



Clean Water Advisory Committee – Surface Water Subcommittee

November 18, 2021

Committee Members in Attendance: Lynn Bahrych, Jenny DeGroot, David Duggins, Bob Eagan, Vicki Heater, Ann Jarrell, Judy Meyer, Laura Jo Severson, Kimbal Sundberg

Ex-officio, County support staff, and members of public: Angela Broderick, Krista Davis, Erin Halcomb, Tenar Hall, Lucy Kramer, Jolyn Leslie, Wendel Raymond, Byron Rot, Buck Smith, Kendra Smith, Cathi Winings

8:35 AM Welcome and Coast Salish Acknowledgement Kimbal Sundberg

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.

8:36 AM Approval of September 2021 meeting minutes

Kim reviews action items. Vicki moves to approve September minutes, Judy seconds. All in favor.

8:38 AM Agency Updates

Jolyn: from Dept. of Health, found some PFOS contamination in wells around military bases

Harmful algal blooms – six related dog deaths detected in groundwater intakes in tri-cities area.

Kim: cyanobacteria detected in Zylstra lake; King County testing program confirmed. We could use help

Erin: working on long-term management. Now just sending in samples when there's a visible bloom

Jolyn: current program doesn't include prevention, involves public notice, mostly concerned with notification

ACTION ITEM: Jolyn will email links regarding King County harmful algal bloom program and PFOS advisory

Jolyn: About PFOS, 2 groups of contents involved in State advisory, concentration of concern is in parts per trillion. If it's detected in a water system need to have installed treatment, granular activated carbon

Buck: By April water supply was good with snowpack. Then rain stopped, heat wave at end of June, by mid-July snowpack was gone and drought declared. crop damage in summer. By November, stream flows went from near-low to near-highs in the last week, flooding in Skagit and Whatcom. Now getting snow again in high country

8:54 AM Public Comments

none

Tenar Hall from Orcas is in the meeting, on Eastsound water board, interested in learning more

8:55 AM CIP Project updates

Kendra Smith

Shows photos: Doe Bay isolation by washout, temporary culvert is in. Lots of debris washed down, landslides.

<https://theorcasonian.com/point-lawrence-road-washes-out-stranding-residents/>

Cascade creek has made a new pathway, shifting of boulders under the bridge. photo of Crescent beach culvert outflow. Looking down at West Beach, lessons learned from recent project about how to deal with woody debris.

On SJI, Bailer hill Road underwater, minor flooding. On Lopez, lost part of Center Lane Road and Richardson Road.

Judy: also spots on Port Stanley, water in some homes. **ACTION ITEM:** Judy will send Kendra some photos

Kendra: we just submitted a grant application for some planning. Some communities may not persist long-term or will need to flood proof, approximately 20 locations among the 4 main islands. Start process of moving some roads

Kim: I'd add False Bay Dr, waves were going over it

ACTION ITEM: if anyone else has photos of water damage/roads under water please send them to Kendra!

We will take photos of project sites/areas of concern week of December 5th – highest tides of the year.

Kim: app called MyCoast, I recommend uploading those photos in that database, they keep track of King tides

Kendra: we'll look at adding that to our records. We want these for meetings when urging to make changes.

Also, Cormorant culvert overtopped again, will be good to get replaced this spring/summer. Permit is imminent.

Same for Bayhead creek. And at Lopez Farmers' market: ditch excavated so no flooding at the Children's center. Reexamining that design before re-bid. Public Works is paying but we'll submit to State/Feds for funds. Focus on Doe Bay bridge. Talk to council members, get emergency money by moving fast to put in a long-term replacement

Byron: new fence at False Bay is partially underwater, still looks good, we'll plant when water drops

Jenny: once road gets connected, what about upstream in-channel pond at Doe Bay? At Cascade creek upper watershed, diversion pipe is busted so water is going down natural course to Buck Bay. All the staff gauges that were installed are blown out. CCC came out and did a great job with the preserve.

9:22 AM SJC 2021 Stormwater projects

Krista Davis

Krista shares screen – photos of Odlin park, baseball field flooded. Fisherman Bay rd. catch basin was overwhelmed, some spillover on road. Another Pt. Lawrence stormwater culvert undermined, will need replacing.

Kendra: highlights need for road levy to be upgraded; this should be their responsibility - structural failures

Krista: shows data for annual rainfall for 2020 and part of 2021. We've seen increases in monthly and yearly averages and amount of rain in 24 hours. High intensity/short duration rains are becoming more common.

This year, infrastructure maintenance: annual catch basin and street sweeping. Last three months FH street-sweeper went down, led to increased loads in catch basins. Hit outer catch-basins/street systems in parts of Orcas away from ferry landing. 4 days dedicated to culvert line cleaning and catch basins, had help from Orcas roads crews. Cleared clogged ditches. Trying to adjust size for capacity, more conveyance as population grows

Kim: in 1991 SJI was declared a disaster, may be some interesting data from that time

David: we have rainfall data from Mt. Dallas going back about 25 years I'd be glad to share

Krista: Small works on Lopez –new stormwater ditch in the Village and maintained drainage easement along Burt Road. Development reviews for stormwater reviews/inspections/enforcements are going great

Kendra: we plan to look at communications around this – we need people to do their own part with lot-to-lot drainage issues and clear their own systems before rainy season. And not de-water their sites

Judy: it is important to get something in the paper about that success, i.e. since rates went up on Lopez

9:40 AM UW Friday Harbor Labs, description of student projects

Wendel Raymond

Wendel introduces himself, BMEE – Biodiversity and Monitoring of Estuarine Ecosystems. Research Apprenticeship – 15 credit course, students execute their own research project.

Focus general instruction on estuaries, nearshore ecology, riparian zones, etc. in False Bay area. Student projects throughout the watershed. Overview of all students' projects; Lucy, looking at water flow, will talk shortly

• **Save the date: students' final presentation, Dec 8th 1-4pm, FHL or Zoom.** Currently plan to run the course again next Fall.

We got nutrient samples yesterday in this high water flow event, send them to UW lab for processing

Lucy: introduces herself and shares preliminary data. On 11/16, county height meter was underwater. Shows photos of contrasting water height between 10/26 and 11/14, culvert not visible, height meter barely visible

Lucy's questions: -how is flow controlled at Trout Lake dam and at Aug1 and Aug2 pumps? Also, what date did pumping stop from upper lake to lower lake Zylstra? Contact Lucy with comments/information at lewsee@uw.edu

Kim: they don't pump from outer lake, it's a siphon system

ACTION ITEM: Erin will send Lucy an email to connect to Doug McCutcheon at Land Bank

Cathi: from CD, I want to make sure you saw my email – interested in using your nutrient sampling data

Wendel: I've been taking notes, almost 9 months of samples now, it's our intent to make data available to anyone

ACTION ITEM: Byron and Wendel will be in touch about timing samples for rising water around next flood

10:03 AM Groundwater subcommittee August meeting report

Vicki Heater

We discussed USGS revisiting the groundwater model, specifically the seawater intrusion model

Judy: how can we propose feedback about what they're going to do?

ACTION ITEM: Vicki will contact Kyle, ensure he gets that proposal out to everyone

Kendra: I received notice from Ecology that we got that money, we've petitioned two agencies for this – Kyle already received funds from Commerce. Hoping we can still use money from Ecology. Artificial injection concept?

Bob: we recover all the water seasonally, too concerned about water quality to add surface water to groundwater

Kendra: but if we're having wash-off and then extended drought season getting longer, does equation still play out over time under a climate scenario? inject surface water into groundwater, then in summer draw it up and treat it

Bob: We don't have a large 'vat' to fill up without it running from underground into the bay.

Vicki: in Lopez village area, it was clear recharge was happening annually, difference could be a few inches

Bob: our problem isn't lack of water/water level, it's overconsumption. We have a water catchment

Ann: injecting worries me, reminds me of fracking. I'd want to be sure a hydrogeologist involved

Kendra: sounds like you don't like that idea, but still want to look at saltwater intrusion issue

Buck: unfortunately, it's not additional money it's the \$92K from State disbursed by Commerce instead of Ecology

10:15 AM Surface water subcommittee August meeting report

Kim Sundberg

We met in August –discussed water rights on Zylstra. Land Bank will move ahead with resolution with their attorney and Ecology regarding application to the Water Rights Trust program. It's a procedural mechanism between parties to negotiate a resolution out of court, process could be a 2-year period

Buck: sometimes confusing because there's a nonprofit called Washington water trust, they work as a broker. But at Dept. of Ecology is the Trust Water Rights program. Water rights can be placed in Trust temporarily, or can be donated permanently and Dept. Ecology takes ownership and maintains it for instream flow/mitigation purposes

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Water-rights/Trust-water-rights>

Jenny: are there funds set aside for an instream flow study?

Kim: no funds designated, grant program but SJ county was exempted. It would need to come from Land Bank False Bay creek is so heavily altered by past agriculture it's hard to tell where it is

Lynn: The SJICD has a recent video of cutthroat trout in Garrison Creek

Wayne gave a report about water supply to FH, not concerned. Dam is nearly 100 years old

Moving ahead with Land Bank and small group of planners to come up with some management goals for the Preserve (lake level lowered upon advice, removed flashboards and level lowered to original spillway)

10:31 AM Adjourn