

Tenmile Clean Water Project – Minutes, Jan 9, 2019

Attendees: Bob McWhorter, Hank Kastner, Naomi Murphy, Andy Ross, Alan Chapman, Marge Laidlaw, Aneka Sweeney

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

Meeting packet attachments:

1. This Agenda
2. Dec 12 membership Meeting Minutes (and financial report.)

AGENDA

- Greetings & introductions
- Review & Approve Agenda – one item was added to the agenda (see #3 under **Business**, below.)

Consent Agenda Approvals - Approved.

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

Tenmile Clean Water Project Monthly Finance Report

Settled for: December 2018

	Budget (12 mo.)	Expended Latest Mo	Projected Spending	Total Spent or Committed	Grant Fund Assets	Notes
Coordinator	3000/mo.	0.00	0.00	29,727.23	3,272.77	
Sample Analysis	670/mo.	225.00	0.00	3,240.00	4,760.00	
Outreach (gross)	3,000.00	48.00	0.00	1,336.81	1,663.19	1.
Measurement (gross)	2,400.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	1,900.00	
Discretionary (gross)	3,304.00	0.00	0.00	3,015.00	289.00	
Grant Admin Overhead	2,600.00			2,615.20	(15.20)	
WCD Service Agreement		0.00	0.00	6,430.69	16,569.31	2.
TOTALS		273.00	0.00	46,864.93	28,439.07	

Notes:

1. Website hosting paid for a second year.
2. No report from WCD for the month.

Announcements

- **Next Steering Committee meeting;** There is no meeting planned for January unless decided otherwise in this meeting. – **None planned**
- **Laurel Watershed Improvement District** – this month occurs after our meeting, Jan 14th. Their meetings are 10am every second Monday each month, 204 Hawley Street, Lynden. **See subsequent report, below.**
- **WCD Farm Speaker Series** – Manure Nutrient Management Training; Thu, Jan 17th, 10am-2pm, Mt Baker Rotary, 1751 Front St., Lynden. See details here: <http://www.whatcomcd.org/node/256>
- **Septic System Training Workshops** – required for property owners who want to inspect your own on-site sewage system. Three dates this spring, all 6-8pm at the Ferndale WECU, I-5 at Main: Feb 7th; Mar 6th; Apr 24th. See this link for details: <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/1745/Homeowner-Training-OM>

- **WCD Small Farm Expo** – March 9, 9am-2pm, NW Washington Fairgrounds
See details here: <https://www.whatcomcd.org/node/275>
- **NSEA Earth Day work party** – April 20th at 9am, to plant the area around Tenmile Creek at East Hemmi road, site of planned County work to replace the road culvert there. We will promote the event on our website and in the first issue of our newsletter. Join us for this opportunity to build neighborhood involvement in the watershed.
- Others?

Reports

- **Steering Committee** – there was no meeting in ~~November~~ December.
- **Water Quality** – verbal data report. Due to rescheduled Portage Bay marine sampling, we ran the complete set of samples two weeks in a row (at county expense.) No results were available at meeting time.
- **Website updates** – <https://tenmilecleanwater.org/> - none to mention.
- **Laurel WID** – their meeting occurs after ours this month; watch for a report next month! These notes for the Jan 14 meeting will be reported again for the next meeting; only matters of some interest to TCWP are mentioned:
 - **Boxx & Appel** were confirmed for another year at Pres/Vice Pres, respectively.
 - **Frank Corey** (WCD) reported on the county project at E Hemmi @ Tenmile creek, which includes the NSEA planting event Apr 20 (see above.) It's a long story, but essentially: the creek is being restored to its original channel out of the wetland; buffer planting for the new channel is both good practice & wetland mitigation for the project itself; and after the above, the county will significantly raise the roadbed elevation through the area, seeking to avoid all but 25yr flood events for the road.
 - **Fred Likkel** presented a letter the Ag Water Board is recommending that each WID send to its members, encouraging closer attention to manure applications during these wet months, after late fall water sampling indicated increased fecal bacteria results across the county. The WID agreed to send the letter, after some discussion reflecting the complexity of how WID members choose to address this challenge.
 - **Septics**, discussion: how to approach the possibility of extending Ferndale sewer service to residential concentrations in lower Deer & Tenmile creeks? Conclusion: It was agreed that drafting a letter directly to Ferndale would be premature, without knowing more, both about an appropriate process, and without an agreed data case indicating a problem. TCWP will follow up with the county on our earlier strategy discussion from this summer, to assess what we learned and raise this new question, and will include Rich Appel. We will report back to both TCWP & the WID next month.

Business:

1. **Water samples & results:** discussion of future planning based on previous results. No added discussion.
2. **2019 planning:** there has been no progress on these issues, which will be carried forward for updates or questions.
 - Transfer of remaining **grant funds to WCD**, exclusively for SourceID sample analysis. We received the draft agreement from WCD before the meeting and reviewed it together. Several minor improvements were suggested which have been incorporated, and the WCD Board will consider the new agreement for approval at its Jan 17 meeting.
 - WCD plans to launch a **postal-mail newsletter** for TCWP this spring.

3. **Portable Toilet** case study – This received much discussion, and the conclusions for future reference will be subject of a blog post on our website if someone chooses to write it up. Here is a brief summary:
- RE Sources received a citizen tip after the ‘Christmas’ wind storm about a portable toilet blown over near a ditch, with effluent flowing into the stormwater. Location was near the intersection of W Hemmi & Aldrich, not far from Tenmile creek.
 - The information was shared with other RE Sources staff, a TCWP contact, the Facebook group *Whatcom County Farmers Trading Post*, and the citizen made multiple other contacts herself. Ultimately the toilet was up-righted, but it’s not clear what action actually resulted.
 - One of our members will try to contact the reporting citizen to thank her for her attention to this (and maybe learn more about the circumstances.)
 - Our discussion eventually focused on ‘what if...’ for next time, and we emphasized having ‘hotline’ numbers available; perhaps even use of a App for reporting such things. Here are some numbers:
RE Sources Pollution Control Specialist: 360.220.0556
Dept of Ecology: 425.649.7000
City of Bellingham stormwater hotline: 360.778.7979
4. **Open forum.**
- Naomi suggested the possibility of a coordinated reading of the recent book ***Eager: The surprising, secret life of beavers and why they matter***, by Ben Goldfarb. We will discuss the idea further at the next meeting.
 - Somewhere along the way, there was more discussion about the Chasteen Rd – Tenmile creek intersection, and the flooding events there. Aneka suggested we could use an App being used in the county for recording these and other events.