

Tenmile Clean Water Project (TCWP) Meeting Minutes – Nov 8, 2017

Attendees: Bob McWhorter, Alan Chapman, Hank Kastner, Naomi Murphy, Andy Ross, Lee First, Christine Woodward, Mike Boxx, Meg Harris, Dorie Belisle, Weyland Eldred

The October meeting minutes were approved with no changes. The September minutes, amended according to comments in the October meeting, were approved by email prior to this meeting.

One addition was made to tonight's agenda: discussion of an abstract & press release regarding the '*Clean Stream, Healthy Community*' effort.

Announcements:

- **Water Supply Forum** has been rescheduled! Now set for Wed, 9am, Dec 13th – paid registration required; other details pending; see <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/nr/wss/>
- **Laurel Watershed Improvement District** meeting Nov 13.
- **Whatcom Conservation District Speaker Series:** Nov 16, Noon-2pm, ***New Location!*** VFW at 7011 Hannegan Road; Advanced Nutrient Management. (See attachment for future dates & subjects.)
- Expect a **November subgroup meeting**; date, time & place TBD.
- **Citizen meeting** to discuss ways to encourage landowner cooperation with beavers in the interest of healthy streams: 3:30pm Fri, Nov 10 at RE Sources.

Reports:

- **Water Quality:** Bob & Andy presented results of the extensive 'first flush' sampling conducted Oct 23-25;
- **Portage Bay Shellfish Protection District** Advisory Committee meeting: those who attended that meeting last week explained the continuing effort to understand data indicating improving water quality in the bay, with much interest in ending the conditional closure. The variability of salinity in the bay is a major factor.
- **Finances:** next month we will begin reporting on expenses & payments. Outstanding bills for the October sampling equal \$675.00.

Business:

Clean Streams

All of the following documents, proposal & resolution to enable launching of our '*Clean Stream, Healthy Community*' effort were on the agenda. Each was discussed and approved by consensus. Discussion & exceptions follow each item, where applicable. Final versions of documents will be forwarded to members separately.

1. **Tenmile Charter**, document proposed for approval. Discussion emphasized this version provides an improved structure for further changes as needed. Several members are interested in improving the *Communications* section, #3; any suggested Charter changes will be provided prior to our December meeting. **Approved.**

2. **Coordinator Job Description**, document proposed for approval. This version was **approved with two changes** suggested by members: in the section *D. Other Duties*, delete #5 (“*Pursue other funding...*”); and add a new item: “*Create a project plan for this work as directed by members and their representatives, and track progress against the plan.*” Approved pending these changes (which have now been made in the final version.)
3. **NSEA Contractor Agreement**, document proposed for approval, for Andy Ross to fill the position for one year beginning Nov 15, 2017. **Approved**, with new job description appended in the agreement.
4. **Tenmile Checking Account**, resolution authorizing creation of an account for managing our expenses. **Approved** and appended below to incorporate in these minutes.
5. **Lab Analysis**, proposal to select a lab based on the following information below; and authorize a contract for lab analysis for project-funded water sampling.
 - a. ‘*Exact*’ or ‘*Edge*’ are the two best candidate labs.
 - b. Both are accredited with the Washington Dept. of Ecology.
 - c. *Exact* has by far the better rates (avg 30% lower across 4 common tests)
 - d. Similar billing terms (30 days of receipt of electronic lab results)
 - e. Specific tests may be requested per sample, with equal flexibility.

Discussion focused on possible variability in results between these two labs, both of which are used by various agencies in our county. Since there is currently no resolution of the question, decision was based on the other criteria.

Exact Scientific (exactscientific.com) was selected. Bob, Andy & Hank will establish the contract terms ASAP.

Subgroup Planning

We agreed on the need for a Subgroup meeting prior to the December member meeting; tentative date of **Nov 21** was proposed but will be confirmed by email. Agenda will encompass the following, plus continuing issues from prior meetings; Hank will circulate agenda separately

- Execute a lab analysis contract ASAP.
- Future meeting programs; proposed are December: Michael Isensee (WSDA); January: Kent Oostra or some of his staff about DNA (Exact Scientific)
- Clarify distinction between the “Tenmile Clean Water Project” and the grant-funded ‘Clean Streams, Healthy Communities’ project.
- Discuss internal processes for tracking, invoicing & reporting expenses.
- Discuss how to plan & track our work going forward, including creation of a Project Plan.
- Discuss status & future of our Tenmile web site.
- Define a way forward to seek additional funding for year two
- Approve an abstract & press release regarding the ‘*Clean Stream, Healthy Community*’ effort, to be used by WCF, NSEA, RE Sources & others.

Speaker: after about a year in her position, **Meg Harris** from the WCD presented an update on sample results across the county; following are some assorted highlights & observations; see all the attachments for her presentation, latest County_reports and WCD information sheets. It is very impressive to see how Meg has improved consolidation, analysis & reporting of this data.

- Tenmile is still improving, meeting the Geo-mean standard and quickly approaching the 90th PCT standard.
- Over the previous 2yrs, the Nooksack main stem downstream Geo-mean has improved to where it almost matches the upstream sites, a great indicator of progress.
- In latest samples, all Nooksack main stem tributaries meet the Geo-mean standard, continuing an improvement trend for all of 2017.
- Some very insightful analysis of the Tenmile watershed suggest ways to focus our sample program: **dry season events** more often yield the ‘spike’ results that skew our 90th PCT result; and significant rain events poorly correlate with high results.
- A continuing condition: significant ‘buffering’ effect in Barrett Lake (while T1 & DC1 run high results, T1 runs low.)
- **All agency sample data** is now viewable from a single interactive map at the county web site: <http://arcg.is/0KvGGv> (see attachment.)
- She recommended two events from the **National Water Quality Monitoring Council**; read more at <https://acwi.gov/monitoring/webinars/> and https://acwi.gov/monitoring/webinars/vm_building_credibility_17Jan2018.pdf

Attachments:

- **Coordinator job description**, as revised & approved.
- **Tenmile Charter**, as now approved and adopted.
- Meg’s presentation: *WCD-Meg Harris - Tenmile meeting 11_8_2017*
- Tenmile recent summary data: *WCD Tenmile data Summary_10_2017*
- Nooksack recent summary data: *WCD Nooksack data Summary_10_2017*
- A new County newsletter, fall 2017: *WCD-County Nooksack Newsletter Fall 2017 FINAL*
- A 2-page guide to the online data format: *WCD-County Online Data info_October_2017*

Appended:

Resolution authorizing Tenmile checking account.

Next meeting:

Wednesday Dec 13, 2017. We expect to have **guest speaker Michael Isensee**, WA Dept of Ag field inspector for Whatcom County.

Resolution Authorizing Creation of a WECU Checking Account for the Tenmile Clean Water Project (TCWP)

WHEREAS a recent grant award to the TCWP has created the need for processes to manage grant funds, including a checking account;

WHEREAS the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) is providing fiscal sponsor services at a minimal 5% overhead rate;

WHEREAS TCWP is therefore solely responsible for all project fund transactions;

WHEREAS TCWP will therefore for directly paying all TCWP bills; including monthly checks to the Coordinator, bills for our lab service contract and miscellaneous checks for printing, mailing, materials, facilities, etc;

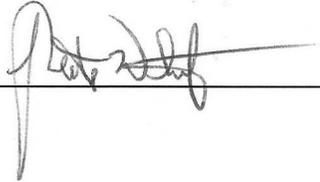
WHEREAS each month, TCWP will receive reimbursement for a total of all these expenses from NSEA and will thus need a transaction account to manage funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that on November 8, 2017:

1. Hank Kastner is authorized, as Vice-Chair of the Tenmile Clean Water Project, a citizen association in Whatcom County, to establish a checking account with Whatcom Educational Credit Union (WECU) in the name of this association for the exclusive purposes of transacting TCWP business;
2. further to that purpose, the two TCWP members authorized as signers for this WECU account are: Hank Kastner, Vice Chair and Bob McWhorter, Chairman. Additional signers may be added any time when authorized by future resolutions of the TCWP.

FOR THE MINUTES:

Bob McWhorter, serving as Chairman of the Tenmile Clean Water Project, certifies the accuracy of these Meeting Minutes and all decisions represented here.



DATE: November 8, 2017