Draft Meeting Summary

**WRIA 15 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement**

**Committee Meeting**

April 26, 2021 | 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.| [WRIA 15 Committee Webpage](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37327/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_15.aspx)

**Location**

WebEx

**Committee Chair**

Stacy Vynne

svyn461@ecy.wa.gov

(425) 649-7114

**Handouts**

* Agenda
* Final Draft WRIA 15 Plan
* Plan Corrections
* Plan Pathways

# Attendance

## Committee Representatives and Alternates \*

Dave Ward (Kitsap County)

Kathy Peters (Kitsap County)  
Randy Neatherlin (Mason County)  
David Windom (Mason County, alternate)  
David Winfrey (Puyallup Tribe)  
Dan Cardwell (Pierce County)  
Austin Jennings (Pierce County, alternate)

Dana Sarff (Skokomish Tribe)

Seth Book (Skokomish Tribe)

Alison O’Sullivan (Suquamish Tribe)

Teresa Smith (City of Bremerton)

Allison Satter (City of Bremerton, alternate)

Sam Phillips (Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe)

Jacki Brown (City of Port Orchard)

Paul Pickett (Squaxin Island Tribe)

Jeff Dickison (Squaxin Island Tribe)  
Scott Stelzner (Squaxin Island Tribe, alternate)

Zach Holt (City of Port Orchard, alternate)

Bri Ellis (City of Gig Harbor)

Christian Berg (City of Bainbridge Island, alternate)

Chris Wierzbicki (City of Bainbridge Island)

Joel Purdy (Kitsap Public Utility District)

Brittany Gordon (WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife)

Nam Siu (WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife, alternate)  
Greg Rabourn (King County)

Joe Hovenkotter (King County)  
Russ Shiplet (Kitsap Building Association)

Joy Garitone (Kitsap Conservation District)

Nathan Daniel (Great Peninsula Conservancy)

Larry Boltz (Mason-Kitsap Farm Bureau, ex-officio)

Shawn O’Dell (Washington Water Service, ex-officio)

Stacy Vynne McKinstry (WA Dept of Ecology)

## Other Attendees

Susan Gulick (Facilitator)

Caroline Burney (Info Manager)

John Covert (Ecology)

Bob Montgomery, Anchor QEA

Angela Johnson (Ecology)

Stephanie Potts (Ecology)

*\*Attendees list is based on roll call and participants signed into WebEx.*

# Updates and Announcements

* Ecology adopted the remaining plans under section 020 of the streamflow restoration law by the February 1, 2021 legislative deadline:
  + WRIAs 22/23: Chehalis
  + WRIA 49: Okanagan
  + WRIA 55: Little Spokane
* Update on local approval of watershed plans under section 030 of the streamflow restoration law:
  + Approved**:** WRIAs 9, 10, 12
    - Adoption deadline of June 30, 2021.
  + Not approved**:** WRIAs 7, 8, 13, 14
    - WRIAs 7 and 8 are still considering a path towards approval prior to June 30.
* Streamflow Restoration Grant Program: Ecology will determine the timing for the next grant round after the Washington State Legislature approves a budget for the 2021-2023 biennium.
  + Ecology requested $40 million for the biennium and $40 million was included in the Governor’s Capital budget proposal.
* Summary of WRIA 15 Plan Corrections:
  + Updates since March 1 corrected version incorporated feedback from Ecology’s technical staff and Committee members.
  + Edits included minor corrections as well as expansion of project descriptions.
  + Distributed a Comment Tracker with meeting materials.
  + Not planning to review revisions in detail since we are not expecting plan approval today.
  + Not planning to speak to the compendium today because that would only be submitted with an approved plan.

# Steps to Plan Adoption

Ecology reviewed the pathways for Plan adoption. Plans must be approved by all members of the Committee prior to submission to Ecology review and consideration for adoption.

**Materials**:

* [Steps to Plan Adoption](https://app.box.com/s/9p3gufccuuex5lmlf46o5575lfq78xwn)

**Discussion**:

* If the Plan is approved today:
  + Chair will submit the Plan and any compendium materials to Ecology tonight.
  + Ecology will complete the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review.
    - Environmental checklist and threshold determination for a non-project programmatic plan review.
    - Once Ecology makes a SEPA determination, there is a 25-day public comment period.
  + Ecology’s technical staff will determine whether the Plan meets Net Ecological Benefit (NEB).
  + Ecology management reviews the materials to provide a recommendation to the Director.
  + Ecology Director reviews and makes determination on adoption by June 30, 2021.
  + Plan adoption.
  + After plan adoption, the Water Resources Program will review policy, adaptive management, and implementation recommendations across all of the watershed plans to decide how to invest resources.
* If the Plan is not approved and adopted by June 30:
  + Ecology prepares the final draft Plan.
  + Ecology submits the Plan to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) for technical review and recommendations.
  + Ecology considers the recommendations and finalizes the Plan.
  + Ecology adopts the Plan.
  + Director shall initiate rulemaking within six months of plan adoption to incorporate recommendations into rules adopted under chapter 90.94 or under Chapter 90.22 or 90.54 RCW, and shall adopt amended rules within two years of initiation of rule-making.
  + No timeline identified in the legislation for Ecology to finalize the Plan.
  + No role identified for the Committee after June 30, 2021.
* If the plan is not approved today, it does not preclude the Committee from continuing to work on the Plan until June 30.

# Public Comment

*No comments.*

# Committee Member Vote and Statements on WRIA 15 WRE Plan

Facilitator reminded the Committee of the Operating Principles regarding voting on the final approval of the Plan. RCW 90.94 (3) states that “… all members of a watershed restoration and enhancement committee must approve the plan prior to adoption.”

**Materials**:

* [Final Draft WRIA 15 Plan](https://app.box.com/s/nonun6phcb7yuqny69rtt74tm4dsiwr0)
* [Letters from Committee members and resolutions](https://app.box.com/s/tr2a736tuxarhphhl8213bdqamzi9vt9)

**Decision**:

Committee members’ votes are below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Entity** | **Committee Member** | **Approve** | **Disapprove** |
| **Ecology** | Stacy Vynne McKinstry | x |  |
| **Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe** | Sam Phillips |  | x |
| **Suquamish Tribe** | Alison O'Sullivan |  | x |
| **Skokomish Tribe** | Dana Sarff |  | x |
| **Squaxin Island Tribe** | Jeff Dickison |  | x |
| **Puyallup Tribe** | David Winfrey | abstain | abstain |
| **Department of Fish and Wildlife** | Brittany Gordon |  | x |
| **Kitsap County** | David Ward | x |  |
| **Pierce County** | Dan Cardwell | x |  |
| **Mason County** | Randy Neatherlin | x |  |
| **King County** | Greg Rabourn | x |  |
| **City of Bremerton** | Teresa Smith | x |  |
| **City of Port Orchard** | Jacki Brown | x |  |
| **City of Gig Harbor** | Bri Ellis |  | x |
| **City of Bainbridge Island** | Chris Wierzbicki | x |  |
| **Kitsap Public Utility District** | Joel Purdy | x |  |
| **Kitsap Building Association (residential construction interest)** | Russ Shiplet | x |  |
| **Great Peninsula Conservancy (environmental interest)** | Nathan Daniel | x |  |
| **Kitsap Conservation District (agricultural interest)** | Joy Garitone | x |  |
| **TOTALS** |  | **12** | **6** |

**Statements:**

* Dana Sarff shared that the Skokomish Tribe disapproved.
  + The Skokomish Tribe thanks the Ecology team including Stacy, Susan, and the technical team for all the hard work during these challenging times. The Skokomish Tribe will continue to work in partnership with the other Tribes and stakeholders for the restoration of streamflows, salmon, and other species.
* Jeff Dickison shared that the Squaxin Island Tribe disapproved. Squaxin Island Tribe circulated a letter to Ecology outlining their position.
* David Winfrey shared that the Puyallup Tribe did not have time to consider the Plan. The Puyallup Tribe abstained.
* Brittany Gordon shared that WDFW has a number of concerns including the methodology used to determine consumptive use, uncertainty with regards to habitat benefits to streamflows, and a reliance on habitat projects.
  + Brittany thanked Ecology for the collaborative process and expressed appreciation to the Committee for its partnership.
* Greg Rabourn, King County, thanked community members, Ecology, the consultant team, and Kitsap Conservation District for hosting a great meeting.
* Joel Purdy, Kitsap Public Utility District, shared gratitude for Committee members and Ecology for all of the time and effort during difficult circumstances.
* Nathan Daniel, Great Peninsula Conservancy, thanked everyone for the hard work.
* Dave Ward, Kitsap County, thanked Ecology and Committee members for all of the relationships and hard work.
* Shawn O’Dell, Washington Water Service (Ex-Officio) commended everyone for their hard work throughout the process.

The final vote of 12 in favor, 6 opposed and 1 abstention was announced. Each member was given the opportunity to review the final vote tally to ensure it was accurate.

**Next Steps:**

* Facilitator thanked the Committee for all of the work, especially during challenging circumstances.
* Ecology does not anticipate reconvening the Committee. However, if a Committee member believes they have found a path to consensus, the Committee can reconvene.
* The facilitator expects that the Final Plan will build on the work of the Committee.
  + Committee members should notify Ecology with any projects or ideas to strengthen or advance the Plan.
* Chair will notify Ecology that the Plan was not approved and submit the Draft Plan and [letters](https://app.box.com/s/tr2a736tuxarhphhl8213bdqamzi9vt9).
  + Chair will not submit the compendium. If there are additional materials that Committee members would like sent to Ecology, send to Chair tonight.
* Chair can distribute notifications on updates to the listserv as the Plan is developed if there is interest from the Committee.
* Meeting summary will be distributed and asked for approval via email. Final summary will be posted on Committee website.

# Closing: Next Steps and Action Items

* Chair will notify Ecology that the Plan was not approved and submit the Draft Plan and letters.
* Committee members should let the Chair know if they want the Committee listserv maintained for updates on Plan progress.
* Ecology will send April meeting summary for review/approval via email.