

**DRAFT Chambers-Clover Watershed Council Meeting Notes**  
**Wednesday, January 14, 2009**  
**Lakewood City Hall, Lakewood, WA**

Attending: Kate Janson, Al Schmauder, Phil Schneider, Mark Vinciguerra, Paul Russell, Don Russell, Ray Hanowell, Melissa Paulson, Ingo Kuchta, Lindsay Tuttle, Mike Rhubright, Lorin Reinelt, Brad Murphy, Cindy James, Jennifer Hrivnak, Pad Finnigan, and Lone Clagett (taking notes).

**Presentations & Education**

**January Flood Event (Ingo Kuchta)**

Ingo brought an extensive series of photos to illustrate the recent flood event. He reported that the USGS gauge on the North Fork at Golden Given peaked at 400 cubic feet per second. The main stem of Clover Creek split at Pacific Avenue and 134th flooding the outside lanes. Other areas under water included the county's restored property and the Johnson property, which is slated for seven new homes to be built there in spite of the flooding problem. Some culverts proved to have inadequate capacity.

Ingo said that the retention ponds on the North Fork held up o.k. but were approaching capacity. The impacts of flooding-related water pollution have not been measured; Hurricane Katrina was, of course, the worse case scenario.

Mike added that a combination of obstruction plus over-capacity resulted in a sanitary sewer overflow at Wapato Lake in Tacoma. South Tacoma received 4 inches of rain and the ground was already saturated by previous snow/rain events. The City of Tacoma is aware of the flooding issues and was operating on emergency response mode, which included extensive sand-bagging at the waste water treatment plant in the tideflats.

**Review of December Planning Forum and 2009 Work Plan Development (Melissa Paulson)**

Meeting notes from the December 12<sup>th</sup> Planning Forum were distributed. Overall, the planning forum was a success – it was well attended, inspired some good discussion and included presentation of some great discussion by watershed council members and non-members. The survey distributed at the forum was also helpful and included some surprises in the responses. Thanks to everyone who helped pull the event together.

This year's work plan will be developed by using a new process (i.e., project proposal forms). We hope this system will help us avoid the problem from last year of "too many great ideas, too few project leads." We will take a look at project suggestions by the first of February and plug them into the work plan. SPSSEG has already submitted two proposals; City of University Place and Pierce County SWM have also submitted projects. Any additional project ideas should be submitted to Melissa via email or snail mail. There were a lot of great ideas but there needs to be someone who will step up and take the lead.

**Election of CCWC Officers**

Those present voted the slate and welcomed the new officers: Chair, Mike Rhubright; Vice Chair, Lone Clagett; Secretary/Treasurer, Lindsay Tuttle. Retiring Chair, Al Schmauder,

indicated that he would like to be Director of Stewardship. A huge thanks to everyone for the work they've done for the CCWC in the past and for volunteering to serve as officers in the coming year!

### **Brief Reports**

**TPCHD** (Lindsay Tuttle) - Lindsay has been checking lakes. Some, such as American, have winter blooms. There's a new toxic algae grant from Ecology. The time lapse between sampling and lab results is too lengthy when dealing with a potential public health risk. Also, the level of toxin has to be balanced with the chance of exposure. Leach Creek has a "Stay Out of Creek" advisory. The source may be sanitary sewer lines. Tacoma and Fircrest should have this corrected by the first of April. Meanwhile, City of UP will have to keep school kids out of the creek at Kobayashi.

**WDFW** (Jim Jenkins) - Approximately 1400-1500 chum returned upstream. Kokanee are due soon. As a spring-fed facility they are not impacted by flooding events. Comment: We need salmon watchers and to start developing community viewing sites so watershed residents can learn about and appreciate fish.

**Ecology** (Cindy James) - Leach Creek at Bridgeport Way registered three of four of the highest readings for mercury. Ecology is asking for further investigation.

**City of Tacoma** (Mike Rhubright) - It's report time for stormwater, Thea Foss, among others. Inspections of businesses numbered 1700. We learned that the bypass which sends water to the Thea Foss is working.

**City of Lakewood** - Lakewood City councilmember Pad Finnigan is attending the meeting today due to the recent communication blitz, which included mailing of a letter and the 2007 annual report to approximately 500 streamside residents in the watershed.

**Leach Creek** - Jim Ebbert is back teaching, is being kept very busy and can't attend CCWC regularly.

**Pierce County** - The Morey Creek fish bypass project has been funded by the State Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Pierce County SWM is working with McChord AFB on design and construction.

**Chair's Report** - The Muck Creek chum festival will be held this weekend to welcome the chum home. There's a former water wheel on Ponce de Leon Creek that used to be used for generating power; maybe that could be started up again with a fish ladder this time. The new web site ([www.chambersclover.org](http://www.chambersclover.org)) is just about ready to check out but will be in development over the next year.

### **Announcements**

Special appreciation was extended to Al Schmauder for all the years he has devoted to working in the watershed to help make it a healthy place for fish and citizens. Melissa assembled a slide program of Al's activities, compiling vintage photos and newspaper articles, many of them from Paul Russell's archives. A big thanks, Al!

Adjourn