



**Clean Water Advisory Committee**

August 17, 2023

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Lynn Bahrych, Jenny DeGroot, Bob Eagan, Vicki Heater, Kimbal Sundberg, Cathi Winings

**Ex-officio, County support staff, and members of public:** Tyler Davis, Kyle Dodd, Paul Groeninger, Jolyn Leslie, Laura Pitts, Buck Smith, Kendra Smith, Cindy Wolf

9:02 AM **Convene meeting** *Kimbal Sundberg*

9:03 AM **Public Comment** *none*

9:04 AM **Business Operations**

Approve August 17<sup>th</sup> Agenda, no objections, the agenda is approved.

Approve June 15<sup>th</sup> Minutes, no objections or comments, the minutes are approved.

9:05 AM **June Meeting Action Items & Updates**

- County Website – Surface Water updates are published, <https://www.sanjuanco.com/1624/Surface-Water>

- WDFW Cascade Creek Chinook Analysis and instream flow issues *Jenny De Groot*

Survey found a significant number of fish. Stream flows seem good now. Some fish with clipped fins, some interchange with Glenwood hatchery. Jenny received scientific collection permit from state for ongoing sampling.

We continue to monitor the creek, stream flow measurements. Regarding water rights, some discussion with Olga about leasing some of their water. They are planning to hook up to Doe Bay’s system and turn off Olga plant.

At Bayhead creek, in a small pool below the culvert cut off from flow this time of year, I dip-net sampled and found flat head minnow, and a non-native stickleback (undocumented here before). Could be other fish in the watershed

Kendra: maybe we can contract with you to sample up by the port, there was some water flowing there. It’s fish-bearing but we’d benefit from more data about what fish are in that system.

Jenny: agree, monitoring needed through Bayhead and other watersheds, through eDNA or other methods  
QUESTIONS

Kim: could you clear up the issue with the non-clipped fish? I thought hatcheries had to fin clip all releases.

Jenny: good question, I think we need to ask Glenwood. In past few years, during Covid, there wasn’t a way to clip all the fish released (the trailer wasn’t available) - there are a lot of fish not clipped.

Kim: it seems significant that Glenwood springs fish are using Cascade creek water. With transition between Olga and Doe Bay this may be a good opportunity to resolve issue of Rosario water right and ensure water for salmon

Kyle: there could be opportunities, we are on the drinking water side and Jolyn can weigh in as well

Jolyn: this is a water rights issue, with proposed intertie between Doe Bay and Olga and needs to be approved by Ecology to change place of use for water right. It needs to follow public process.

Buck: regarding water rights – Rosario is a court adjudicated right, can't force them to give that up

9:33 AM **Staff & Agency Updates**

Ecology Update

*Buck Smith*

-Hannah Heights, working with community to find a way/place to get a new well drilled

Jolyn: they're applying for a USDA loan; Dept. of Commerce staff has been very helpful.

9:25 AM **Health Update**

*Kyle Dodd*

Hannah Heights working with a property owner on Bailer Hill toward an agreement to drill a well & work with Ecology and State Dept of Health to run a pipeline along county road easement to existing water storage tank.

Kim: I heard new sampling at adjacent wells had turned up low levels of PFAS suggesting some migration?

ACTION ITEM: Kyle will follow up to find out about this possibility of additional samples

Jolyn: also, I'm transitioning to a new job, hope to be in SJ county through end of the year. Online workshops,

-PFAS forum September 19 & 20<sup>th</sup>, first day about PFAS in drinking water and second day is PFAS in

wastewater and surface water [ODW Sept PFAS Save the Date.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

-and a virtual drought workshop august 24<sup>th</sup> [2023DroughtWorkshop.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

9:40 AM **Subcommittee updates**

*subcommittees did not meet in July*

9:41 AM **Ongoing Business Discussion**

• 2023 San Juan County Water Supply

*Kyle Dodd/Buck Smith*

Kyle: Groundwater subcommittee met July 27<sup>th</sup>, plan for CWAC to hear from more of water system managers. We know Hannah heights continues to truck water, haven't heard of any other group A or B systems in trouble.

Buck: haven't received any complaints yet this summer. Drought declaration takes some time to process

- A few members discuss signs of low water issues, at least one in favor of a drought declaration

Kendra: I've noticed more people irrigating, lawns and fields. Drought declaration would change that.

9:51 AM • Olga Water Supply

*Paul Groeninger, Olga Water Board*

This is a slow process. A year ago, largely new board. Connecting with Doe Bay means two water producers from same source, double the primary infrastructure. We have an agreement, shared cost of trenching. Hope work can be completed with actual physical connection in the next two months. Finance committee still working on price.

We didn't have a small water system management plan on file, so hired same engineer who did Doe Bay's to do Olga's too. Until we do that can't connect. Rosario's leaky diversion is bad news. Everyone in our board is in favor of Rosario water going in the creek. Olga water hopes to focus on stopping leaks (further discussion of benefits of combining systems, ongoing projects, made good progress, waiting for cash replenishment in January)

Jenny: You're a model for conservation efforts. You mentioned money, we're working hard with Land Bank and grants to ensure there's money for water to be put into protection, trust funds

Jolyn: explains what a small water system management plan is, it's a document/planning tool. looks ahead 6-10 years. And Trout unlimited has some grants available.

Kendra: Addressing leakage can be part of a water rights transfer, there are creative ways to fund tightening up

Jolyn: Doe Bay was required to create a water leakage response plan as part of plan, Olga will need to do same

Paul: we have been looking into funding. Our goal is to get under 10% leakage

10:10 AM • Hannah Heights PFAS Update *Kyle Dodd*  
Status of county support – we got second contract executed for July 1 through end of May 2024 to help system with water hauling costs. They can submit invoices to county for reimbursement, and we can submit to Commerce

10:11 AM **New Business Discussion** *Kendra Smith*  
Stormwater Drainage Management & ES Update  
-there's a new staffer, Susan Eshelman has joined as part of Clean Water Utility. (lists qualifications and duties)  
- we are voluntarily making improvements to stream systems identified by state. On the stormwater side, we follow the Dept. of Ecology stormwater manual, updated in 2019, but geared toward an urban/suburban view of the world. Should we use another stormwater strategy that's more geared toward the islands, plastic free, etc?  
Lynn: I love idea of an island-specific plan, we have unique habitat challenges, still pristine shorelines to protect.  
Kendra: want to ensure we're still eligible for grants in the Ecology stormwater program

10:21 AM **Clean Water CIP Review and Discussion** *Tyler Davis*  
Want CWAC approval so this can go forward to Council; if revisions are needed we can vote via email (Tyler shares spreadsheet – it compares projects status with old CIP so changes are evident): Rows in blue are completed projects, red are struck from previous CIP, and yellow are new. There's a good mix of what we're removing and some are sticking around, so new CIP looks smaller/more targeted and achievable.  
Kendra goes through each line item. Tyler gives rundown on new CIP; reviews the three projects on SJ island -discussion of culverts being replaced but not fish passable,  
Questions about state funds that might be available for culverts, WDFW assessment? - that was delayed  
Tyler: last two projects, Market Street bioretention and Bayhead, timing and costs  
MOTION: Lynn moves to approve the CIP as presented, Jenny seconds. No objections. The CIP is approved.  
ACTION: Kendra and Tyler will forward to Council

11:05 AM **Committee Housekeeping**  
- Member Recruitment Updates (Vacant Seats: San Juan Position 4, Orcas Position 5, Lopez/Shaw Positions 11, 12)  
Kim: we're still accepting nominations for open seats, hope to fill by end of the year  
  
- Should we schedule subcommittee meeting for September 21, or wait until November? (Kim won't be here)  
Jenny: let's meet, a lot of changes with Olga, chinook timing, etc. let's keep momentum going  
ACTION ITEM: Tyler will organize agenda and meeting  
Kim: Kyle said GW will meet in September as well, we'll look forward to their report at next full CWAC Oct 19<sup>th</sup>

Cindy: we in the County see need for more government-to-government interaction with Tribes, so we're paying for half of Frankie's time to develop those connections, she'll be Tribal Liaison. And training for council directors.  
September 18<sup>th</sup> is planned council meeting, at least half the day devoted to SLR report and climate change, Kendra will be presenting. Other half of that day devoted to forest health, tree management, emergency coordination

11:08 AM **Adjourn Meeting**