bureau*)

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

Paul Pickett (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

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

Allison Cook (*WDFW*)
Erin Hall (*Olympia Master Builders*)

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

### Other Attendees\*

Susan Gulick *(Sound Resolutions)*

Jimmy Kralj (*ESA*)

Chad Wiseman (*HDR*)

Mike Noone (*Ecology*)

Tom Culhane (*Ecology*)
Gino Lucchetti (Squaxin Island Tribe)

James Reyes (*Mason PUD 1*)

Jon Turk (*Aspect Consulting, Skokomish Tribe*)

\*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.

## Approval of October 2020 Meeting Summary

Angela received comments on the following sections:

* Updates and Announcements
* Projects
* Plan Comments

The committee approved the October 2020 Meeting Summary

## Updates and Announcements

* Photo Contest
	+ Committee members interested in providing the cover photo for the plan should upload their entries to the folder on box.
* Mason County requested that the approving authorities for Counties, Tribes, and other partners attend the next three committee meetings.
	+ Mason County believes it would be helpful to have organization leadership attend committee meetings as we near the end of the plan development process.
	+ Thurston County stated that they have been briefing their leadership throughout the process and would like more context around the request.
	+ Ken Gill stated that it would be difficult to have council members attend these meetings. Additionally, they have been briefed throughout the process.
	+ Susan stated there is an option to hold a separate meeting with select individuals if needed.
	+ Mason County stated they would not expect to have all council members available for a meeting, rather having conversations between elected officials may help resolve the sticking points on remaining issues.

## Projects

* Mason County Rooftop Runoff
	+ Background and Status
		- Mason County proposed this project idea and it was agreed upon by the Committee for further analysis by HDR.
		- HDR developed the analysis and provided an initial offset benefit of 597 afy.
		- Several entities expressed concerns about the analysis and it was suggested that the analysis be revised for a more accurate estimate.
		- Multiple entities have provided feedback and expressed concerns, which include:
			* Technical concerns about uncertainty, assumptions, and correct calculation of net benefit
			* Legal/policy concerns about whether the proposed stormwater treatment is already required by RCW 90.94.
		- Ecology has asked HDR to pause further analysis until more issues can be discussed with the committee.
	+ Outstanding issues
		- The Committee is concerned about identifying sufficient offset projects to meet the estimated consumptive use.
		- The issues with this project need to be resolved by the committee.
		- The Squaxin Island Tribe proposed that Ecology include language to address concerns regarding potential conflicts with RCW 90.94
	+ Approach to move forward
		- Does the committee want HDR to complete their revised analysis on this project?
			* No objections were expressed from committee members. The Squaxin Island Tribe would also like to see the proposed legal text added.
		- Ecology noted that the model that HDR uses has certain limitations, but it can be revised to provide a best estimate of potential offset from the project.
		- Mason County feels this is an important project to include in the plan for the water offset benefits it would provide and to meet NEB.
		- It was noted that WDFW was not present for this portion of today’s meeting and they also had concerns about this project. Angela reviewed this approach with WDFW prior to the meeting and they expressed support for a revised analysis, but Angela will confirm with them after today’s meeting.
	+ HDR will complete the revised analysis and may have results as soon as next week.
	+ Angela will send the new analysis for committee review when it is available.
* Raingarden Retrofits
	+ This project proposal was raised at the November project subgroup meeting.
	+ This proposal has been raised in other committees with broad support.
	+ The project would recommend establishing a local level grant funded program to provide support to install raingardens in existing homes.
	+ Ecology has proposed an initial analysis for the number of homes and raingardens that would be installed through this program.
	+ Mason Conservation District was listed as a proposed project sponsor, but will need confirmation from CD management that they are interested in pursuing it.
	+ The Skokomish Tribe noted that this project may be useful to also install similar retrofits along roads in the watershed.
		- HDR noted that this would dramatically change the scope of the project.
	+ Ecology stated that at this point in the planning process, a more general approach would be recommended. Ideally this would be a general analysis to provide the committee with sufficient information as to whether or not this project should be included in the plan.
	+ Concerns were raised about how technical this analysis would need to be and whether or not there is sufficient time to review such a proposal at this point in the process.
	+ Angela will aim to have information brought to the next project subgroup meeting in early December.
* City of Shelton Reclaimed Water
	+ HDR has completed their analysis and determined an offset potential of 520 afy.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe and HDR met with the Department of Corrections on the proposed outcomes of the project.
	+ HDR will revise the analysis and the Squaxin Island Tribe proposed including an offset range.
	+ Angela will send updated information to the committee when it is available.
* Evergreen Mobile Estates
	+ The analysis is complete and the workgroup has approved the project description and offset potential of 7 afy.
* Schneider Creek Source Switch
	+ This project would be included in the plan as a future opportunity, but it would not be counted towards the consumptive use offset.
	+ Ecology has developed a draft description and will work with Thurston County to finalize it.
* Managed Aquifer Recharge Projects
	+ HDR has worked with PGG to finalize the analysis of favorable sites and the workgroup has reviewed this analysis to narrow down precise location for final recommendations.
	+ The committee will need to agree on the overall offset value to include in the plan.
	+ PGG has provided a draft write-up of their methods and results. HDR will develop a memo to summarize the offset potential of proposed sites.
* Consumptive Use Estimate
	+ The committees current range of consumptive use estimates is 759 afy (most likely estimate) to 1,034 afy (higher estimate to achieve through adaptive management).
	+ The current total offset estimate from the reclaimed water and evergreen mobile estates project is 530 afy.
	+ Angela urged Committee members to consider how the Committee can address the deficit in reaching the consumptive use target with offset projects.
* Water Rights Analysis
	+ PGG has provided an initial write-up of the water rights analysis for WRIA 14 and summary tables.
		- These tables do not include identifying information.
	+ Language was proposed by Ecology for a general description of these project types in the WRE plan. Committee members agreed to include this language in the next draft of the plan. The current approach is for no quantified offsets in the plan for water rights acquisition.
* Habitat Projects
	+ Skookum Valley Ag
		- HDR has completed the description and it is ready for review.
	+ Skookum Valley Railroad Blockages
		- The Squaxin Island Tribe will develop the proposal with WDFW.
	+ Steamboat Upper
		- HDR has completed the description and it is ready for review.
	+ Steamboat Middle
		- Thurston County is working on the description.
	+ Goldsborough Creek-Hilburn Restoration
		- HDR has completed the description and it is ready for review.
	+ Forestry Management
		- Thurston County will develop a description for 3-4 sites they have identified.
* Categorical Projects
	+ Floodplain Restoration
		- HDR has used the mapping tool to identify potential locations for floodplain restoration projects.
		- Workgroup recommended focusing on specific locations including Gosnell Creek, Coffee Creek, and Campbell Creek.
		- HDR has completed the project description and committee members should review it for agreement.
	+ Forest Stand Age
		- The Squaxin Island Tribe developed a proposal for this project concept, and suggested HDR write language to be clear and simple and address multiple benefits. HDR and Ecology will develop a project description for inclusion in the second version of the draft plan.
		- Green Diamond Resource Company expressed concerns about this project type. Most of the studies used in the proposal were done in Oregon under their forest practice rules. In Washington, the forest practice rules are much more robust than those in Oregon. 20% of land in WA is set aside already compared to 7% in Oregon.
			* It was recommended that Committee members in support of this project reach out to Green Diamond to address concerns.
* Next Steps for Projects
	+ Committee members should consider how to address the potential deficit of water offset projects. Additionally, members should review project descriptions.
	+ HDR and Ecology will develop Chapter 5 based on information in project descriptions and it will be included in the 2nd version of the draft plan.
	+ Angela and HDR will meet with City of Shelton to discuss potential stormwater projects.
	+ Final drafts of project descriptions will be provided during the December project subgroup meeting.

## Plan Development

* Fall Plan Review
	+ September 25th – First draft was distributed.
	+ November 12th – Discuss plan review comments
	+ November – Chair will revise the draft and chapters 5-7 will be completed by the chair and consultants
	+ December – Chair will complete the 2nd draft plan and distribute to the committee for review.
		- The review will be a short, 2-week review for red flag items.
	+ December 10 – committee meeting to discuss plan review.
* Winter Review
	+ January 14: Target date for distribution for local review.
		- If plan is not agreed to for distribution, a special meeting will be held.
		- If unable to reach agreement, the deadlines will be jeopardized.
	+ January – March
		- Local review
	+ February 11
		- Meeting if needed depending on local review.
	+ March 11
		- Potential date for final vote on plan approval, more likely in April.
	+ April 8
		- Target date for final vote on plan approval.
	+ June 30
		- Ecology adoption deadline
* If the committee approves the plan by consensus, Ecology will review and make an NEB determination. If the committee does not reach consensus, Ecology will finish plan development.
* Compendium/Signing Statements
	+ The purpose of this section is to provide committee members with a place to provide their diverse opinions on the plan and process.
	+ In some watersheds, this section will include technical analyses and signing statements to accompany plan approval.
	+ These materials will not be an official part of the plan and will not be subject to the approval of the final plan and that will be noted in text of the document.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe expressed their hope that text would be included in the plan that points to the compendium where there were disagreements in the plan development process. They would like Committee members to identify the issues where they would like a reference to the compendium.
		- This need not address every decision point in the plan, but could be addressed by a more general statement pointing readers towards the compendium section.

## Comments

* Proposed Revisions to the WRIA 14 Draft Compiled Plan
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe: Adding quotations from the law.
		- Ecology intends to keep the plan as simple as possible, but it would be possible to add these with signing statements, or adding text boxes in the plan with direct quotes.
		- No committee members opposed adding quotations in the plan.
	+ Mason Kitsap Farm Bureau: No references to rainwater capture systems.
		- Proposed language for a program to incentivize water capture for use in April through October.
		- Thurston County proposed expanding the rain garden proposal to add this proposal.
		- Larry Boltz will make recommendations for inclusion of this in the project proposal.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe: Add more legal background information.
		- Proposed to provide more context about how this process was initiated.
		- Angela will discuss with Ecology management and will work with other WREC chairs on potential language for consistency with plans.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe: Additional information about instream flows and water rights.
		- Angela will edit this section and link it to the other sections about instream flow.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe: Change minimum requirements to state that watershed plans must be prepared to ensure full implementation.
		- Implementation is not a requirement.
		- Language will be updated to reflect the importance of implementation to the WRIA 14 Committee, but it will not include “must” or “shall” as requested by Thurston County.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe: All projected uses must be included in the Plan.
		- This also relates to the Tribe’s disagreements with the interpretation of the law.
		- This change will hopefully be addressed in the updated legal language section discussed earlier and in the proposal for additional data in the 5-year report.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe: Proposed language to state that many instream flow rules are not being met and basins are over-appropriated.
		- Angela will develop specific language with Paul for committee review.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe: Provide additional information about the relationship between this process and the Growth Management Act.
		- Angela will develop language with the counties for committee review.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe: Additional language about Critical Areas and their relationship to recharge potential.
		- Angela will provide language in coordination with the tribe and counties.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe: Add language about the MOU between the Squaxin Island Tribe and Mason County.
		- Mason County has no objections to including this, Angela will discuss with Ecology management.
	+ Thurston County: Add a map of average rain volumes.
		- Suggestion that this be included in an appendix as a reference.
		- Angela will work with Thurston County and HDR to include this language.
	+ Thurston County: Summary of the relationship between water quality and this planning process.
		- Proposed adding more information to provide context in the plan. Angela will work with Thurston County to address.
	+ Mason County: Proposed adding information about the OFM low growth projection.
		- No concerns from Committee on including language.
	+ Mason County: Include information about how the values used for irrigation (turf grass) are higher than the values recommended by the USDA for residential lawns.
		- Information will be added to the plan along with a reference.
	+ Mason County: Remove information related to climate change calculations done by the Squaxin Island Tribe because the study was not peer reviewed.
		- Angela will make revisions to the language in coordination with the Squaxin Island Tribe and Mason County.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe: Proposed language that states the committee would prefer using conservative assumptions
		- Angela will add the language.
	+ Angela will go through plan to ensure that all units are being shown consistently, and address Committee feedback on specific units to include.
* Chapter 5 - Projects
	+ Project Resiliency: Angela suggested a general approach about project climate resiliency as opposed to discussing this individually for each project.
		- Angela will use the comments provided by the Squaxin Island Tribe and information from the Beechie study to develop this language.
		- Specific project elements may be discussed at the project subgroup meeting if Committee members have suggestions for each project.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe: Proposed stating that all project descriptions state whether a sponsor and landowner have been identified.
		- Angela will look into ways to address this.
* Chapter 6 – Policy Recommendations
	+ Monitoring and Research Strategy
		- Mason Kitsap Farm Bureau raised concerns that this might include metering and would like more clarification about water usage.
		- Susan stated that this is just a strategy to gather relevant water information and there are not enough details yet to include metering.
		- Proposed using “water consumption” as opposed to “water usage”.
	+ Revolving Loan and Grant Fund for Small Public Water System
		- Proposed dropping “small” and changing to “Community” water systems.
	+ Mason County-wide Conservation Outreach
		- Removed the proposed metering study included in the proposal.
	+ Sports Field Irrigation Conservation
		- Mason Kitsap Farm Bureau proposed including rainwater capture to the list of recommended practices. No Committee concerns, Angela and Susan will address this.
* Chapter 6 - Adaptive Management
	+ Susan updated the section to reorganize certain components based on discussions in other WRIAs. Committee members were asked to review in detail as a large amount of changes were made.
	+ A section was added expressing the interest of the committee to continue meeting after the plan is developed to support implementation and continued adaptive management.
	+ Olympia Master Builders proposed adding information about the rates of home development in rural areas as it relates to adaptive management particularly if trends are lower than what was expected as opposed to just higher trends.
	+ The Squaxin Island Tribe wants the plan to be clear about what actions will be taken as part of adaptive management. Actions could go “either way” depending on actual growth and projects being completed.
* New Policy Recommendations
	+ Financing – This would request funding for implementation, monitoring, and adaptive management, potentially from multiple sources.
	+ Report on Water Resources Information – Asks Ecology to report on additional water resource information including the total number of connections, domestic and municipal water rights in use, and cumulative impacts of water uses on instream flows.
* Monitoring and Research – Committee members indicated it would be appropriate to include in policy section, but also helpful to note in the adaptive management section that monitoring and data are necessary to support adaptive management.
* Assurance of Plan Implementation – Committee members were asked to provide a written statement about each entity’s commitments towards implementation.
	+ Squaxin Island Tribe suggested that if each entity could put down a few ideas that could help other committee members approve the plan if assurances are listed.

## Public Comments

* No public comments were provided.

## Next Steps and Adjourn

* Angela will revise the draft plan based on comments and today’s discussion.
* Committee members should review the new version of Chapter 6.
* Angela will distribute the Assurance of Plan Implementation for review at the December meeting.
* Angela is developing an executive summary of the plan, which will be included in the next draft.
* Second draft of the plan is expected in early-mid December.
* The next Committee meeting is Thursday December 10, 2020. Angela and Susan proposed extending the meeting time to 2 pm.
* The next project subgroup meeting is being scheduled, Angela will send out a calendar invite.