

DRAFT Chambers-Clover Watershed Council Meeting Notes
Wednesday, February 11th, 2009
Lakewood City Hall, Lakewood, WA

Attending: Ione Claggett, Mark Vinciguerra, Al Schmauder, Don Russell, Greg Vigoren, Mark Savoca, Cindy James, Brad Murphy, Melissa Paulson, Jim Jenkins, Shawn Madison, Marc Pease, Tina Grigg, Mike Rhubright, Pad Finnigan, and Lindsay Tuttle (taking notes).

Presentations & Education

Interactions Between Streams and Groundwater in WRIA 12: Numerical Simulation of Water Resources in the Chambers-Clover Watershed (Mark Savoca)

The goal for the groundwater model (model) is to characterize groundwater flow and the interaction with surface water. This would create a flow model that would allow resource managers and stakeholders the understanding of groundwater and surface water functions and potential future impacts. The model would be a tool to answer key questions about how the system functions.

The study area for the groundwater model (model) is larger than the Chambers Clover Watershed. The study area is about 700 square miles and is bordered by the Puyallup River, Nisqually River, Puget Sound and the Cascade Mountain foothills. Project partners include: Pierce Conservation District, Public Water purveyors, Pierce County Surface Water Management, DOE, TPCHD and environmental consultants.

The information needed to put this together includes a three-dimensional model of the groundwater and surface water, hydrogeology and a water budget looking at recharge and withdrawal. The best 144 wells were distributed throughout study area, located in different aquifers and monitored monthly for 1.5 years. Surface water was looked during wet and dry conditions to determine how they contribute to the groundwater.

In order to put together a hydrogeologic framework, 450 well logs were looked at to create 8 3D cross-sections of different layers. Exchange of water between shallow aquifer and surface water is very hard to differentiate. Creating a water budget included looking at what is coming into the system and what is leaving. Groundwater and surface water are both while precipitation is always coming in. There is also difficulty when looking at issues such as septic vs. sewer. Model limitations include money, time and access to information.

Performance demonstrations by about 6 model simulations show a representation of a range of conditions. They look at changes in stream flow and groundwater level. They also look at variation in precipitation and anthropogenic infrastructure. Stewardship and future use include model refinement, continuation of data collection and USGS providing code and data sets. CCWC has an important role in modeling study by making sure it is used correctly and effectively.

TPCHD Source Control Program (Shawn Madison and Tina Grigg)

NPDES phase 1 permit. Focusing on storm water, wastewater and hazardous material in the Puyallup area. Have inspection reports that go to DOE. Provide information to educate property owners. Summary of findings is sent to property owner with any actions needed or follow-up required information. Any outstanding concerns are reported to DOE or the City of location (Puyallup, Tacoma) for enforcement.

Brief Reports

WDFW (Jim Jenkins) – Budget constraints may cause WDFW enforcement officers to be combined with WSP. May be significant reductions of Coho and Steelhead runs due to budget reductions. Have an interim director, which is having impacts on business within WDFW.

DOE (Brad Murphy & Cindy James) – Have account with \$40,000 for restoration work within the entire region. Will be prioritizing projects and is not a onetime deal. Applications are due the first week of March (2-3 pages). Has request in for further investigation of Mercury in Leach Creek.

City of Tacoma (Chair, Mike Rhubright) – They had 1,928 business inspections in 2008. Business in the Port of Tacoma dumped hazardous material (oil?) in sanitary sewer. Snake Lake LID/rain garden training was a success. Source Control position open. Mike and AI will be talking to Pierce County water purveyors next month.

City of Lakewood (Greg Vigoren) – Surface Water Management Plan being updated. Several capital projects are under design. Working to finish Lakewood Police Station.

AI Schmauder – 1) Yellow Iris removal project at Spanaway Creek/Lake area; working with Sprinker to recruit volunteers and get message out. Lemay will compost waste material. 2) Submitted an application to the WRIA 10/12 lead entity to scope the removal of the Chambers Creek Dam. Need to purchase couple acres of Abitibi Property in order to daylight Garrison Spring. 3) Ponce de Leon Creek Dam could be redesigned to allow for fish passage and possibly serve as a source of generating power. 4) Hanson Pipe was fined by Ecology for discharging pollutants to Leach Creek. AI wants to use funds from fine to purchase property on Leach Creek or other projects to keep the money in the watershed.

Pierce County (Melissa Paulson) – Friends of Leach Creek looking for advocate to take on role with CCWC. The Community Salmon Fund application to fund a second round of the Puyallup/Chambers-Clover Small Grants Program is in a “to be determined” funding category. The Puget Sound Georgia Basin Ecosystem Conference was a success with big picture focused on watershed issues. Annual report will again be the trifold version. Feedback on draft workplan is needed. On Feb. 13th Melissa and AI will talk with PLU student to help increase involvement in the CCW and give them a tour of the CCW.

TPCHD (Lindsay Tuttle) – Toxic algae blooms at Waughop and Clear Lake. Several dead waterfowl turned up at Wapato Lake. Specimens were collected and sent to WDFW lab for necropsy. China Lake advisory due to bacteriological levels posted 1-22-09.

Rainier Media (Marc Pease) – Involved in social networking and has small grants funding opportunity.

Cascade Land Conservancy (Ione Clagett) – Will attend Patty McCarthy reception for CCWC. No funding this year to purchase property of interest on Morey Creek. Need to find alternate means.

Mark Vinciguerra – Met with Damian Petty (Spanaway Lake resident) and will be sampling Spanaway Lake for nutrients with a personal HACH Meter.

Next meeting: March 11th