

**DRAFT Chambers-Clover Watershed Council Meeting Notes**  
**Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**Lakewood City Hall, Lakewood, WA**

Attending: Ione Claggett, Mark Vinciguerra, Don Russell, Greg Vigoren, Cindy James, Brad Murphy, Melissa Paulson (taking notes), Jim Jenkins, Rick Norberg, Stephanie Leisle, Bill Horn, Bob Vogel, Shelly Eisenbarth, Ingrid Wachtler, Marilyn Jacobs, Sharon Charbonnel, Nell Batker, Marianne Lincoln, Dick Muri

**Planned Presentations and Education**

**Native Plants in Riparian Areas – Ingrid Wachtler, Woodbrook Native Plant Nursery**

Native plants serve many important functions in riparian buffer areas. Native plants: 1) provide shade, keeping water temperatures cool for fish; 2) provide important habitat for birds, bugs and other native animal species; 3) hold the soil and prevent erosion; 4) filter out heavy metals and other contaminants that would otherwise end up in the creek; and 5) delay and moderate runoff, by taking up moisture through their roots (i.e., evapotranspiration) and by intercepting rainfall on the canopy. Some species also provide important nutrients for other plants and wildlife (e.g., red alders fix nitrogen in the soil).

Natives are considered better for riparian areas (and are becoming more and more popular in landscaping) because they're locally adapted to our climate and are preferred by our birds, fish and wildlife. Native plants are also resilient to disease and require less labor-intensive maintenance (e.g., spraying and watering). Because of this, the weak amount of information in the literature about cultivation of native species is growing.

Species particularly well-suited to riparian areas and associated upland buffers include:

- Trees – Willows, Red Alder, Oregon ash, cottonwood, aspen, paper birch, bigleaf maple, Pacific crabapple, choke cherry, Western hawthorn, Western red cedar and Western hemlock
- Shrubs – Vine maple, salmonberry, golden currant, red-flowering currant (“the Cadillac of flowering native shrubs!”), Douglas spirea, Pacific ninebark, nootka and swamp rose, snowberry, Indian plum, ocean spray, mock orange, red elderberry, evergreen huckleberry, highbush cranberry (amazing fall color!), swamp currant, redtwig dogwood and black twinberry
- Groundcovers and Lower Growing Plants – False lily of the valley, Douglas iris, skunk cabbage, small fruited bulrush, bleeding heart, yellow monkey flower, yellow-eyed and blue-eyed grasses, piggyback, fringecup, marsh violet, inside-out flower, asters, bunchberry, low Oregon grape, Western sword fern, salal, deer fern, lady fern, wild ginger, sedges, rushes and marsh marigold

Ingrid is owner of Woodbrook Native Plant Nursery in Gig Harbor: [www.woodbrook.net](http://www.woodbrook.net) or (253)365-6271.

## **Chambers Creek Knotweed Control Project – Shelly Eisenbarth & Bob Vogel, Pierce County Public Works and Utilities**

The “Knockout Knotweed!” program for controlling Japanese knotweed in the greater Chambers Canyon area was started last year by interns who used GPS to map the location of all knotweed stands in Chambers, Leach, Peach and Flett creeks. These stands will be controlled by a combination of bending and spraying -- the canes will be bent approximately one foot from the ground and the plant will be allowed to regrow, after which point it will be either sprayed or injected with glyphosate (“roundup”). This process makes the knotweed shorter and easier to spray, allows for more effective and efficient use of herbicide, and has been quite successful in Pierce Conservation District’s knotweed control efforts near South Prairie Creek.

Volunteers from the CCWC are needed to help out with the bending process in early June. Other groups helping include Curtis High School and PCD (Leach), Clover Park Technical College (Flett), and possibly Clover Park High School (Chambers). Because we supported this project in the grant-writing phase by promising volunteer help, it’s important that we do what we can to make this project successful. Chambers Canyon is also one of the most beautiful places in our watershed, and this project would be a great opportunity for anyone who hasn’t already done so to see it first-hand. Interested folks should contact Shelly or Melissa to arrange the details. Help is also needed coordinating with those “red zone” property owners who have not yet given permission for knotweed control activities to happen on their parcels.

After the knotweed is sprayed, it will be monitored for three+ years to assure that it does not grow back and then the area will be replanted with native trees and shrubs.

### **Information Sharing and Announcements**

**Department of Fish and Wildlife** (Jim Jenkins) – Cutthroat trout have been planted in Pierce, Thurston, Mason and King counties. One million+ hatchery Chinook have been planted in the Chambers Creek system and 300,000 kokanee were planted in American Lake. There will be no planting in Wapato Lake this year. Because of high toxicity levels, WDFW is working with TPCHD to decide whether/when to plant fish in Waughop Lake (also due to wanting to avoid conflicts between encouraging recreational fishing and discouraging people from eating fish from lakes that have been posted for toxic algae).

**Department of Ecology** (Brad Murphy & Cindy James) – Budget cuts continue to get worse at Ecology (i.e., from \$16 m to \$8 m) and it’s likely that there will be between 4.5 and 6 FTEs lost in the near term. Some of the watershed liason folks like Brad may be reassigned to other duties. Cindy got approval to pursue a source identification for the high mercury levels in samples from Leach Creek. Ecology is involved with the Glacier NW process and will be assisting with a supplement to the final EIS and a redo of SEPA for the project.

**City of Tacoma** (Rick Norberg) – The next “Wake Up, Wapato” event will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup>, which will also include marking of stormdrains with plastic badges purchased with Puyallup/Chambers-Clover Small Grants Program money. Marking will also take place on June 27<sup>th</sup>. “Make a Splash” grant applications are due Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**City of Lakewood** (Greg Vigoren) – Lakewood open bids for 101 drywell replacements this year and will award the contract soon. The Tillicum/American Lake Gardens sewer project has been awarded, with construction beginning this month (May 28<sup>th</sup> groundbreaking ceremony). The City’s development code is being revised to include NPDES stormwater requirements.

Greg's "baby" (the police station) is almost wrapped up: people moved in last month and the details should be done soon! Check out the new rain garden outside City Hall.

**Pierce County** (Melissa Paulson & Stephanie Leisle) – Environmental educators helped 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Dupont stencil stormdrains in early May. The Core Group to give input to the Puget Sound Partnership is having a meeting on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at the ESB. Clover Creek Restoration Phase 3 is out to bid and will begin construction this summer. Letters of Intent for SRFB projects are due May 22<sup>nd</sup> to Lorin Reinelt.

**Project Action Team** (Melissa) – The first PAT meeting was held in late April and will be a great way to connect projects with resources and ideas. Let us know if you have any project needs or can provide resources or technical expertise. Next meeting is July 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Chair's Report** (lone as Acting Chair) – The CCWC is hosting the September 3<sup>rd</sup> Tacoma Green Drinks and lone needs ideas for locations where we could have the event. Should be a fun outreach/meet-and-greet opportunity!

### **CCWC Business**

Follow-up to April meeting on Sequatchew Creek: Because of significant changes in the process since April, we'll not be writing a letter to weigh in on the short term. Instead, we'll wait until the public comment period for the revised SEPA. Don will track the issue for us and we'll keep everyone posted as we learn more.

Safe Drug Disposal Act of 2009 (HR1191): The Executive Committee is drafting a letter of support for this piece of legislation, as it's consistent with our values. Comments are welcome.

2008 Annual Report: This is now finished! Thanks to everyone for their help. We're working to find a way to have many copies made, which we'll use to do outreach and direct mailing over the next year. Let Melissa know if you need copies.

Spring Field Trip: Mark your calendars for Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 9 to noon. Focus will be on water quality sampling in our watershed. More info will be available soon.

### **Next Meeting**

June 10<sup>th</sup> – Salmon policy in Chambers Creek system (speakers from WDFW and NOAA tba)

*Adjourn @ 5:30 p.m.*