# 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 21st, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.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. Plan Adoption Pathways
2. Final Plan
3. Plan Compendium

## Attendance

### Committee Representatives and Alternates

Angela Johnson (*Ecology*)

Jeff Dickison (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

Paul Pickett (*Squaxin Island Tribe*)

Seth Book (*Skokomish Tribe*)

Dana Sarff (*Skokomish Tribe*)

Kaitlynn Nelson (*Thurston County*)

Kevin Shutty (*Mason County*)

Dave Windom (*Mason County*)

Ken Gill (*City of Shelton*)

Allison Cook (*WDFW*)

Larry Boltz (*Mason Kitsap Farm Bureau*)

Lois Ward (*WA State Chapter Sierra Club*)

Barbara Adkins (*Mason* *Conservation District, ex officio)*

Patti Case (*Green Diamond*, *ex officio)*

### Committee Representatives Not in Attendance\*

### Other Attendees\*

Susan Gulick *(Facilitator, Sound Resolutions)*

Jimmy Kralj (*ESA*)

Chad Wiseman (*HDR*)

Tom Culhane (*Ecology*)

Mike Noone (*Ecology*)

Stacy Vynne McKinstry (*Ecology)*

Rebecca Brown (*Ecology)*

Elena Hernandez (*Thurston County Public Works*)

Jason Gano (*Olympia Master Builders*)

\*Attendance is based on WebEx participation

## Welcome

Angela and Susan kicked off the meeting and took roll call. The group reviewed the meeting agenda. Susan and Angela notified the Committee that there was a request for the meeting to be recorded. The meeting recording is [available through WebEx](https://watech.webex.com/watech/ldr.php?RCID=b6d4639a653c4536958f056ba355f1f4) and is posted on the [Committee’s EZ View website.](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37326/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_14.aspx)

## Updates and Announcements

* The January 2021 meeting summaries were approved over email, no action is needed today.
  + We will have the same approval process for the meeting summary for this meeting.
* Angela provided updates regarding plan approval in the 90.94.020 and 90.94.030 processes.
* Ecology will finalize the timing of the next round of the Streamflow Restoration Grant program once funding is confirmed by the legislature.
* Angela provided a short summary of corrections and additions made to the plan since it was distributed for local review. Angela noted that the Committee had received notice that several entities intended to disapprove the plan today, but their decisions to do so were not based on any of the proposed changes; as such, Angela noted that she was not going to review the proposed changes in detail but that they were distributed with the meeting packet.

## Steps to Plan Adoption

* Angela provided an overview of the two pathways to plan adoption, as stated in the handout distributed with meeting materials: plans approved by the Committee, and plans not approved by the Committee or not adopted by Ecology by June 30, 2021.
* The Squaxin Island Tribe asked about the SEPA process for non-Committee approved plans.
  + Ecology responded that a SEPA process would occur but did not have further information at this time. Information will be shared with the Committee when it is available.

## Public Comment

* No public comment was provided.

## Committee Member Vote and Statements

* **Ecology**
  + Approve
  + Thanked the Committee for their hard work in the process.
* **Squaxin Island Tribe**
  + Disapprove
  + The tribe has submitted a letter to Ecology to document its intention to disapprove the WRIA 14 plan. The letter is signed by Andy Whitener who is a member of the Tribal Council. This decision was made and supported by the Council. While there are some positive aspects of the plan, the plan’s inadequacies outweigh the positive elements. There are insufficient projects in locations where there are likely to be increased exempt wells with an impact to salmon streams. The tribe offered several policy and regulatory proposals that were rejected and the plan contains no provisions for rulemaking.
* **Skokomish Tribe**
  + Disapprove
  + The Tribe will continue to work in partnership with other tribes and stakeholders to advance habitat and salmon recovery efforts.
* **WDFW**
  + Disapprove
  + The plan was reviewed by the Water Policy Team and the WDFW Director was briefed. WDFW has concerns about consumptive use estimates, streamflow benefits, uncertainty with implementation, and projects related to achieving NEB. WDFW submitted a letter to Ecology that further outlines their concerns.
* **Thurston County**
  + Approve
  + Supported by Board of County Commissioners
* **Mason County**
  + Approve
  + Expressed gratitude to the facilitation team, Ecology, and Mason County staff for their work. Mason County looks forward to continuing to work with partners to develop and advance work contained in the plan.
* **City of Shelton**
  + Approve
  + Expressed gratitude to the facilitation team, Ecology, and Shelton City Council Members.
* **Mason PUD 1**
  + Approve
  + Expressed concerns related to the plan. They felt that there was not enough time to review documents and models that were submitted to the Plan Compendium near the end of the review process.
* **Building Industry Association of Washington**
  + Disapprove
  + Believes that the plan falls outside the scope of the legislation. More detailed comments are included in a letter that they submitted to Ecology.
* **Sierra Club**
  + Approve
* **Mason Kitsap Farm Bureau**
  + Approve
  + Stated their frustration on the collaboration of the Committee. Expressed concerns about late additions to the Plan Compendium, and expressed hope that farming can be viable and continue to exist in the watershed.
* Ex-Officio Comments
  + Green Diamond Resource Company: Expressed hope that some of the work identified in the plan can advance and that partners can collaborate and work together.
* **The plan was not approved, with 4 entities voting to disapprove, and 7 entities voting to approve. The tally of the votes given by the Committee is presented below.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Entity** | **Committee Member** | **Approve** | **Disapprove** |
| **Ecology** | Angela Johnson | x |  |
| **Squaxin Island Tribe** | Jeff Dickison |  | x |
| **Skokomish Tribe** | Dana Sarff |  | x |
| **Department of Fish and Wildlife** | Allison Cook |  | x |
| **Thurston County** | Kaitlynn Nelson | x |  |
| **Mason County** | Kevin Shutty | x |  |
| **City of Shelton** | Ken Gill | x |  |
| **Mason PUD 1** | Ron Gold | x |  |
| **BIAW** | Josie Cummings |  | x |
| **WA Sierra Club** | Lois Ward | x |  |
| **Mason Kitsap Farm Bureau** | Larry Boltz | x |  |

**Post-Vote Discussion**

Angela and Susan confirmed with the Committee that the plan was not approved, and asked the Committee if there was any discussion on the outcome of the vote or how the Committee would like to proceed.

* Susan noted that the Committee, if they chose to, still had the opportunity to work together to reach consensus and vote again on the plan. However, based on the statements made during the vote, there did not appear to be a path to consensus given the range of disagreements as well as the constraints of the June 30, 2021 deadline.
  + There were no comments from the Committee in response to this statement.
* WDFW expressed concerns about the future of partnerships between entities on the Committee given the outcome of the final plan. Allison stated that she would be disappointed to see the disagreement on this plan bleed into the existing collaboration between salmon recovery partners in the field. She stated that relationships are so important to salmon recovery, and that she would encourage there to not be a breakdown of those relationships as a result of the outcome of this process.
* Angela and Susan thanked the Committee for this discussion and indicated they would be moving on to the next steps to wrap-up the meeting. They confirmed that the plan was not approved, and that based on the Committee’s discussion there would be no further action to make changes to the plan. If Committee members see a path forward that could lead to consensus, they should contact Angela or Susan.

## Next Steps

* Angela will notify Ecology management that the WRIA 14 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan is not approved, and will send the final draft plan along with any signing statements submitted by entities to confirm their vote. Angela noted that aside from the signing statements, this would not include documents submitted for the Plan Compendium. Committee members can submit letters to Ecology for their consideration at any time.
  + Angela noted that the timeline for Ecology moving forward on preparing the final plan under RCW 90.94.030(3)(h) has not been completely determined, but Ecology will not start on their plan adoption process until after June 30th. Angela will continue to be in touch with Committee members as information becomes available.
  + Ecology is prioritizing their review for approved plans. The timing of Ecology preparing plans that are not approved by Committees will be dependent upon work and demands from other plans and Committees – Ecology will be evaluating this over the next couple of months.
* The meeting summary will be approved over email.
* Angela and Susan thanked the Committee members and their entities, consultants, Ecology technical team, and all workgroup members for their time, hard work, and participation over the last 2.5 years.