



Clean Water Advisory Committee

March 18, 2021

Committee Members in Attendance: Jenny DeGroot, Ryan Hawkins, Vicki Heater, Monico McKinnon, Judy Meyer, Laura Jo Severson, Kimbal Sundberg

Ex-officio, County support staff, and members of public: Matt Clausen, Byron Rot, Kendra Smith, Cathi Winings, Cindy Wolf, Faith Van De Putte, Ann Jarell

8:38 AM Byron Rot opens meeting with introductions around the 'virtual room.'

8:47 AM Welcome, Coast Salish Acknowledgement: *Let us acknowledge we reside on the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people who have called this place home since time immemorial and let us honor inherent, aboriginal and treaty rights that have been passed down from generation to generation.*

- Delay approval of January 2021 meeting minutes until May meeting.
- Public comments (Faith is the only member of 'public', no comment beyond introduction at this time.)

8:48 AM Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) - a path to improved Agriculture Land water quality.
VSP-CWAC joint working group. *Matt Claussen, Cathi Winnings, Byron Rot*

Matt: VSP meant to manage on watershed level but we deal with individuals, address issues in VSP with each plan.

QUESTIONS

Q: Would VSP deal with differences between Critical area ordinances and VSP? (cites Garrison Creek example)

Matt: Turn property owner toward best management practices. OR if they choose not to opt into VSP, then DOE comes into play. If it's a violation it goes to regulatory process, not clearly defined but in DOE purview. VSP not meant as an enforcement tool, it's for resource management. We can only give recommendations to landowners.

Q: If CD is the technical advisor, who is the watershed group that develops the plan?

Matt: Our work-group would address that. The primary focus was to develop our plan. Now need to address issues (legacy, cultural, etc.). Private landowners are one component, also public lands leased out.

Q: has anyone in CD heard from DOE about state water quality standards?

Matt: don't know yet how settlement will affect relationship between DOE and partner CD's, when we do iwill be in monthly VSP newsletter. Regulatory issue needs to be worked out.

Kendra: back to watershed group - we have technical advisors but not a group of people asking, what does this watershed need? Get more specific criteria. When we discuss capital improvement plan, should have this in mind.

Q: what about a symposium this winter? The CD is positioned well to act as a facilitator, a forum to talk specifics.

- should involve the ARC in that planning.

Faith: ARC wants to be involved, we need outreach and education. The work the CD is doing with one-on-one is great, but for the kind of change we're talking about that's not enough. I like the idea of the watershed group.

Vicki: in new monitoring plan we discuss priority watersheds, would be great to build a coalition to do outreach.

Matt: there are properties we can focus on for outreach to complement projects the County is working on.

Byron: we have funding for a summer intern for lower Garrison creek watershed. Should reach out to landowners around that. The intern will be onboard mid-June until toward end of September.

Cathi: part of 5-year reporting process we're going through now is review by the technical panel, review from 4 state agencies. Kelly Maclean from WA Dept. of Ag is part of the Ag tech panel. She has been with VSP from the start, has county planning experience. Willing to chat with VSP workgroup and CWAC

Kendra: Should schedule that in April, part of Surface water committee. (In May need to push on capital budgets.)

ACTION ITEM: Byron and Cathi talk offline about planning that (Cathi can reach out to Kelly with that date)

Judy: counties that have opted in are all in same boat. What's happening elsewhere, how solving same problems?

(Cathi, Matt, and Faith leave meeting)

9:44 AM Clean Water Advisory 2021 CIP project list.

Kendra Smith, Byron Rot

Reminder that committee members are obliged to review Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) annually. Rate structure is driven by rolling average of the CIP, try to keep numbers relatively steady so rates don't fluctuate. Kendra shares screen, shows spreadsheet with list of projects in current CIP, reviews current projects. Most are multiple year (outreach/design/permitting/implementation). Most on Lopez associated with stormwater retrofit.

Byron: some new projects too,

- Garrison Creek Corridor Restoration, the culvert under west valley road. cutthroat spawning area.
- another culvert at SJV creek that's undersized, also a public works placement.

Kendra: concerns about costs of materials, longer lead times, etc. Big projects still moving but slightly slower

Vicki: Judd Cove is a target area for the VSP, planning to work with some farmers in that area.

Kendra: then that would be a good one to target. Hope to maintain culverts large enough to protect beavers. At next meeting will send updated CIP, added additional projects with descriptions. Approval at July meeting.

Cindy: how is Cascade Creek flow restoration progressing? Has Rosario has become unresponsive?

Kim: Jenny presented yesterday for Orcas Island Senior group about work progress on Cascade Creek.

Kendra: we have a flow meter that will be installed, then we'll have a warning system when the flow is low.

ACTION ITEM: Byron talk to Jenny, send answer to Cindy's question to all CWAC, and get link to her presentation.

Byron: Speaking of Cascade creek, we put up new fencing, expanded planted area. making progress at mouth. Surface water subcommittee meeting next month to discuss Zylstra and other issues. Look at riparian strategy for lower watershed. Also discussion of Ag interests, need for a buffer as part of Trusts' conservation easement.

Kim: progress is being made, Land Bank has implemented new dam management for this year. Probably less water available for out-of-stream use this summer. Dam will operate at reduced capacity for safety purposes - Judy asks some questions about water quality sampling program for False Bay watershed and costs of analysis.

10:19 Quick culvert update: Cormorant Rd-Fish Trap Ck, Killebrew Lake Rd-Bayhead Ck., Orcas *Ryan Hawkins*
We should have some permits in at end of month, working on a BE for each site. Talking now with culvert manufacturer, long lead time and don't want to wait on ordering materials until bid for contractor.

10:22 AM 'Great meeting! Thanks everyone.' Adjourn.