

Chambers-Clover Watershed Conference

October 5 & 6, 2007
Pacific Lutheran University
Tacoma, WA

Top Priorities for the Future

Attendees at the Chambers-Clover Watershed Conference were given the opportunity to share their ideas on the most important next steps for watershed management. Their responses were posted on cards and posters at the conference and are listed here (below).

Top Priorities for the Future: Management decisions made over the next 20 years will shape the condition of our watershed. Please use this card to share your thoughts on what three priorities or actions are most important to achieving a healthy Chambers-Clover Watershed.

1) Control sprawl (or eliminate it)!! Sprawl is associated with greater impervious surfaces, strip malls, fewer environmental controls (on wetlands, private and commercial pollution/runoff), increased traffic congestion, obesity, and inefficient land use practices. In Parkland, sprawl makes social services hard to deliver.

2) Salmon restoration. By making this watershed livable for salmon, we will make water bodies clean for humans to use (e.g., Spanaway Lake) and create public spaces to be enjoyed by people.

3) Education. Our kids need to be scientifically educated on watersheds and ecology. People need to be educated to see themselves as part of the ecosystem and not removed from nature.

Eric Allen, PLU Environmental Studies and Geosciences major

1) Educational center on the CCCW could be built to educate the public/residents. Kobayashi Preserve in University Place, where Flett and Chambers creeks meet, would be an excellent location.

2) Removal of blockages to salmonids on all salmon-bearing streams in the watershed. Morey Dam on McDhord AFB should be removed or bypassed to allow fish passage.

3) Creation and protection of habitat corridors along stream channels, and protection of urban forested areas from cutting and invasive species.

Tahoma Audubon Society

1) Require all stormwater generated to be treated onsite, including designing out detention ponds. Use LID best management practices.

- 2) Continue to enforce regulations that protect wetlands.
- 3) Retrofit projects funded for infiltrative groundwater and habitat protection.
- 4) Encourage sustainable community planning.

David Hymel, Nisqually River Council

- 1) Review development/growth. If it has created negative effects on our environmental health, request the remaining watershed be removed from the planning area. The state does not require destruction, only development where the land and environment (indecipherable) handle it.
- 2) Continue re-capturing all the lost water and putting it back into the ground, streams and aquifers.
- 3) Strengthen protection and learn respect for the wetlands and their vital role in supporting the life and health of our creeks and people.

Cindy Beckett, CCWC

- 1) Safe, reliable sources of drinking water (speaking as a Spanaway Water co. customer) within the watershed, not piped in or delivered in tanker trucks or plastic bottles!
- 2) Maintaining/enhancing a diversity of wildlife through broad-based habitat preservation. (Tree frogs and kestrels, not opossums and starlings.)
- 3) Figure out how to engage the other 98% (99.5%?) of the watershed citizenry in the issues discussed here.

Anonymous

- 1) Clean up urban runoff.
- 2) Increase water re-use (infiltration, commercial use, irrigation).
- 3) Education and stewardship of resources

Al Schmauder, CCWC

- 1) Control growth in the basin, and impacts of development.
- 2) Recover as much as possible of fish populations, primarily cutthroat trout.

Neil Carrell

- 1) Very important to connect Clover Creek from 136th St. to above 138th St. and make sure it is functioning correctly.
- 2) Essential to continue the purchase of riparian and wetlands along the creek.
- 3) Important to locate the headwater springs on the Tacoma Sportsman's Club and protect them.

Fred Tobiason

- 1) Not a priority, but something easy to do would be to monitor the fish trap [at Chambers Bay] year round.
- 2) Remove Chambers Dam.
- 3) Limit development and remove impervious surfaces where feasible.

Andy Fritz

- 1) Helping neighborhoods organize to steward the streams that run through their property (Bresemann Forest to Tule Lake, for one). Perhaps modeling after Seattle Urban Creek Renewal project?

Claudia Finseth

- 1) Information to lakefront property residents on lake health, especially algae blooms, or test kits so they can self monitor.
- 2) Continue to improve fish passage from barriers like culverts and flow.
- 3) Provide teeth to enforcement of environmental laws pertaining to private and commercial business developments. The hearing examiner has not got enough enforcement.

SCAN (sic)

- 1) Decrease and stop contaminated storm water from entering systems.
- 2) Mandate LID to infiltrate stormwater/surface water back into groundwater to maintain higher groundwater levels as well as improve wetland and stream systems. Infiltrate (re-use) storm and (indecipherable) water that is cleaned back into the watershed.
- 3) Get rid of all fish impasse structures, treat non-ESA species as the (indecipherable) develop protection measure to maintain their (indecipherable) numbers as well.

Scott Hansen, Puget Creek Restoration Society

- 1) Increase instream flows and ensure to the best extent possible year-round flows that could, over time, reestablish viable habitat and spawning space for all species.
- 2) With flow enhancement in-progress, continue acquisition and enhancement of riparian zones and other lands to promote colder water in the system.
- 3) Begin construction of accessible off-stream refuge, side-channels, etc.
Bart Madison, PRWC/Trout Unlimited

- 1) Salmon recovery planning in Pierce County
- 2) Better aquifer map for Pierce County in conjunction with studies and maps by University of Washington about geological stratification of Puget Sound area 2^o to repeat glacier expansion and retreats (sic).
Barbara Guller, CCWC

- 1) Education [and] outreach
- 2) Strong leadership and management
- 3) Implementation → enforcement
Daniel Hull

- 1) Reasonable quantity of base flow water flowing along more naturally shaped channels (presence of a thalweg, etc.)
- 2) Continued collection of the watershed info necessary for determining best ways to cause #1, as well as associated riparian elements improvements.
Friends of Swan Creek Watershed

- 1) Something must be done about the 20+ ponds along Clover Creek. There are positives, i.e., fish have a place to rest, flood control, etc. The question of sealing (most are not sealed) must be determined. Inflow and outflow must be measured, diversion to water lawns/gardens must be looked at, cooperation with property owners should be a priority. It may be that we would not want all of the ponds to be sealed (recharge to ground table).
- 2) Vegetation in creek (canary reed grass); should a pathway be cleared through for fish? Needs to be addressed.
Gene Nadeau