

DRAFT Chambers-Clover Watershed Council Meeting Notes
Wednesday, July 8th, 2009
Lakewood City Hall, Lakewood, WA

Attending: Mark Vinciguerra, Don Russell, Melissa Paulson, Jim Jenkins, Mike Rhubright, Greg Vigoren, Jason Rothermel, Andrew Kolosseus, Dan Wrye, Heather Whybrew, Reed Ojala-Barbous and Lindsay Tuttle (taking notes).

Presentations & Education

South Puget Sound Dissolved Oxygen Study
Andrew Kolosseus, Washington State Department of Ecology

This is an overview of the study as there are no final results at this time. The problem of low dissolved oxygen in the South Puget Sound has been known for some time but the lack of funding restricted any study to be done until now. South Puget Sound Dissolved Oxygen Study includes Seattle south although the focus was on Tacoma south. In this area there are very low levels of dissolved oxygen that can stress or kill fish and other marine life if they do not leave their habitat.

Nitrogen is the main pollutant that causes low dissolved oxygen levels. There are natural sources as well as human influenced sources. Discharges from wastewater treatment plants (WWTP), septic systems are some human influenced sources of nitrogen into the South Puget Sound. Septics are not a dominant source but definitely contribute to the nitrogen levels in Puget Sound. Septics are being looked at in Hood Canal.

Rivers and atmospheric deposition are some natural sources of nitrogen to the Puget Sound. Rivers were monitored in 2006-2007 and showed that flows as well as loading of nitrogen decreased in the summer. Over a years time the amount of nitrogen introduced into Puget Sound by the rivers equals what is introduced by WWTP. WWTP introduce a consistent amount of nitrogen through the year. Excess nitrogen causes excess algae growth. As the algae die and decay, the rob water of dissolved oxygen. Once released into Puget Sound, nitrogen moves around and can cause low dissolved oxygen many miles away.

Sampling was done throughout the Puget Sound and the next step is to input the data into a computer model. This computer model will allow researchers to run "what if" scenarios. An advisory committee is meeting in late July to verify that the computer model is representing real data. Participation is encouraged for the advisory committee to review the data. The computer model will allow for a more detailed look at nitrogen discharge by WWTP and rivers. Computer model should help with finger pointing and point source vs. non point source concerns.

Long term plan of action could include a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Project. Other options could arise if humans are determined to be a major contributor. There is a project on statewide nitrogen and phosphorus removal for WWTPs.

Pierce County Water Quality Report Card
Dan Wrye, Pierce County SWM

Is the water quality in Pierce County's streams getting better or worse? Chesapeake Bay has a report card, which Pierce County has used as a template for their first report card. They decided to look at water health (physical and biological characteristics) rather than just water quality (only physical characteristics). They used the Water Quality Index, B-IBI biological indicators (benthic invertebrate sampling) and Ecology's 303d listings to help communicate the health of Pierce County streams. Pierce

County will be adding additional creeks and streams in the future along with lakes and marine water bodies.

Pierce County used the indicators mentioned above to determine a grade structure and added a demerit system to get a grade for the surface water body. The report card will be published yearly. The intended audience is elected officials, advocacy groups, and anyone who is concerned. The report will help prioritize efforts to bring creeks/streams up to grade and look at why some creeks/streams are getting a low grade while others are doing fine. At this point, the report card isn't perfect, but it's a good start.

Brief Reports

TPCHD (Lindsay Tuttle) – Leach Creek resampled and still not below levels of concern so advisory stays in place. Need to discuss option with cities involved.

WDFW (Jim Jenkins) – Coho plant from Minter Hatchery took place. 150,000 went to Lake Sequalitchew and 80,000 went to Steilacoom Lake. He is working with the Regional Wildlife Biologist Mike Scharpf and military base on the Dupont Flume. CCWC Chair should possibly attend WDFW training for the Hatchery Assessment and Evaluation Team. The draft policy on hatchery and fishery reform and the 21st century Salmon and Steelhead Initiative have been completed.

City of Tacoma (Chair, Mike Rhubright) – He is leaving his position with the City of Tacoma and taking a job with Tacoma Public Utilities. The City of Tacoma has completed 12,000 inspections, responded to 300 spill complaints and are continuing smoke testing and storm basin cleaning in the Puyallup Basin.

City of Lakewood (Greg Vigoren) – They have completed 25 drywells and placed a storm filter on the discharge to Lake Louise.

Pierce County (Dan Wrye & Melissa Paulson) – Letters have been mailed to 1500 potential pollution sources and they have received 75 responses so far. Received \$75,000 in combined grant/loan dollars received for the onsite septic repair work that has been ongoing with the TPCHD. Clover Creek Phase III contract won by Olson Brothers Excavation. Morey Fish Passage details need to be tied up. Money has been put on the table by the Department of Defense and there were some problems accepting it but that has been resolved. DOE needs permit application from Pierce County and it is on the way. Construction should start August 1st. SRF Board meeting today and Melissa and Mike attended. Contact them if want any info. Tom Kantz is now the salmon recovery (WRIA 10/12 Lead Entity) coordinator in place of Lorin Reinelt. Pierce County is looking into providing NPDES services to cities. Almost \$1 million in loans have been offered. We will know in one week if received loans.

Watershed Council Business: Friday 11am – noon PAT Team. Rainier Media video on CCW has been completed. Summer Watershed Cinema set for Aug. 20th to watch Liquid Assets. August 12th CCWC meeting is in the air due to Melissa being on vacation and low attendance due to the summer season.