

Chambers-Clover Creek Watershed Council

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

3:30PM-5:30 PM



Attendance: 18

Draft Notes

Welcome & Introductions – Renee Buck, Chair

Guest Speaker: Randy Black, General Manager - Lakewood Water District

“A Community Report: PFAS and Lakewood Water Actions and Lawsuit Against the Federal Government”

Mr. Black shared a PowerPoint presentation on the issue of PFAS pollution and contamination in the local groundwater supply in Lakewood. These chemicals were used in, among other things, flame retardants. Locally, they were used by JBLM/McChord AFB on their runways associated with airplanes and highly flammable fuels, with historical evidence of the foam getting into local creeks and waterways, sometimes 20-40 feet high. PFAS has a long lifespan.

The presentation outlined the level of PFAS found in Lakewood Water District’s wells, and what steps they have taken to keep the drinking water supply safe for customers. The district has filed a lawsuit against the manufacturers of PFAS to receive funding from product manufacturers to deal with the ongoing clean up and water protection costs associated with PFAS contamination.

More information can be found online at: <https://www.lakewoodwater.org/lwd/page/pfas-topics>

A link to the presentation slides and letter to community is also available online at:

<https://www.lakewoodwater.org/lwd/page/pfas-updates-8-16-2020>

Partner Updates:

- Pierce County Parks – First Pitch in for Parks! volunteer event will be held on Saturday, August 22nd at Bresemann Forest at Spanaway Rec. Center. Volunteers must RSVP, no drop ins.
- TPCHD – there is a water quality caution advisory for Spanaway lake due to continued high toxic algae levels
- WDFW – Darrin Masters introduced himself as the new area Habitat Biologist
- Pierce County – SWM is developing a webpage with educational information about lakes
- Pierce Conservation District – see website and Facebook for events and volunteering; AmeriCorps volunteer is no longer with them.
- Clover Park Technical College – three summer interns did invasive species removal projects at the Flett creek property, including Tansy ragwort and Scotch broom.
- Water Restoration Enhancement Committee – for WRIA 12 – is developing a draft plan for review internally next month and then it will go out to public for input. The plan includes potential projects to help replenish groundwater including at Sequelitchew Creek headwaters in DuPont and Flett Creek basin in Tacoma/Lakewood.

Break

Review July 15 virtual field trip and meeting

- Renee is developing more written content to go with the slide presentation to be posted online in the future – watershed 101
- Potential future presentation on watershed 201
- Meeting notes are not available. We acknowledged that Kris Kauffmann was elected as the first Historian at the beginning of the July 15th meeting. Some volunteers will be helpful to developing some guidelines for evaluating the type of materials that wish to include in the digitized archive that PLU is developing.

Committee Reports

Executive

- Accepting speaker proposals until August 31 for Watershed Issues Forum in November – some proposals are being developed, and we will have a Stormwater 101 presentation to start and provide the basis and language to support presentations that allow
- Introduce Organizational Structure and Root Causes discussions – the Effectiveness Subcommittee met on August 11 and will meet again on August 25 via Zoom to discuss the issues concerning root causes and problems leading to the watershed’s degraded condition and propose possible solutions or directions for the watershed council to pursue to better address the problems. There are some areas of agreement. Water quality and quantity are of great concern, including nutrient pollution and sediment accretion. It was proposed to create a technical advisory group to get a better understanding of the problems and to develop clear messaging based on the outcome of that group. These ideas will be discussed further at the subcommittee meeting on August 25 and then brought to the watershed council meeting in September for discussion and feedback before any decisions are made, which will be done with and by the whole council.

Communications

- Committee met in August and brainstormed topics and content for the fall e-newsletter; discussed advertising the Watershed Issues Forum and providing support to develop messaging needed that may come out of the proposed technical advisory group. All summer in person events we had planned to participate in were canceled due to COVID-19 and state guidelines.

Stewardship

- Chair Al Schmauder shared a photo of runway at JBLM where the two large culverts are being repaired (or replaced?) and any water is being diverted through pipes/hoses. There was interest in asking a representative from JBLM to provide the council with a briefing on this project. No volunteer work parties have been occurring this summer due to COVID-19. There is participation amongst committee members on the effectiveness subcommittee, as well.

Comments/Concerns - all

Adjourn

CCWC meeting: Wednesday, September 16

CCWC meeting: Wednesday, October 21

CCWC Annual Watershed Issues Forum: Wednesday, November 18