

Tenmile Clean Water Project – Minutes, July 11, 2018

Attendees: Bob McWhorter, Hank Kastner, Naomi Murphy, Andy Ross, Alan Chapman, Marge Laidlaw, Krista Rome, Mary Foster.

Note: Comments annotated to this meeting agenda information are **shown in red**.

The following changes were requested for the agenda, and added; but we were not able to discuss in this meeting.

- WCD has provided their first monthly activity summary, as outlined in our outreach agreement; copies were provided for discussion during the meeting, and attached with distribution of these notes.
- Steering Committee (S/C) and leadership elections: with no S/C meetings in recent months, we should discuss the continuing role of that group to handle questions between membership meetings; e.g. we have not had our Charter-required annual elections yet this year, so should that be announced on next months agenda? – or should we wait for better-attended fall meetings? Stay tuned....

AGENDA

- Greetings & introductions
- Review & Approve Agenda

Consent Agenda Approvals – for both May and June, since there was no quorum for approval at the June meeting. **Approved as proposed.**

1. Previous Meeting Minutes (see meeting packet; **note**: copies not provided for meeting.)
2. Financial Report: see notes for details of activity this month.

Tenmile Clean Water Project Monthly Finance Report

Settled for:	June	2018				Notes
	Budget (12 mo.)	Expended Latest Mo	Projected Spending	Total Spent or Committed	Grant Fund Balance	
Coordinator	3000/mo.	0.00	0.00	29,727.23	3,272.77	
Sample Analysis	670/mo.	0.00	0.00	1,540.00	6,460.00	
Outreach (gross)	3,000.00	170.33	313.37	1,186.66	1,813.34	1.
Measurement (gross)	2,400.00		0.00	500.00	1,900.00	
Discretionary (gross)	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	2,985.00	
Grant Admin Overhead	2,600.00			2,600.00	0.00	
TOTALS		170.33	313.37	35,568.89	16,431.11	
WECU Balance		=====>			0.00	2.

Notes:

1. Website development
2. WECU account was closed in June 2018.

Announcements

- **Next Steering Committee meeting**; There is no meeting planned for July unless decided otherwise in this meeting. **No meeting was planned.**
- **WCD Farm Speaker Series** – Sound Horsekeeping: Equine Farm Planning; July 19, 6-8pm, Sunset Farm Park, 7981 Blaine Road. **TCWP members are encouraged to attend** – this is an excellent way to learn more about best-practices being promoted for these key residents in our watershed. <http://www.whatcomcd.org/node/251>

- **Portage Bay Shellfish Protection District Advisory Committee** –meeting is July 25th, and we expect TCWP will have time on the agenda to describe who we are & what we do.
- Alan attended a Puget Sound Partnership meeting at WWU, hosted by the Salish Sea Institute.

Reports

- **Steering Committee** – there was no meeting in June.
- **Water Quality** – data report & forward planning; verbal report, plus the monthly County's Tenmile Focus Area report (~~copies will be available at the meeting.~~) The report was received late and paper copies were not available, so it was projected & used for discussion, and will be attached with distribution of these notes. Recent results were all below the water quality standard of 100, with the exception of site T2, at 120 (bridge on Hemmi Rd just east of Aldrich.) Most discussion focused on the 90th percentile standard, with persistent results just above 100 in the reach between Chasteen Rd and Northwest Ave.
- **Laurel WID** –no meetings scheduled for July & August; next meeting will be Sept 10th.

Business:

1. **Update:** Our **website is 'complete'!** in both design & content – pending any issues from this meeting. We will do a quick on-line tour of the site. Our website designer **Mary Foster will join us** for the meeting to hear any concerns and discuss the work she has begun on written instructions for web updates, which will be 'tested' with member volunteers before completion. We still aim to have instructions complete by end of July.

Follow our blog! At the bottom of any web page, provide your email address to receive notices of new blog posts. <https://tenmilecleanwater.org/>

Most of our discussion time was spent on the website. The design and the initial content were approved. Hank will continue to make minor updates, and will add blog posts about relevant TCWP activities or at member request. But for significant changes or new content, **members should provide the details themselves**; and we will be looking for volunteers interested in being trained to make web updates!

Suggestions & improvement ideas included the following (some with expected action):

- Consider brighter colors in design, for eye appeal (Mary)
- How does the 'signup' feature for blog post notices work? How can we see who has signed up? How does someone change their request? (Mary)
- Create a protocol for how changes to website are vetted for approval (Hank to draft)
- Draft a policy for addressing confidentiality concerns with landscape photos used on website or in public outreach materials (Hank to draft)
- Add Website activity and issues to regular member meeting agendas (Hank)
- 'Contact Us' page: update the "Why contact us?" section with more info (received suggested wording; will update! - Hank)
- 'Who We Are' page: describe/define what is the watershed; find a decent map that shows watershed boundaries (preferably with WID boundaries too!) (Hank)
- 'Events' page: show these things at 'top', above the meeting info: 1) message to 'see blog posts for current activities'; 2) message to 'send us your upcoming community events for posting!' (Hank)
- 'Useful Resources' page: Add WWIN website; also, remove all quotes from web links. (Mary & Hank)
- New page: consider a 'Resources' page to be listed below the 'Library' page; could include historical documents for deeper research or history on the watershed or

organization activities; e.g. check with Dorie for previous resources (action will be pending contribution of such materials!)

2. **Water samples & results:** discussion of recent observations and **plans for summer testing**, especially as focused on potential septic system problem areas, as discussed recently with County & WCD partners. Bob presented a brief description of our ad hoc bracket sample approach this summer, in dense areas of residential septic systems. This work is an attempt to explain historical spikes of high sample results in summertime, a period of low water flows with almost no stormwater runoff. We have begun collecting a set of 4-6 samples in a short reach of Deer Creek, once a week for 3 straight weeks. Analysis of those results will determine our approach for August.
3. **Update:** our **outreach partnership** with **WCD** is focused on horse owners and septic system owners. **Time did not allow for discussion.**
 - WCD has a **horse-owner mailing list** now with more than 90 county addresses, many of whom are in the Tenmile watershed. They have all received mailed post cards about the **July 19** Sound Horsekeeping workshop in Blaine (see announcements, above.)
 - Whatcom County has created **two promotional fliers** to encourage & assist property owner stewardship in support of improved water quality. Both are relevant for the Tenmile watershed: one for small farm operations, and the other for septic system owners. Read the news at the blog post on our website: <https://tenmilecleanwater.org/2018/06/22/promotional-fliers/> and view or copy the fliers at our photo site: <https://tenmilecleanwater.org/photos-images/>
 - And the County is also mailing post cards to remind Tenmile **septic system owners** about inspection requirements and TCWP, with WCD, is listed as a sponsor! A **homeowner workshop is scheduled for July 19th** (attendance is required for rebate eligibility.) Blog post here: <https://tenmilecleanwater.org/2018/06/29/septic-system-reminder-in-the-mail/>
 - As a resource for septic system owners, the County also has a helpful web page titled '**I Have a Septic System**', which includes a nice infographic and fun video; check it out! <http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/2887/I-Have-a-Septic-System> (You can also find this link with others on our Useful Resources page: <https://tenmilecleanwater.org/useful-resources/>)
 - For outreach in general, WCD is looking to use *Next Door* social media in the area. **We need help from members who use Next Door!** WCD has ID'd **586 users** in the watershed, and posted their Good Horsekeeping event to the site.
 - **Portage Bay Shellfish Protection District Advisory Committee** meeting is July 25th & we expect to have time on the agenda; who is available to help with a brief explanation of who we are & what we do? Bob will be out of town; Hank expects to be there.
4. **Proposal:** given our work recently to create a new website, and collaborate with partners to create outreach materials, we are increasingly missing opportunities afforded by having a **recognizable Tenmile Clean Water Project logo**. Bob and I have suggestions to create one, with WCD support. Hank very briefly explained the approach for he & Bob) to work with WCD to create a logo: come up with 2 or 3 suggested design options, and bring those to a future meeting for a group decision. WCD is our preferred option to help with design, after confirming WCD cost is expected to be significantly lower than the one other estimate received, from a WWU student.
5. **Update:** a **ZAPS** analyzer for Tenmile watershed is back in play; we can have input on a location if we have any ideas, like the Deer Creek site discussed previously. **Time did not allow for discussion.**