

Tenmile Clean Water Project – Minutes, Apr 10, 2019

Attendees: Bob McWhorter, Hank Kastner, Naomi Murphy, Andy Ross, Alan Chapman, Aneka Sweeney, Don Hrutfiord, Eleanor Burke, Carsten Almskaar, Sandra Matheson, Atul Deshmane, Rich Appel, Ann Appel, Emily Usher.

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

Meeting packet attachments:

1. This Agenda
2. Jan 9 membership Meeting Minutes (and financial report.)

AGENDA

- Greetings & introductions
- **Review & Approve Agenda: two additions were made to the agenda under Business: Sandra Matheson's request, and the need for a Steering Committee meeting in May.-Also, Business was conducted prior to the program, unlike the agenda sequence.**

Consent Agenda Approvals approved, with acceptance of one correction noted below.

1. March Meeting Minutes.
(see meeting packet; **note**: copies not provided at the meeting.)
2. Financial Report: see notes below for details. **The Overhead expense highlighted below is an error and will be deleted, with all totals recalculated.**

Tenmile Clean Water Project Monthly Finance Report

Settled for: March 2019							Notes:
							1.
WCD Support Agreements		Initial Funding	Month's Spending	Projected Spending	Spent + Projected	Remaining Funds	
Outreach	Total:	23,000.00	2,558.05	4,000.00	12,988.54	10,011.46	
	Staff		2,046.44				
	Supplies, miles, mail		0.00	4,000.00			2.
	Overhead		511.61				
Sample Analysis	Sampling	12,044.77	0.00	0.00	50.00	11,994.77	3.
	TOTALS:	35,044.77	2,558.05	4,000.00	13,038.54	22,006.23	

Notes:

1. Sub-categories now match detail reported from WCD.
2. 'Projected' is for newsletter mailing.
3. No Source-ID samples in the period.

Announcements

- **Next Steering Committee meeting;** no meeting planned for April.
- **Laurel Watershed Improvement District – April 8th.** Their meetings are 10am every second Monday each month, 204 Hawley Street, Lynden.
- **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.

- **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>
- **Customer Appreciation Day:** May 11th, all day, at Laurel Farm & Western Supply, 325 West Laurel Road. **TCWP will have an information table**; contact Bob or Hank if you can help us staff the table!
- **Others?** The joint meeting of Portage Bay & Drayton Harbor shellfish advisory committees is set for April 24th, 3-5:30pm, at the County PDS offices, Smith Road at Northwest.

Reports

- **Steering Committee** – there was a meeting on March 26th; most of our time was spent on a preliminary discussion of expanding the stated range of TCWP watershed work to include the other things we are already doing and describe other future options. See Business section below for more discussion.
- **Water Quality** – verbal data report will include March sample results. **Results were again very low, mostly double figures (below the water quality standard.)**
- **Website updates** – <https://tenmilecleanwater.org/> Twelve blog posts so far this year.
- **Laurel WID meetings** – we will have a report from the April 8th meeting, just occurring (Bob & Hank attended)-
 - Repeated our invitation for the NRCS/NWQI presentation.
 - Explained about the Earth Day planting event & connection with the ongoing County project at E. Hemmi and Ten Mile creek.
 - Reported on information received from Whatcom County about limitations regarding Ferndale extending sewer service into lower Deer Creek residential.
 - Bob's water quality report led to healthy, spirited discussion about our confidential Source-ID sample program, and why it may still be 'suspect' by some farmers.

Program: Emily Usher from Purdue University will provide an update from the NRCS-sponsored National Water Quality Initiative, and then answer questions. She was among the Purdue consultants we heard from at the Bellewood acres workshop last year.

“Last year, researchers from Purdue University visited our watershed to learn from the successes we have seen in the Tenmile watershed. Emily Usher will be in the area to tell us about what they learned about successful watershed management. She will share results from our watershed forum, combined with results from five other watershed forums conducted across the country (NC, WA, VT, IL, and OK), and watershed-specific recommendations surrounding watershed management, resource needs, and education/outreach. This is an opportunity to learn about our own watershed, as well as watersheds in other states. In addition, this is your chance to provide feedback on Purdue’s findings and contribute ideas to reports and recommendations that will be sent to the federal level of USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service.”

Emily's presentation was well received and generated discussion well past the end of our meeting. For a copy of the 44-page presentation (powerpoint) and/or 2-page summary of results (pdf), **see the April 14 blog post at our website.**

Business:

1. Sandra Matheson explained her request for a TCWP letter of support of her appeal of application for CREP on her property. WCD staff have encouraged her to pursue this appeal with further explanation of the project. With one member's questioning whether this project is an appropriate use of CREP funds, a letter of support was nevertheless approved (with 5 voting members attending this meeting.)
2. We will have a Steering Committee meeting in May for the purpose of detailed planning for the fall/winter period this year; and to continue discussion of a new 'mission statement', as noted below. Hank will schedule and announce to the membership.

3. **Water samples & results:** discussion of future planning based on previous results. **We have no plans for source ID sampling this month.**
4. **2019 planning:**
 - Newsletter update – residents in our watershed should receive our first newsletter by the time of this meeting!. It will be announced in a website blog post when the e-copy is ready. Send comments by email (tenmilecleanwater@gmail.com) or post something on the website – how does it look?!! **Newsletter copies were distributed at the meeting and arrived at homes by the end of the week.**
 - Earth Day event – we will have our display table set up along with the 2 other sponsors (WCD, NSEA); volunteers needed! Also, see the [April 1st blog post](#) on our website for news that **the first 200 attending** will receive a free t-shirt with this → custom design that includes our TCWP logo on the back. **We verified assignments for our information table on the day (Naomi, Hank, Alan)**
 - Laurel Farm & Supply – we are planning on having the TCWP display table for May 11th, and will need volunteers.
 - TCWP business cards – ~~now available; get them out there!~~ **We hope to have the cards available for the Earth Day event.**
 - Vehicle magnet signs – we have 3, for use during sampling & events.
 - We are already discussing content for a Fall newsletter edition; let us know if you want to help!
 - **Still ahead: we are considering another version of our logo to use for 'frig' magnets and a table cover for our display; this may involve adding the 'teardrop icon' of the watershed on top of the existing logo. (See the newsletter's front page for example of the 'icon!')**
5. **Discuss appreciation** for members' personal expenses in the course of volunteer activities. **For lack of time, deferred to Steering Committee meeting in May.**
6. **New 'mission statement'?** – brief description of the idea; a draft of the concept is in the works; stay tuned! **The idea may be summarized as: "Describe the 'big umbrella' we are inviting people to join; with enough specificity to help guide our work."** For lack of time, further discussion deferred to Steering Committee meeting in May.

