

## **Draft Tenmile meeting minutes – March 8, 2017**

Attendees: Wilma T, Naomi M, Bob M, Bob S, Andy R, Shane V, Debbie V, Alan C, Dick C, Hank K, Rob V, Lee F, Marge L. Guest speaker Mike Kim, Whatcom Health Department

No changes were proposed to February minutes, or tonight's agenda. February 2017 minutes were approved.

### Announcements:

- Whatcom Conservation District's Small Farm Expo will occur on Saturday, March 11th, NW WA Fairgrounds.
- Whatcom Conservation District's annual plant sale is on Saturday, March 25, Whatcom Community College
- Debbie V encouraged our group to join the Whatcom County Farm Bureau, an organization that supports farming in Whatcom County.

### Water Quality:

- The last sampling event took place on March 6th, by the Bobs and Lee. The highest result was at Northwest Road (72 fec/100mls). Deer Creek was very low: 30, 20, 15, and 2. Excellent results!
- At station T1 (the most downstream station) both criteria were met in March using our data; the geomean and the 90th percentile. However, using data collected by Whatcom County staff, the 90th percentile is not met. They use a different data set.
- The next sample event is on Tuesday, April 4th.

### Subgroup Feb 22 meeting report

¥ Subgroup meeting protocol was explained. The subgroup takes care of certain items in order to save time at the general meetings. All are invited. Sub-group meetings are on the Wednesday following the general meeting (third Wednesday, generally, at BelleWood acres, 3-5pm, join us!

¥ Work plan document provides agenda for next subgroup

¥ An email was sent on Feb 24th to Laurel WID affirming Tenmile project collaboration

¥ Future special meeting #1: facilitated workshop for goal-setting and priorities. A facilitator from Whatcom Community Foundation will assist us.

¥ Future special meeting #2: Tenmile watershed grant-project ideas with stakeholders. Representatives from Whatcom Land Trust, RE Sources, Whatcom Conservation District, and NSEA will attend.

### Mike Kim: on-site septic update

- There are 3,298 known OSS in the Tenmile watershed (which includes Scott Ditch, Tenmile, Fourmile, and Deer Creek). Over 60% had never been evaluated. In February 2016, the Health Department sent 1,762 notice letters to Tenmile OSS owners that were out of compliance. The letter contained a compliance schedule.

- In the months following the notice letter, a large percentage of evaluations (40%) were completed by homeowners. None of the O&M evaluations submitted by homeowners indicated an operational status of “failing.”
- Currently, 38 sites have not completed an O&M evaluation and remain out of compliance. 52 sites received civil penalty letters. The Health Department will eventually follow-up on all of these out of compliance sites.
- Nearly 70% of OSS in the Scott/Tenmile watersheds are now in compliance with O&M requirements.

Mike Kim seemed satisfied that the HD’s program is strong and will improve as time goes by. There has been a big increase in awareness about the importance of inspecting OSS. Members were curious about increasing the regulatory backstop, in order to gain increased compliance. One member suggested recording an OSS violation to the land title, so a new owner will be informed about status.

Mike briefly discussed the OSS ordinance that was about to be voted on by the County Council. The HD proposed amending the current ordinance to eliminate self inspections, but the Health and Safety Committee was not interested in making this change. After a second meeting with the Health and Safety Committee, the HD was directed to make several minor changes to the ordinance. If a homeowner is found to falsify a ROSS, they will no longer be allowed to self-inspect. The new ordinance also codifies that a certain number of OSS audits will be performed by the HD.

The meeting adjourned at 8pm, and the next meeting will take place on April 12th.