

DRAFT Chambers-Clover Watershed Council Meeting Notes
Wednesday, March 17th, 2010
Lakewood City Hall, Lakewood, WA

Attending: Mark Vinciguerra, Al Schmauder, Don Russell, Greg Vigoren, Cindy James, Melissa Paulson, Stephanie Leisle, Phil Schneider, Steve Wyant, Ione Clagett, Kurt Fremont, Bob Burkle, Jenifer McFadden, Dave Batker and Lindsay Tuttle (taking notes).

Presentations & Education

Ecosystem Services 101: Incorporating the environment into economic decision-making
David Batker, Earth Economics

Earth Economics is a non profit organization which is funded through government and foundation grants to look at how we value our watersheds. There are four types of capital: Built (roads, buildings), Social (laws, legal system), Human (education) and Natural (agriculture, wetlands, lakes). A balance of all four types of capital is needed.

Typically the economy has been looked at as more important than the environment. Now views are changing to put the environment above the economy. There are 23 Ecosystem Services outlined by Earth Economics including: support – provision, regulating, cultural, and constituents of well being – security, basic material and good health to name a few. Our built capital is dependent of ecosystem services. Would you rather have stuff (big house, fancy car) or oxygen? We can't have the stuff if we don't have the oxygen to survive.

Our watersheds have natural filtration systems that are no cost to us. Watersheds are capital assets although they are not considered such today. More money is needed to help restore these natural systems.

Infrastructure conflict happens when you have more development which leads to more storm water which needs more flood control and then results in levees. Our built capital (levees) fall apart over time and need upkeep, repair or replacement. It depreciates in capital. Our natural capital appreciates in capital.

There is great need to set up funding mechanisms. Grants are not efficient to meet the needs. Natural capital needs to be treated like an asset. Maintained like we maintain our roads are maintained. Flood protection now being done/ proposed is not sufficient. Need to protect and restore our watersheds so they can be our flood protection.

Brief Reports

TPCHD (Lindsay Tuttle) - Chambers Beach will be opening this fall and we are considering including it in our Marine BEACH sampling this summer. Concerned with having an off-leash dog area on the beach and how that will impact water quality. Water Festival is right around the corner. Toxic algae advisories are still in place at American, Clear and Waughop. American is looking better. Fish toxin report just released and is very interesting. Did not receive funding for Spanaway Lake project submitted to DOE.

WDFW (Bob Burkle) – Sequelitchew Creek meeting w/ City of Dupont, Ft. Lewis and Tribe (no gravel co.) to review issues with getting water and fish up the creek. There may be restoration fixes but no money available. There may be other ways of getting the work done.

DOE (Cindy James) – There is no funding for the Spanaway Lake project proposed by TPCHD.

City of Tacoma (Kurt Fremont) – Public review and workshops held last week for NPDES permit. Seven folks participated.

City of Lakewood (Greg Vigoren) – The annual report for NPDES Permit is done and the public comment period is still open. Have a project for flood control on 59th St. will incorporate more infiltration. The Tillicum/Woodbrook area storm water is infiltrated.

Pierce County (Melissa Paulson) – Review for flood plan complete and received one comment. Four public meetings are planned to get input about the river flooding problems in the County. A meeting will be held at the ESB in University Place on March 29th to get input from people who live outside of the flood plain.

Clover Creek (Al Schmauder) – Not much water in Clover Creek right now. He would like to look at well static levels to determine why. County executive meeting discussing water reuse issues. Abitibi Mill has started to be partially removed. New owner may leave large buildings for storage. Al believes dam removal discussion is desirable to make Chambers Creek more suitable for salmon. Al would like maps of watershed with natural systems, streets and landmarks. He is working with PLU students on this and may coordinate with Pierce County.

Sequalitchew Creek (Steve Wyant) – April 15th there is a meeting for membership. Trail along creek still closed due to washout.

Watershed Council Business: Field trip in spring to look at Morey Creek/Ellingson property in May. Will need to gain access to Joint Base Lewis-McChord on a Friday and need ideas for action project for second half of day. Find out about having someone do talk on the fish tissue and cyanotoxin study.