

## Tenmile Clean Water Project meeting notes – February 15, 2017

Attendees: Andy R, Naomi M, Hank K, Bob M, Lorraine W, Marge L, Dick C, Lee F, Dorie F, with guest Mauri I from Whatcom Community Foundation

Past minutes: minutes from the January 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 meeting were approved with no additions

Agenda: approved

Announcements:

- Subgroup meeting next Wednesday, February 22, 3pm, Hilltop
- A LTE was submitted and printed in the Lynden Tribune, by McWhorter & Kastner
- Accomplishments list – a handout was distributed
- Whatcom Conservation District Election – you may vote in person on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the WCD office
- Pasture Management Class on February 16<sup>th</sup>
- Next sample event is February 22
- Next month, speaker is Mike Kim, OSS supervisor

Water Quality Data discussion: the last scheduled sampling event was cancelled, due to weather. Therefore, we have no new data other than bracket sampling to present. At this time, all of our regular sampling stations except DC1, TM15, and T2 are meeting the fecal coliform criteria for geometric mean. All of our regular stations **do not** meet the standard for fecal coliform 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, but station T1 (the most downstream station) **does** meet the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. Good news, but we must remain vigilant!

Our Tenmile group and the Laurel WID have agreed upon a sampling protocol that both addresses which sites will be sampled, as well as how/who will conduct bracket sampling. A draft protocol document was distributed. Andy R agreed to finalize the document.

Bob M and David Haggith (N3) have been conducting extensive bracket sampling in the area upstream of where Silver Springs discharges to Tenmile Creek. Several samples have been very high in this area, but more recently, levels of fecal coliform have decreased. Mike Kim has provided us detailed and timely information about septic system status in this area. Lee and Hank Kastner will re-check the info and plot results of OSS on the plat maps.

Bob M and David Haggith have also been out in the field in this area to ground-truth the drainage patterns. There is more to learn!

The next regular sampling event is on Monday, March 6th

Notes from Mauri Ingram's presentation about the Whatcom Community Foundation (WCF):

\$45,000 was recently awarded after settlement of a Clean Water Act legal action in the Tenmile watershed. This money must be used for water quality improvement projects in the Tenmile watershed. WCF will distribute these grant funds in the near future. General information about WCF includes:

- Fund sources include judicial mitigation awards and donations both large & small.
- One factor in awarding grants: supporting "responsible risk-taking" in the community.

- Another factor: looking for game-changing, strategic projects - making a difference.
- Still need to confirm that RE-Sources involvement does not preclude Tenmile from receiving award funds from RE-Sources litigation.
- No lobbying is permitted with Foundation grant funds.
- Needed for grant application: a high level timeline for how & when funds would be spent.
- Tip for planning grant projects: consider what can fail, and plan accordingly for prevention or mitigation.
- Including a plan for matching resources (dollars, materials or labor) does help an application, but is rarely a determining factor.
- Opportunity: Foundation does help facilitate coordination or partnership between multiple applicants for the same grant.

Other notes:

Attendees expressed an interest in a variety of projects related to improving water quality in the broader community. Ideas shared are below

- Write and send a regular newsletter
- Educational workshops – septic, clean water, etc
- Signage, outreach materials (posters, displays)
- Improved data management and communication so that more people understand the issues
- Develop ways to grow our project, attract new members, bring old members back
- Work with schools, youth
- Write more letters and articles
- More sampling, DNA sampling
- Spread work to other watersheds
- Collaborate with other groups to brainstorm the best use of funds: WCD, NSEA, schools, WID, Land Trust
- Create an endowment for Tenmile

Next meeting is March 8<sup>th</sup>.