

Draft minutes from January 2017 meeting

Attendees: Hank K, Dick C, Naomi M, Bob S, Bob M, Lance S, Chelsea, Dorie B, Marge L, Shane V, Art Z, Andy R, Hannah W, Jamie M

Past minutes were approved and no changes were proposed to the agenda.

Announcements:

- The Laurel WID and Tenmile are co-sponsoring a workshop about horse pasture best management practices on Thursday, January 19th. Bob S and Andy R plan to attend and will offer handouts about our Tenmile project.
- A “Water Talks” workshop will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 9am-3pm at 177 Birch Bay Lynden Road, Lynden. The workshop is coordinated by Washington State University with the support of the WIDs. A variety of presentations related to water issues will be presented. This event is free. More info is here: <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/edu/watertalks/>

Discussions:

1. Andy R discussed our revised sampling strategy for Tenmile sampling, and a handout describing the strategy was distributed. Briefly, Tenmile sampling will occur on the same day as the coordinated sampling event (one day prior to marine sampling). Sampling will occur at sites TM 15, NWIC-T2, NWIC-T3, and TM 236 in Tenmile; NWIC-4-Down and FM 237 in Fourmile; and DC 1, DC 3, and DC Hill in Deer Creek. The elimination of the two sites will allow for the samplers to collect additional samples as needed in the field. Sampling conducted by N3 would no longer be on a set schedule (i.e., two weeks after the Tenmile sampling) nor necessarily of the nine sites described above. The sampling would be either 1) follow-up bracket sampling based on the results of the Tenmile folks at locations that may be contributing bacteria upstream of the high count and/or 2) storm- or other-event-based sampling (e.g., a dry period in the summer) at the nine regularly sampled sites (described above). Additional details about the sampling are available in the handout. The Laurel WID approved this strategy. The Tenmile membership approved this strategy.
2. Recent data and trends in Tenmile were discussed. A map showing the most recent results was presented, as were the graphs prepared by Whatcom County Public Works. The last sampling event conducted by Tenmile was on January 9th, 2017. The highest results were at DC1 (Deer Creek at Deer Creek Lane) and at TM15 (Tenmile Creek at Northwest). In cooperation with the Laurel WID, samplers (both Tenmile and Laurel WID) are continuing to bracket sample in the Silver Springs area, both upstream, downstream, and upstream of the confluence of Silver Springs and Tenmile. It appears that the high results are originating from a chicken operation upstream of Hemmi Road. Overall trends in Tenmile are good. In fact, the most recent graphs showing Tenmile data provided by Whatcom County Public works show that the most downstream sampling station on Tenmile is meeting both water quality criteria, for the first time in over three years. Yea! However, none of the upstream sampling stations are meeting

both criteria. It was suggested by several attendees that one reason T1 has met the standard is that the longer residence time in wetlands associated with Barrett Lake have a beneficial effect on water quality.

Hannah Winter, Water Quality Planner 1 at the Lummi Nation presented the topic **Lummi Nation Water Quality Monitoring Program**. Her complete presentation is available on the RE Sources website, here:

Hannah presented information on Nation's Comprehensive Water Quality Monitoring Program, which includes, but is not limited to ambient surface water monitoring, first flush monitoring, temperature monitoring, groundwater monitoring, aquifer level monitoring, and microbial source tracking. Lummi also has its own water quality standards. Lummi staff are involved in the installation, monitoring and calibration of the ZAPS unit in the Nooksack River near the PUD intake. Hannah explained components of the Nation's quality assurance and data validation procedures to ensure accurate, reliable data.

Hannah offered the following suggestions as steps Tenmile members can take towards achieving clean water:

- Continue/increase water quality monitoring, including source tracking
- Work with neighbors by encouraging them to do inspections to identify problems
- Encourage neighbors and community members to take advantage of technical and financial resources to install BMPs
- Support the work of state agencies to prevent pollution

The next meeting is on Wednesday, February 8th. The meeting was adjourned at 8pm.