



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Proposed rule to establish new State Waters Alteration Permit

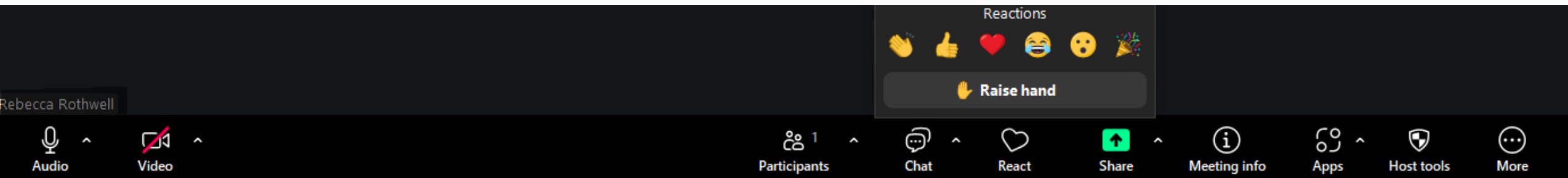
August 21, 2025

Ecology staff

- **Lauren Driscoll:** Wetlands Section Manager & rulemaking manager
- **Sonal Gangawala Khanna:** rulemaking lead
- **Teresa Opolka:** wetlands policy lead
- **Sierra Blakely:** wetlands specialist (facilitator)
- **Curt Hart:** communications consultant

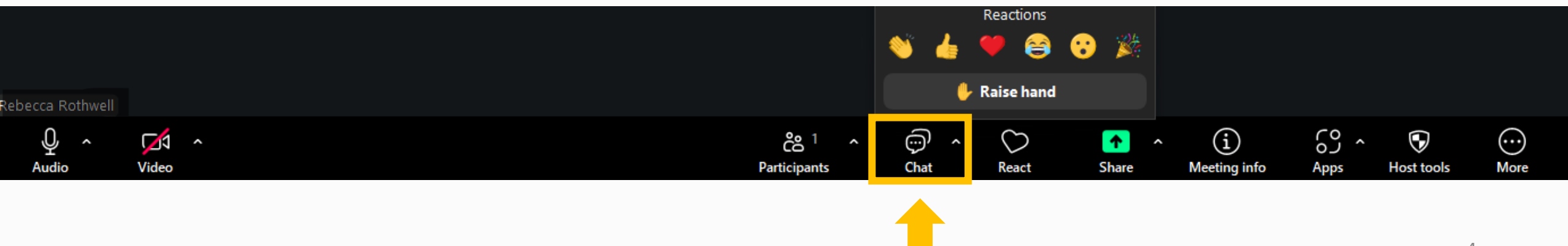
Zoom meeting tips

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- Please stay muted unless you have been invited to speak.
- Chat and Q&A are available; Q&A may be under “more.”



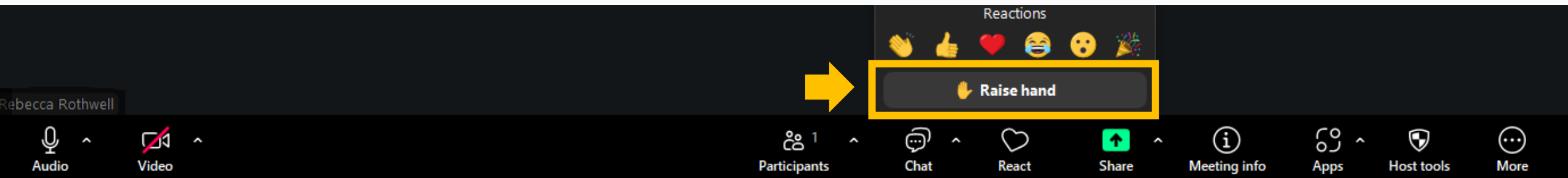
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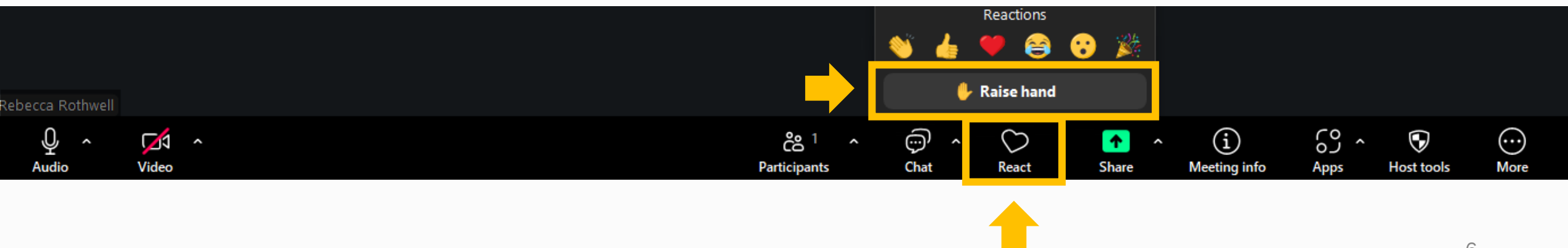
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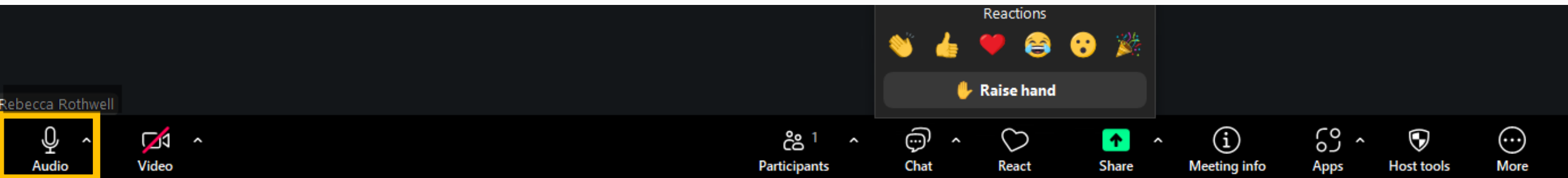
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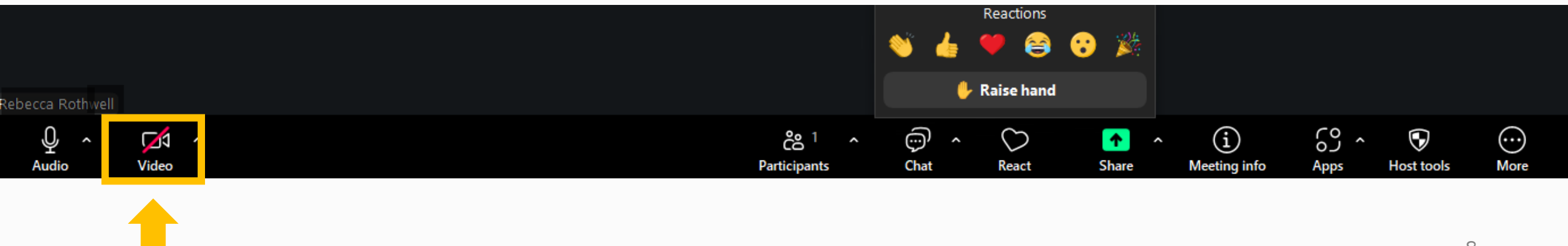
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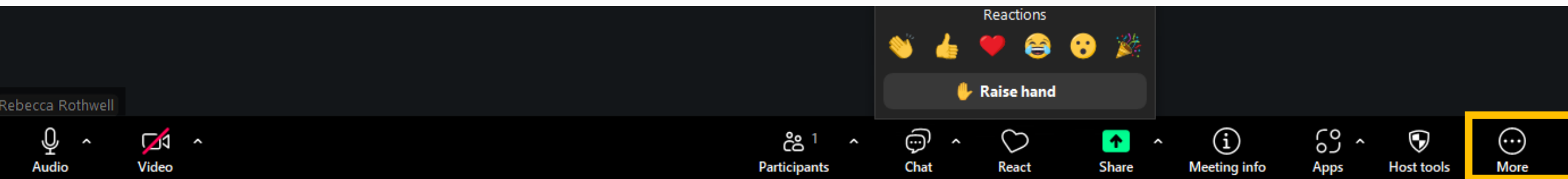
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Zoom audio tips



No sound? In audio settings:

Click “Test speaker & microphone” to confirm speaker and mic match settings in Zoom



Slow internet connection? Consider calling in for clearer audio.

Dial 253 215 8782 or 253 205 0468

Then meeting ID: 833 9951 5343

Then passcode: 893313



Still experiencing technical difficulties?

Message Ecology’s Sierra Blakely in chat

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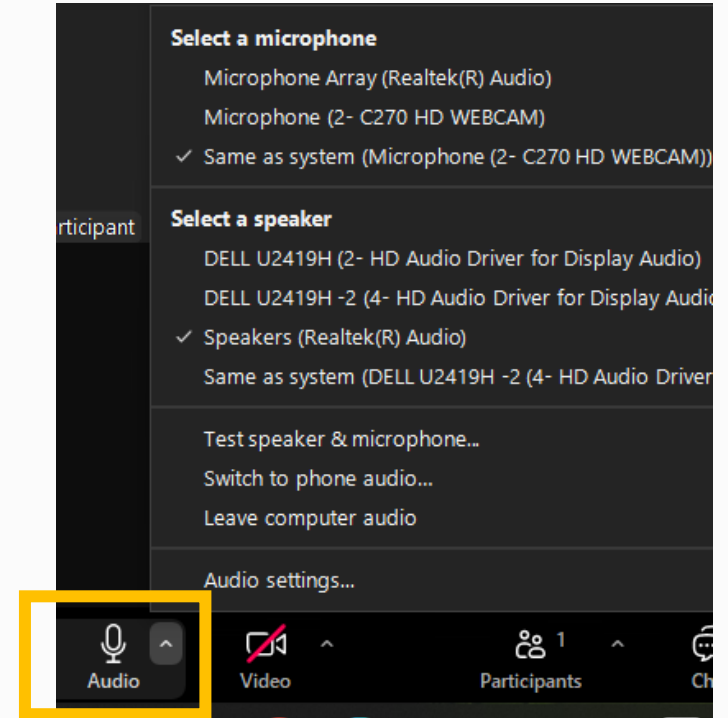
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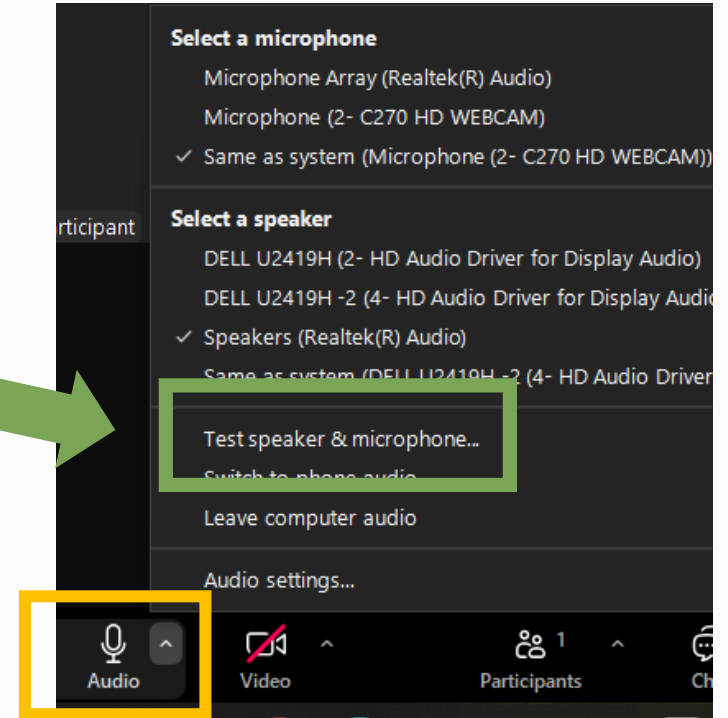
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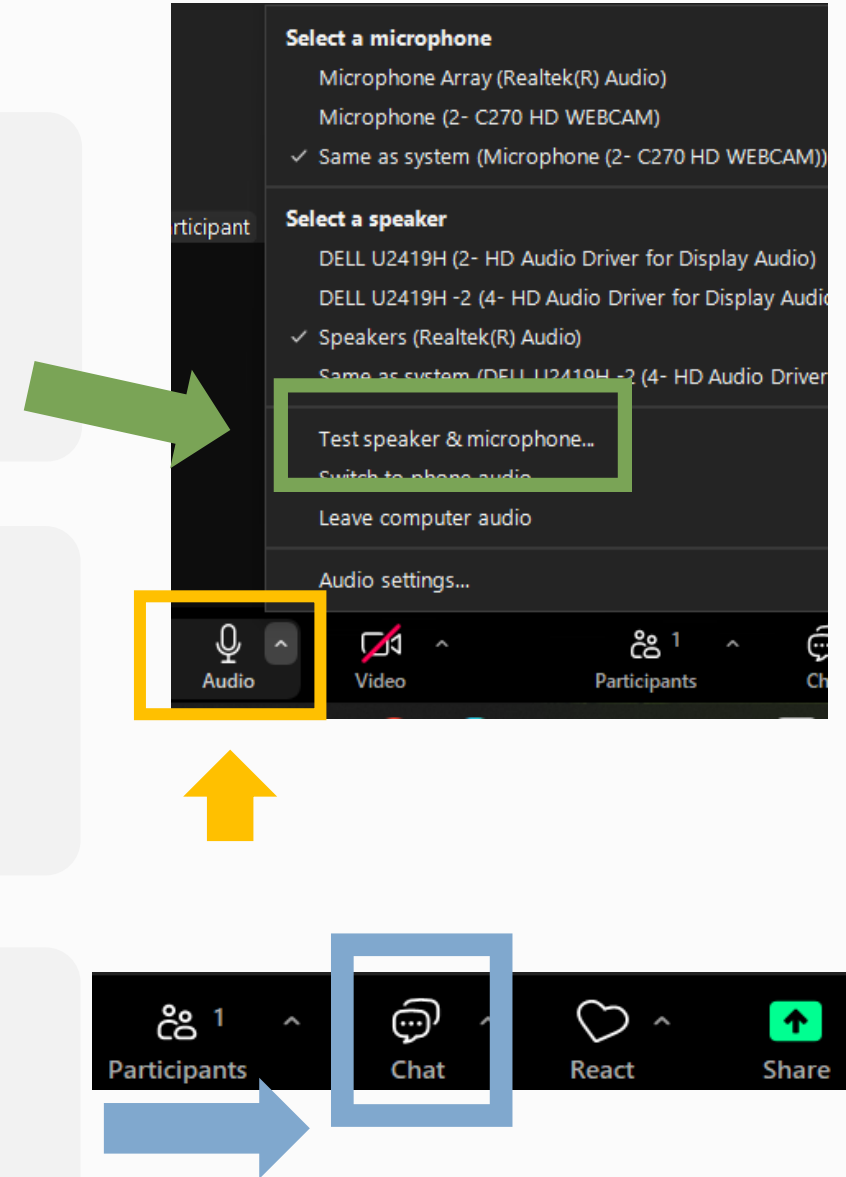
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Changing your name

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located at bottom of Zoom
window.

Select the “...” next to your
name to open the options
menu.

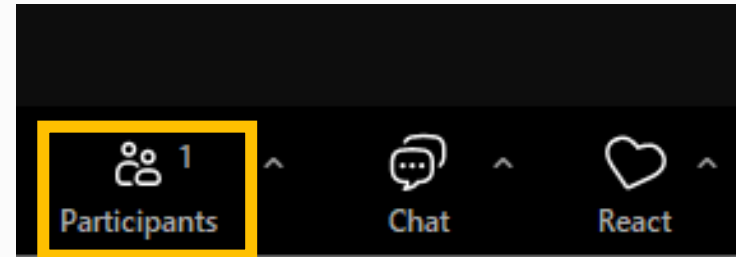
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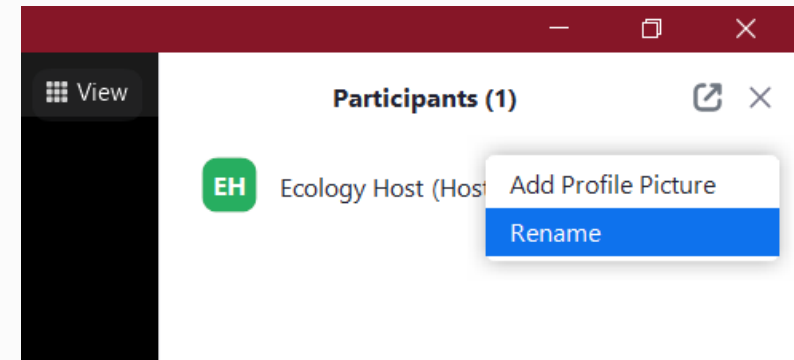
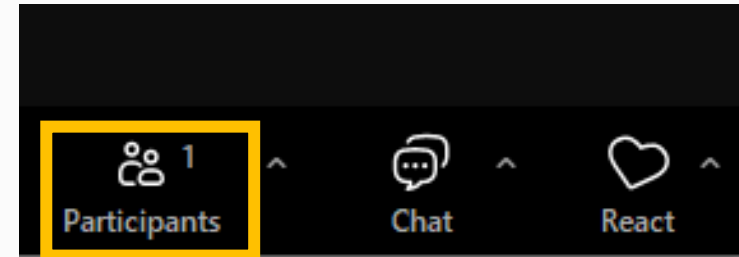


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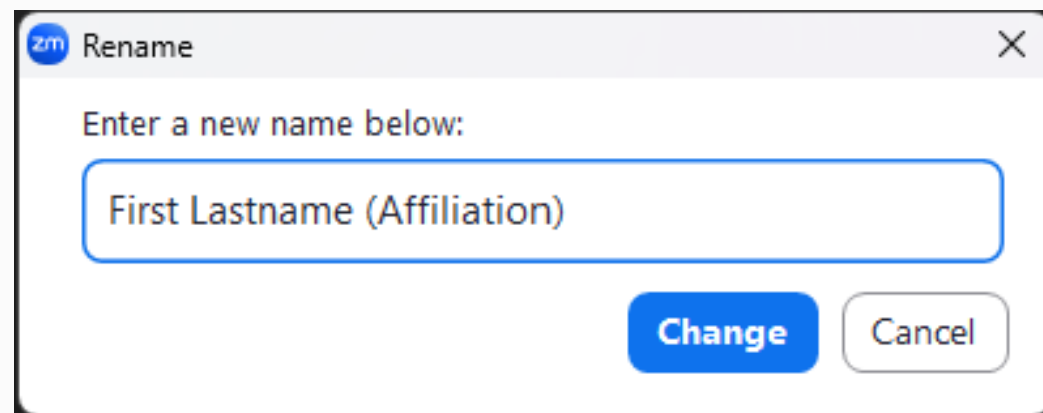
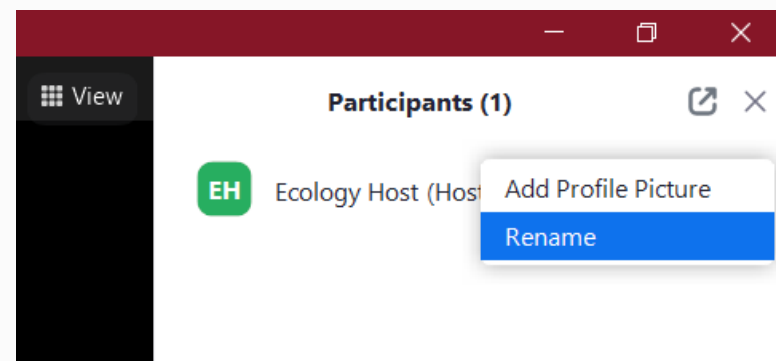
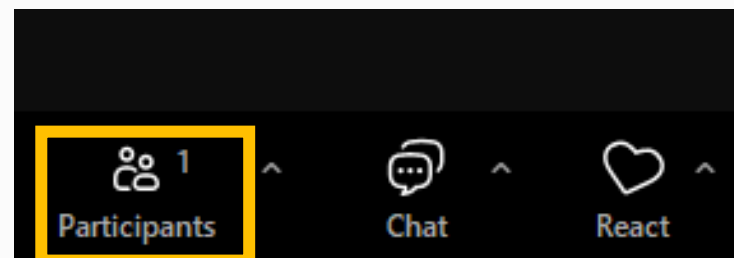


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Meeting goal & agenda

Goal: Listen to you to help guide rule development

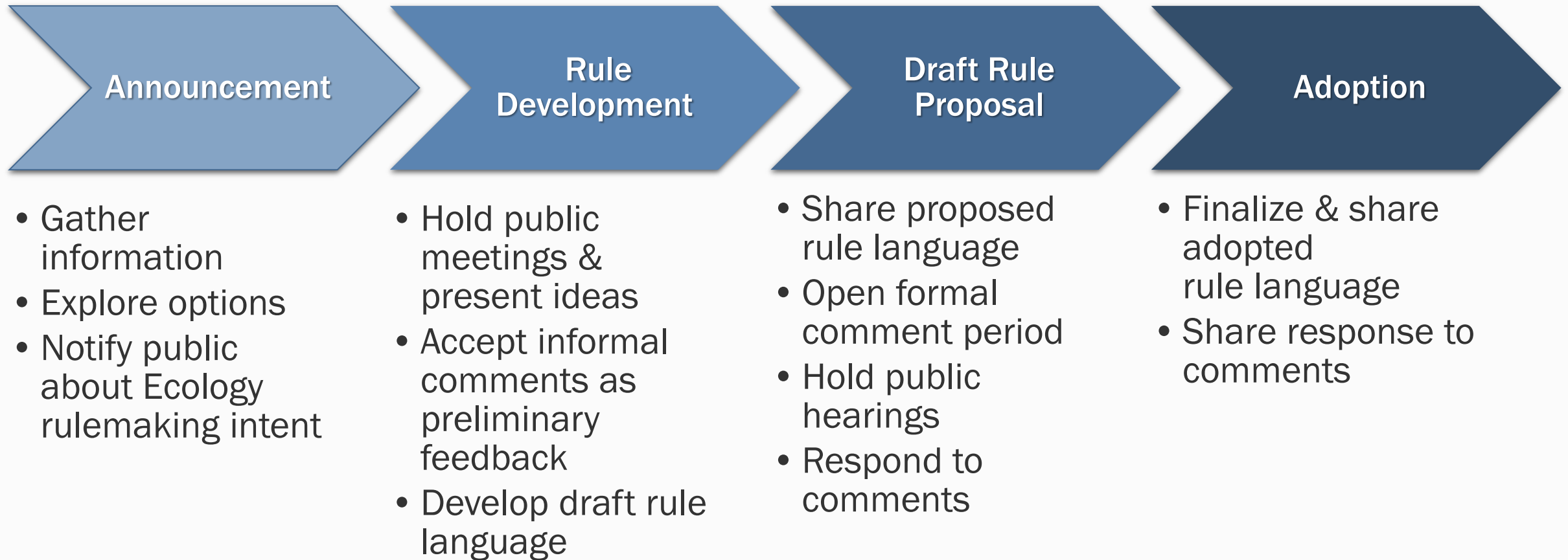
- Listening session overview
- Ecology rulemaking presentation
- Listening session

Need assistance? Type your request in chat, email Sierra Blakely at Sierra.Blakely@ecy.wa.gov, or call 564-250-0449.

Rulemaking terms

- **Revised Code of Washington or RCW** – State laws passed by Washington Legislature.
- **Washington Administrative Code or WAC** – State rules & regulations agencies use to implement state laws.
- **Rulemaking process** – Public process state agencies use to formulate & adopt state rules.

Rulemaking process overview



Rulemaking timeline

- **June 10, 2025:** Rulemaking announcement
- **June 2025 - Summer 2026:** Rule development
- **Summer 2026:** Draft rule language (public comment period)
- **Fall 2026:** Rule adoption
- **31 days after adoption:** Final rule would take effect



Overview: Proposed State Waters Alteration Permit rule

What are we proposing?

Establish new Ecology permit program.

- Evaluate & authorize impacts to wetlands, streams & other state waters.
- Replace & streamline current regulatory process.





Ecology's regulatory authority unchanged

We protect state waters through:

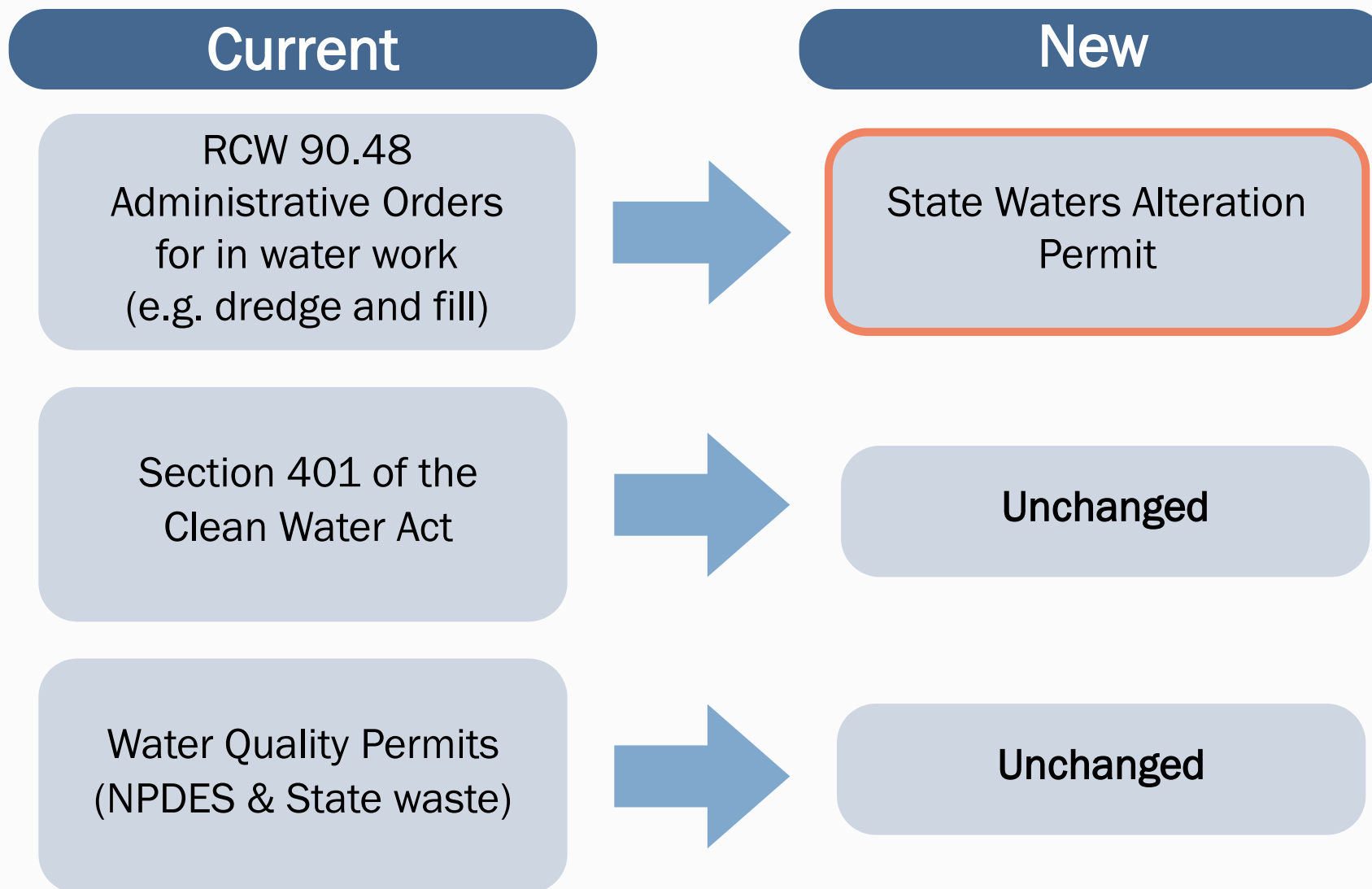
- State Water Pollution Control Act (RCW 90.48)
- State Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58)
- State Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A)
- Section 401 of federal Clean Water Act

Process improvements

- Offer better clarity about Ecology actions, requirements.
- Provide public review opportunities & set decision timelines.



Proposed Regulatory Process Change



Permit scope

State waters including:

- Wetlands
- Streams
- Ponds
- Lakes
- Ditches



Your participation is valuable!

- Stay informed

[WAC 173-217 - Washington State
Department of Ecology](#)

- Sign up for notices

[GovDelivery](#)

- We want to hear from you

SWAPrulemaking@ecy.wa.gov





Thank you for your partnership

Ecology commits to working closely with you to develop proposed State Waters Alteration Permit rule.

Listening session approach



Check-in questions:

- We are taking notes to document your input.
- Can we attribute your comments to you, either as an individual or your organization?



Listening session

Seeking your input and ideas to guide our rulemaking.

Thank you!

SWAPRulemaking@ecy.wa.gov



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