

Chambers-Clover Watershed Council
Proposal for Continued Watershed Coordination
July 14, 2010

The mission of the Chambers-Clover Watershed Council is to promote the protection and enhancement of the Chambers-Clover Watershed, focusing on issues such as non-point source pollution, water quality and salmon habitat. Since the council's inception in 2003, this work has been supported by a part-time watershed coordinator provided by Pierce County Surface Water Management. Recent staff changes and other factors have led to a change in watershed council support and created a need for watershed partners to think creatively about how to preserve key Chambers-Clover Watershed Council activities. This proposal outlines a collaborative plan to continue CCWC activities by sharing watershed council coordination functions amongst all members.

Background

In the past, Pierce County has provided a watershed coordinator on a part-time (approx. 0.3 FTE) basis to coordinate and implement the following:

- Monthly meetings – Draft agendas, arrange speakers, coordinate logistics, and promote/advertise meetings
- Field trips and action projects – Coordinate two stand-alone field trips per year (spring and fall), with an accompanying volunteer project such as a planting event
- Watershed council communication – Serve as a point-of-contact for the council, and maintain the CCWC email distribution list and website
- Annual report – Develop and distribute a report outlining CCWC activities for the past year
- Annual retreat – Coordinate and facilitate the retreat itself, as well as associated work planning activities
- Support of Executive Committee – Develop agendas in partnership with the Chair and support bimonthly committee meetings
- Maps, displays and other materials – Develop materials as needed to support outreach events
- Other project coordination as needed

Although these functions have been valuable to the CCWC to date, the anticipated change in coordinator support spurred discussion between watershed partners about how to continue watershed council activities into the future.

Alternative Models for Moving Forward

Through email communication and open discussion during monthly meetings, Chambers-Clover Watershed Council members identified three options for addressing the change in coordinator support:

Option 1: Transfer all of the existing coordinator functions to another CCWC member and continue at the current level of service.

Option 2: Transfer none of the existing coordinator functions and suspend CCWC activities indefinitely.

Option 3: Transfer the most essential coordination functions to all CCWC members on a rotating basis as a way of continuing watershed council activities at a lower level.

Recommendations and Future Coordination Responsibilities

Members of the watershed council reached full consensus that shared responsibility (option 3) is the best way to address the impending change in coordinator support. Although ideal, transfer of watershed coordination responsibilities to another partner (option 1) is not feasible given the current economic climate. Dissolution of the CCWC (option 2) was not seen as a viable option.

Under the new model, watershed council members will take turns coordinating monthly meetings by arranging for a speaker and developing the agenda. Field trips and volunteer projects will be the responsibility of the meeting planner, as appropriate. Pierce County will continue to serve as the primary point of contact for the council by maintaining the email distribution list, sending out meeting announcements and maintaining the CCWC website. City of Lakewood will continue to provide a meeting location and access to a/v equipment for presentations.

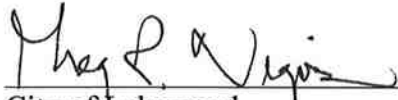
The regular January meeting will take the place of the annual retreat and will include election of officers, brainstorm of meeting topics, and sign-ups to host meetings during the current year. The executive committee agreed to assume coordination responsibilities for their own meetings. Watershed maps and other materials will be developed by the most appropriate watershed partner on an as-needed basis as resources allow.

Current watershed coordination functions that would not be continued under this model include the development of annual reports and annual work planning.

By sharing watershed coordination responsibilities as outlined above, it will be possible to continue the watershed council functions viewed as of most value to CCWC members. These “high value” functions include providing: a regular opportunity to discuss watershed issues and activities; an established avenue for communication between agencies, non-governmental organizations and citizens; an opportunity to expand our collective knowledge about watershed issues through presentations; written record of council activities; and a single website to serve as a point of information for the public. Council members generally agreed that annual retreats and annual reports are less essential (“low value”) to the core business of the watershed council and can be discontinued until additional resources become available.

Support from Watershed Partners


This proposal was developed collaboratively by the Chambers-Clover Watershed Council. Members actively supporting this proposal agree to coordinate at least one monthly meeting per calendar year as needed (max. 2). Supporting members include:



City of Lakewood



Washington Dept. of Ecology



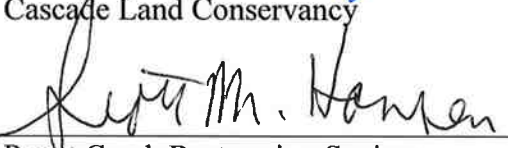
City of Tacoma



Cascade Land Conservancy



Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department



Puget Creek Restoration Society

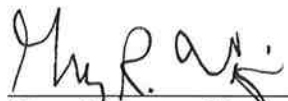


Pierce County



Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

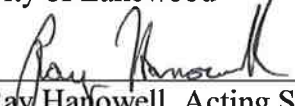
This new approach to watershed council coordination will take effect prior to the September 2010 CCWC meeting and will be evaluated by the council at the end of 2011 or as needed.

 7/21/10

Greg Vigoren, Chair
City of Lakewood



Ione Claggett, Vice Chair
Cascade Land Conservancy



Ray Hanowell, Acting Secretary
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department