



Clean Water Advisory Committee
June 15, 2023

Committee Members in Attendance: Jenny DeGroot, Bob Eagan, Vicki Heater, Ann Jarrell, Judy Meyer, Kimbal Sundberg, Cathi Winings

Ex-officio, County support staff, and members of public: Krista Davis, Tyler Davis, Kyle Dodd, Dean Dougherty, Peter Guillozet, Jason Hatch, Jolyn Leslie, Doug MacCutcheon, Laura Pitts, Tessa Reeder, Buck Smith, Cindy Wolf

9:00 AM **Convene meeting** *Kimbal Sundberg*

9:01 AM **Public Comment** *none*

9:02 AM **Business Operations**

Kim: under new business on the agenda, Jesse Douglas Sikes can't be here, but Tyler has some information
No objections to the agenda, it's approved.

Judy moves to approve the April 20th meeting minutes, Jenny seconds, no objections, the minutes are approved.

9:04 AM **April Meeting Action Item Updates**

Cascade Creek Monitoring & Alert System *Peter Guillozet*

We purchased a flow monitoring system in 2021, about \$11K. Installed system but cell reception was insufficient, tried a satellite system and still had coverage issues due to tree canopy. It was recording but not transmitting. The sensor got buried, retrieved, and shipped back for repair. The Land Bank also received two grants applied for in 2021 for flow restoration, intended to buy portion of senior Rosario water rights to put in stream in critical periods. Working now to extend grants with possible additional requirements like appraisal of the water right.

Judy: concerned about who's monitoring now, and is there any point in having a record of stream flow even if it's not transmitting? And does the fact that chinook were observed there help argue with Rosario for more water?

Peter: Jenny does some spot monitoring and helps head off de-watering events. Olga donates at critical points.

Bob: have you been to the Olga station where they withdraw above the bridge? Measuring creek below the diversion, it's worth looking at the Olga-Doe Bay collaboration. They're doing an intertie there, ultimate goal is to eliminate water works at Olga and serve from the Doe Bay filtration plant. They're working on the diversion.

Jason: the transactionable amount of the water right is what has been used, the appraiser will use comparables There is a firm that specializes in that work I can connect Peter with

Kim: do we know if those chinook are part of the wild endangered Puget Sound population?

Jenny: we sent 30 adult chinook salmon samples to DFW to examine otoliths; hatchery fish have a temperature signature. Even if they are from Glenwood, they spawned and reared in the creek naturally and that's novel here.

ACTION ITEM: maybe we can get someone from WDFW to let us know where they are in that analysis process

Buck: reminder that Cascade creek is a high priority in this dry season. 206-594-0000 is Ecology main switchboard 24-hour hotline, after hours press 1 for emergency services and they'll contact after-hours duty person (Buck himself or Kelly Hamilton). That happened last year and we were able to issue a trust water right on a Sunday.

Leslie: Danny is retiring, DoH will meet with Parks next week, ensure they have enough operation staff.

Michael Wyckoff is taking Danny's position, Construction and Maintenance Project Specialist for the San Juan Area.

3572 Olga Rd, Olga, WA 98279; 360-531-0340; michael.wyckoff@parks.wa.gov

9:24 AM UW False Bay Creek water quality study *Judy Meyer*

The nutrient data are in, still getting stable isotope data. Wendel sent the data for nitrate and phosphorus, consistent with what we've seen. In March 2022 phosphorus levels bounce up and stay up – that's a mystery

9:26 AM ISOLabs Water Testing *Lynn Bahrych*

Lynn was planning to talk about groundwater aging study but couldn't be present at this time

9:27 AM **Staff & Agency Updates**

Ecology Update

Buck Smith

Kim: I collect precipitation records and it's at 30% below normal rainfall this year. Islands are already dry.

Buck: We're behind all over western WA, snowpack disappeared quickly, Skagit is dropping, that'll affect people

9:29 AM Health Update *Jolyn Leslie*

The main update is PFAS, in State budget we got earmarks for funds for testing Group B and individual wells. This is money State will pass to counties, we're working with Kyle on that. Application period starts July 1

Kim: is there reason to believe PFAS is widespread in SJ islands?

Kyle: water systems are contaminated if near a fire testing facility or fire station where the foam has been used.

9:34 AM **Surface Water Subcommittee updates & Website Content Approval** *Judy Meyer*

Kim: working on a few vignettes on specific topics for the website. We'd like approval for those three pieces

Judy: Cathi has provided helpful comments, anyone else? We can receive comments for the next week or so

Tyler: our communications manager will help with that. I'll help with any small edits needed even once it's up

Ann: the ES department will put this on their website? I was concerned there's nothing about groundwater.

Kyle: Health dept. staff can do this, I can republish historical USGS studies to include in this website update

- no objections, let's approve this web content for Tyler to put on ES website, Kyle will work up a groundwater one

- And a note for Jenny's blurb: don't need an HPA if a ditch that doesn't contain fish

Tyler shares links for what's currently on website **county page regarding groundwater**: [Ground Water | San Juan County, WA](#) ; [Clean Water | San Juan County, WA](#)

9:44 AM **New Business Discussion**

2023 San Juan County Water Supply

Kimbal Sundberg

• Trout Lake Status & Friday Harbor Water Supply

Tyler: from the town's last utility report in April (available on their website),: [Friday Harbor, WA](#)

Shows Trout lake reservoir level. 8.5" above normal level in April, consistent with last several years. But cumulative rainfall up until April was lower than average. We'll try to get Jesse back for a future meeting. Had a lot of freeze drainages last winter so town has gone to a remote metering system.

9:49 AM • Red Mill Farm

Kim: Dean is irrigating plants planted by Byron last fall on the part of the creek where cattle are fenced out, a lot of restoration happening, trying to save those plants and get them established. Phase 2 will be the SJ valley creek

Judy: I spoke with Dean, he may be working with the WCC crew right now. Lots of weed-whacking and keeping plants happy. He's had conversations with CD about funding for fencing for phase 2, it's in progress

9:52 AM • Cascade Creek & Juvenile Salmon

Jenny de

Groot

Last week seined the creek. Jenny provides numbers sampled for chinook, cutthroat, etc. Enough water so far.

Some chinook and coho fry at Coho Preserve: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OT2pvmRy0hM>

Kim: all the great work over time on this creek, cajoling with Rosario, it's uplifting to see some viable salmon.

Jenny: agree. removing culverts and creating habitat, making it accessible for salmon, it's exciting. The status of tie-ins like at Doe bay and Cascade Creek will be important. Will we be able to address transfer of water rights?

Jolyn: we haven't seen anything from Olga, but Doe Bay has submitted their water system plan and it uses Doe Bay's water right to provide an intertie connection to Olga; ultimate plan is for Olga treatment plant to go away.

Buck: will someone apply to transfer Olga water rights to Doe Bay? Don't want negative impact to Cascade creek.

Jolyn: Doe Bay says they have enough capacity to provide to Olga without additional water rights.

Buck: Doe Bay has large annual volume, 3 different water rights, substantial, maybe Olga water right can be put into trust and left in the stream. It's a public process we'd get everyone's agreement.

Jason: is Doe Bay plan publicly available?

Jolyn: no, it's currently under review, they submitted in March and we had questions so they just resubmitted.

Jason: will that version not change the instantaneous quantity? Just deliver that to new service?

Bob: Let's get a contact person from Doe Bay and Olga to present so we can make decisions. *Bob suggests names*

ACTION ITEM: let's try to put them on the agenda for August meeting if they're available.

Jolyn: by August hopefully Doe Bay plan will be approved, available now for public disclosure but waiting for proper format. Don't know if Olga plan will be ready by them, same consulting engineer working with both utilities.

Kim: who's reviewing this and how do we see the plan?

Jolyn: there's a review process from utility, need to submit to local county ACTION ITEM: Jolyn will check on this

Kim: If they're transferring State water rights, when does public and CWAC get to review the transfer?

Buck I'll inform group if water rights are transferred. Both Olga and Doe Bay would need to submit an application for change, advertise in local newspaper for two consecutive weeks, anyone from the public can comment

Jolyn: no transfer application at this time

Buck: in a water right, there's the 'place of use' where water can legally be used. But for municipal rights, place of use no longer counts. For those purveyors it's the DOH approved service area for an approved water system

Bob: in Ecology, requirement to publish in a newspaper, but in water system planning process no requirement

Buck: if Olga wants to move point of diversion, that will require application for change. But if they're expanding place of use to include Olga, Ecology would be notified and ensure there's adequate water; no application needed.

Judy: I like the idea of this on August agenda. It sounds like Olga's water right in trust would benefit the creek
Kim: that's my question, if they would relinquish the right, they're not using instream flow
Buck: not relinquish but transfer to trust to instream flow for perpetuity
Jason: do you recall instantaneous quantity year round?
Buck: they have adjudicated certificates, sorting out mountain lake/cascade creek – *specifies numbers for Olga*
Jenny: Olga community is only using 0.15 cfs water but could use 0.6. That's the water we got on a voluntary basis when salmon came in. There could be water available to transfer *if* Olga water users want to do so
Jolyn: The requirement for water system plans and notification is to submit a copy of the plan to 'each local government with jurisdiction' - WAC 246-290 (7) Purveyors shall transmit water system plans to adjacent utilities and each local government with jurisdiction, to assess consistency with ongoing and adopted planning efforts.
If they haven't done that yet, we would comment that it needs to be done. The draft document is subject to public disclosure but would probably wait until it is officially through the DOH initial submittal process.

10:17 AM 2023 Zylstra Water Management *Doug McCutcheon*
Summary of last year out last fall: stream flow continued into July but this year ceased end of May/start of June.
For Zylstra, I met with Ben & Dean from SJPT, started irrigating system and then trend back down to normal flow. Regarding downstream user Black, he had a falling out with neighbors where he was using irrigation, now he's lost access to that property. Seems like irrigation this year has been less but can't get information about volumes.
Last year, challenges with contracting regarding the dam. Some muskrat damage to the upper dam, need to address that later in season. Also plan to move some soil from old dredge piles to the reservoir side of upper dam.
In terms of water quality, didn't see the cyanobacteria blooms we did in the previous year. Unsure why but earlier this year, first el nino in a new climate scenario, could see worse water quality with draw down from irrigation.
The Conservation Corps (CC) crew have been doing an upland restoration, small portion at upper part of lower reservoir to provide some shading. Chose that area to get baselines with soil conditions about what plants may work; if lower reservoir dam goes away that area will change the least whereas down by lower dam shoreline will withdraw as much as 300' so changes in hydrology could affect planting success. We set up site boundaries last winter, took soil tests, did some site prep/plant selection etc. I'm nervous about the warm dry forecast.
Judy: question about location of Greg's siphon
Doug: There's a pipe/drain for conveying water through the upper reservoir with a nonfunctional valve. Greg installed two PVC siphons that weren't well designed. Two years ago, we installed a 10" siphon that has been working well. Greg requested we not remove his siphons so they're in place but unused for over a year. He withdraws water from stream at Red Mill. We use stop-logs to keep water high enough to use the check valve.
Judy: what about cyanobacteria testing?
Doug: last year started working with Kirk Sato at DOH, we're doing three different things: General visual check with a stick, the second is good conversations with King County lab doing samples – they mentioned new test strips that we started using last year comparing instant test strips with water samples, they're expensive, but helpful to get instant data. Monday is monitoring day looking at water levels, system, and water quality analysis.
Vicki: are there any gauges in place? Water levels?
Doug: staff gauges in both upper and lower reservoirs, in upper side of lower reservoir dam we have readings for both. Theoretical zero mark is floor of the spillway, that's how we track reservoir draw-down.

10:34 AM Hannah Heights PFAS Update – Kyle Dodd

Initial results from April in response to new state Board of Health requirement to sample for PFAS before October 2024: for PFOA was 150x the state action level. We worked with State DOH to hold a community meeting, notify all property owners in determined affected area. Then a follow-up sampling event led by DOH May 2-3rd to take 19 additional samples in affected area of individual and smaller Group B water sources. Those samples were paid for by property owners. We're happy to assimilate and track results to get extent of contamination, some owners have submitted, 11 out of 19 are non-detectable. Follow up sample taken of well #2 confirmed the contamination.

Working on an interim source. Relying on hauled water since mid-May. One back up well, but runs dry seasonally. They have an interim alternate source identified, close to existing reservoir that tested non-detectable but quantity won't be adequate for entire need, may need to augment with hauled water. Struggling to find a property owner willing to drill a new well or share a well. Working diligently to find long term solution.

Some relief from Dept. of Commerce, emergency rapid response grant, that would pay for hauled water and follow-up testing, runs through June 30th. The County is the contracted entity for that funding –signed by Council, they can set invoices and be reimbursed for testing. The water system has applied to State DOH for revolving fund loans, emergency and a planning & construction loan, if they can find an alternate location to drill there'll be some funding available to help support that. As for funding Jolyn mentioned in her update through Governor's budget, "emergent contaminant funding stream" we're working with State DOH to be a pilot for that. Most sources available presently are for Group A systems, but there are many individual and Group B systems affected when Group A systems are contaminated. That funding may pay for additional sampling for systems that have exceeded levels and help with hauled water in the interim if needed or treatment if possible. That funding available July 1.

On the contamination source: Dept of Ecology toxic cleanup program was here June 2 for an initial investigation. The site will be listed on the confirmed contaminated site list and be queued up for next steps of clean up.

Kim: there's no contamination outside of that well #2?

Kyle: not in any reports received by our office.

Bob: will there be any public presentation? Understanding the concern to those private well owners.

Kyle: I can work with our communication folks on a follow up update through our normal press release channel.

Jolyn: DOH facilitated but individual homeowners paid for results so it's their private information to share.

Bob: is the subject well in the process of being abandoned? If not, is there discussion of further testing?

Kyle: we're not abandoning it at this time, may need to do some work to seal upper seep above initial sample.

Jolyn: there is reason not to abandon the well. Sample results after turning it off support using it as a treatment well, common practice when there's a well in a plume to use it for pumping and treating, the only other way to get rid of it is to move tons of rock and soil. Using that well as pump & treat is best solution to reduce contamination into the environment. If contamination isn't taken out of impacted well, it'll go someplace else

Buck: from a Water rights standpoint, Hannah Heights does have state-issued water rights, discussing if they need to change anything. About placing public notice, usually they're advertising their point of withdrawal or change of location. Their original right is for wells #2 and 3, two different rights/areas. If they need to drill a new well and it lands between those, they won't need to go through an application for change, just a simple compliance form needs to be notarized. But if they need to go outside that area they'll need to go through application for change or even apply for new water right if they go to a new source of supply. They're our priority now, if they need to put in that application we'll process it as quickly as we can

Kim: are there State compelled data from any wells in area if mapping this toxicity? Or if private wells, are those data just sacrosanct to that property owner and they don't need to release to the State?

Buck: if they came to us with an application for change, we'd need to ensure it wasn't contaminated

Kim: what does toxicity team from Ecology do on site, are they there to map contaminated area or provide info?

Kyle: this first step was to gather background information then it's on a list, further investigation is up to where site ranks statewide, otherwise clean-up is up to owner. It'll partly depend on individuals involved how fast additional samples will occur, didn't seem like Ecology team was driving that. Anything sampled by a public water system will be publicly released for Group A systems. October of next year 2024 is the deadline.

10:57 AM Clean Water CIP Overview – Tyler Davis

The CIP will be updated between now and August, staff are updating it and timelines, CWAC will approve it for submission in September. I sent that around, please provide comments. We invite proposals for any other projects

Kim: that was Kendra's massive spreadsheet, please send comments to Tyler and we'll discuss in August

10:59 AM – Dean Dougherty arrives

Dean: I had the Island CC crew helping with plant maintenance, watering. There was some mortality. We got new plants in late in season. But plants from last winter doing well. We're fencing SJ Creek next year. We're doing an upper section on Sundstrom farm that didn't get included when remainder was fenced, that'll happen next year

Kim: How's the system working for Greg's cattle? They're not needing to drink from the creek?

Dean: yes, the section where we put in fencing is working great. Original grant was for three tanks. SJ Creek is already dry in our section, cattle not getting water from there. CD can fund fencing and plants, not well upgrades.

11:03 AM Riparian Plant Propagation Opportunity

Cathi Winings

Announcement that WA State Conservation Commission has a plant propagation program that supports salmon recovery projects through funding to raise riparian plants. They have a contract to award to nurseries to raise native riparian plants. Paul Andersson will send an email to gather thoughts and ideas, see if this could be feasible

ACTION: Judy will send that information to Cathi, if anyone knows of someone or wants to be included tell Cathi

Judy knows about Ecotone on Lopez raising native plants, Cindy knows the Bullocks have been raising native plants

Kim: should we use native plant stocks that are probably better adapted to drought conditions rather than bring in mainland materials? good opportunity for local growers. There will be many upcoming riparian replanting projects

Cathi: where could this happen? maybe the NPS facility. Brainstorming through emails would be great

11:07 AM **Committee Housekeeping**

Still some vacancies, 1 on SJ, 1 on Orcas, 2 on Lopez/Shaw.

Tyler: applications looked at in batches, we have a couple, here's one more call to let anyone you know who may be interested to apply, hopefully by next meeting because we will have filled positions

Next meeting for subcommittees on July 20th, it can be hard for the summertime – no meeting for Surface Water

Vicki: I'll contact Kyle and see what we've got as far as Groundwater goes, if we can pull something together
Next general meeting August 17th. Thanks everyone!

11:11 AM **Adjourn Meeting**