

Chambers-Clover Creek Watershed Council

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

3:30-5:30 PM

Lakewood Community Center



Draft Notes

18 attendees

Welcome & Introductions – Renee Buck, Chair

Small Grants Awardees Final Report Presentations:

Forterra, Schibig Lakeview Preserve Stewardship -- Stu Watson, Ali Erskine

Forterra received a grant in 2018 to work with the Washington High School's Green Team on Forterra's Schibig Lakeview Preserve, located within walking distance of the high school. The property has been conserved for 17 years now. The grant allowed them to purchase tools and materials to support the stewardship activities, including Himalayan blackberry removal, scotch broom removal, planting of native plants, and building and installing Western bluebird nest boxes. Students learned proper planting techniques. Forterra intends to purchase a container to store the tools on site soon.

Looking forward, Forterra recently received a CCWC grant for 2019. They plan to continue with bluebird restoration by creating forage patches below the nest boxes with native short stature grasses. The bluebirds prefer insects found in short grasses near their nests to feed their young. These patches may be expanded in the future, and different techniques will be experimented with to manage the surrounding non-native grasses.

Spanaway Lake HS, water quality monitoring -- Paula Langager, AP Environmental Science teacher and science contact for the school district.

The high school received a grant in 2018 for water quality monitoring at Spanaway Lake. They worked with members of the Friends of Spanaway Lake. This citizen science program was one of four projects they did in the 2018-19 school year, and it will be continued in future years. The grant allowed them to go to 4 field trips to Bresemann Forest, Spanaway Lake, and Morey Creek. Data collection occurred in December, March, and May at four stations. This is the first field studies class for the school district. Twenty-two students participated. They sampled water and tested pH, CO2 and Dissolved Oxygen. They found high phosphates at 19 feet depth near the island on Spanaway Lake. The high school and FOSL were able to share some of their equipment with each other. They also did a macroinvertebrate study on all of the sites. Data was shared with Pierce County's Environmental Services department. Pollution, garbage specifically, was noted and a concern of the students.

Guest Presentation:

Green Cities Partnership Program – Joanna Nelson de Flores, Forterra

Forterra started the Green Cities Program in 2005 in Seattle. Today there are 14 cities and one county participating. The program goal is to restore urban forests through community engagement and a long-term plan/commitment. It usually takes at least 2 years to get a new program started. The process for getting started is to 1) conduct a Forest Landscape Assessment (triaging the acres and conditions of invasive species % versus native canopy cover), 2) develop a 20-year plan; and 3) community-based stewardship – trained "Forest Stewards" and professional crews where appropriate. It can be harder for smaller cities to participated, so coordination amongst multiple jurisdictions might

be an option. There is a study that shows there is a need in the Lakewood/University Place area for trees/open space – urban equity. Green Tacoma Partnership is the only program in our watershed.

Learn more! Green Cities Partnership page: <https://forterra.org/service/green-city-partnerships>

Partner Updates:

- **Pierce County Parks:** Pollinator Week is this week and there is a celebration at Parkland Prairie on Saturday 6/22. CCWC is invited to participate.
- **TPCHD:** summer water quality sampling for toxic algae has started. There is no advisory currently. They are starting to see toxic algae in Spanaway Lake, as is usually the case.
- **Pierce County: Surface Water Management** – the TMDL plan for Clarks Creek has been submitted to Dept. of Ecology and this will allow the project manager to focus back on Clover Creek once again, so expect we will hear an update at a CCWC meeting this fall.
- **Camp Murray:** they are installing a continuous monitoring station on Murray Creek.
- **Pierce Conservation District:** they hosted Green Drinks in June. They hosted a Stream Team member training for new volunteers with 11 participants.
- **Noxious Weed Control Board:** there is an app to report noxious weeds in Washington. Anyone can nominate a weed to be listed as noxious at the local level.
- **American Lake Management District:** the new tax district was overwhelmingly approved by voters last month. They received approval to use ProcellaCOR to treat for the aquatic weed Eurasian milfoil. About the chemical: <http://procellacor.sepro.com/why-procellacor/>

Field Trip Options

1. Flett Creek Basin by Foot on 7/17. Registration opened at 6pm today. Space is limited! RSVP is required at: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4255503> This is a guided walk field trip.
2. Purview of Partner Projects on 8/21. Registration will open on July 1st, also on Brown Paper Tickets, event page here: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4255528>

BREAK – 10 minutes

Review/Approve May 15th meeting minutes – moved and seconded. Meeting minutes were approved.

Reports – also see written reports

- **Communications**, Janet Spingath – there are 3 upcoming outreach opportunities that need volunteers to help CCWC participate:
 - Parkland Prairie on 6/22
 - Sequelitchew Creek Moon Walk on 7/16 – in evening
 - Freddie Fest on 8/10lone and Barbara Ann volunteered for the 6/22 event. We need at least 2 more people for each of the following events. *If you are interested, please contact Krystal or Barbara Ann or Janet.*
- **Stewardship**, Al Schmauder
 - See committee report.
 - There is a planting event on Saturday 6/22 at Springbrook Park in Lakewood. Springbrook Connections will water plants.
 - City of Lakewood intends to develop a plan for the park, so the large woody debris installation project will be delayed. They might still be able to put some smaller wood in the Clover Creek (also at Springbrook Park).

- They are considering a salmon carcass fling in September to add needed nutrients to the system.
- The committee would like to get three large maps printed of the 3 basins that the WRIA 12 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee identified as their subareas. They will use the maps to identify existing projects and stewardship activities and challenges for WRIA 12.
- **Executive** – Field Trip, Renee Buck
 - See committee report.
 - Planning for field trips in July and Watershed Issues Forum in November will focus on the theme of “lakes.” If you have ideas for topics and/or speakers, please contact an executive committee member. The next meeting has been changed to July 10 from July 3rd due to the holiday.
- **External Groups**
 - **AHHS: Alliance for a Healthy South Sound** is the Local Integrating Organization that the WRIA 12 watershed is located in. Al Schmauder attends the meetings. They do not meet very often, and Al doesn’t think they are effective. Anyone can participate. More information and meetings at: <http://www.healthysouthsound.org/>
 - **WREC: Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee.** Kris Kaufmann represents the CCWC on this committee, and Renee Buck is the alternate. They are trying to identify a 20-year projection on exempt wells in WRIA 12. They’ve had only 20 applications in the last 5 years, 18 of which were to remove and hook up to municipal water sources. More information and meetings at: https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1962/37324/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_12.aspx

Comments/Concerns – all

Clover Creek is drying up at 138th culvert. Water under reed canary grass on Forterra’s property.

Adjourn

Upcoming CCWC Events:

Wednesday, July 10 – Executive Committee meeting

Wednesday, July 17 – Field Trip (in place of a meeting)

If you have questions about this agenda or watershed council, please contact:

Barbara Ann Smolko 253-798-6156 barbaraann.smolko@piercecounywa.gov or

Krystal Kyer 253-798-2485 or krystal.kyer@piercecounywa.gov

Visit: www.piercecounywa.gov/ccwc for more information about the watershed council.