

PRWC Board Meeting

9/26/19

Meeting Notes

Board Members Present:

Kurt Fremont, Carrie Hernandez, Linda Burgess, Julie Masura, Robby Wright, Allan Warren

Board Members Excused:

Tom Kantz, Laurie Larson-Pugh, Mark Palmer, Mark Heckert, Russ Ladley, Jenn Stebbings

15 attendees total

Introductions – Carrie Hernandez, President, welcomed guests and led introductions.

2018 Small Grants Final Reports:

1. Ken Campbell – Ikkatsu Project – Puyallup Watershed Microplastics Sampling
 - a. A small nonprofit group formed after 2011 tsunami following earthquakes in Japan
 - b. 2014 pilot project - 6 middle schools in the Puyallup Watershed participated in microplastics sampling
 - c. 2018-19 schoolyear- served about 350 students
 - d. 2019-2020 schoolyear – expanding to include high schools, SAMI at Point Defiance Park in Tacoma
 - e. Sampling: standing water samples of one liter = 4 samples. Use digital microscopes. About 95% of microplastics found are fibers. Water can be from lakes, rivers, saltwater.

2. Pat Jenkins – Senior Media Services – Senior Scene environmental column
 - a. Senior Scene is a free monthly print newspaper for people over 55, with a distribution of 13,000 copies monthly; 20-30,000 estimated readers; 368 locations in King and Pierce Counties.
 - b. The wrote a column on environmental issues and real-life examples of how people can be good environmental stewards for this grant project. They’ve been doing so for several years with support from City of Tacoma’s Make a Splash grant.
 - c. The wrote columns about the Puyallup Watershed Symposium and the PRWC, as well as one on good stewardship/behaviors.
 - d. It is also published on the website: www.seniorscene.org

3. Melissa Buckingham - Pierce Conservation District - 8th Ave Rain Garden Rehab project
 - a. There is a “Green Street” in Puyallup on 8th Ave between 11th and 13th.
 - b. Original installation of 7 rain gardens occurred in 2009.
 - c. 2013 installed green street, sidewalks, raingardens in medians – public rain gardens

- d. By 2018, plants were overgrown due to nutrient rich soils and water that native plants were not accustomed to.
 - e. Plants were weeded, salvaged, and replanted in Springbrook Park in Lakewood; unhealthy plants removed, new smaller plants that would grow under 3 feet were installed.
 - f. WCC crew did weeding and heavy mulching afterword and continue to do so in future years.
4. Kate Terpstra – Pierce Conservation District – Knotweed Control Project on South Prairie and Wilkeson Creeks
- a. Japanese knotweed is a Class B non-regulated noxious weed. Just 1 inch of cane or 1 cm of root can sprout and grow new plants. The plant alters soil chemistry, which makes it difficult for native plants to get started at that site once the plants removed
 - b. These creeks are highly important salmon habitat creeks
 - c. Removal occurs upstream first. About 300 property owners gave permission to control knotweed on their property with about 393 acres.
 - d. A field crew was hired to apply pesticide to knotweed. A small patch, if sprayed for 4-6 years will eventually be eradicated. Larger patches take longer.
 - e. Permit is required to apply pesticide, making it a barrier to the average landowner.

Break

Board Business

The board meeting minutes from August 22nd were discussed. It was asked if teachers were going to have a poster? There was not a quorum to be able to vote on the meeting minutes.

Committee updates:

1. Puyallup White River LIO:
 - a. August 29th LIO meeting was kind of kick off with new consultant, Ross Strategic, to develop Ecosystem Recovery Plan. It was well attended (about 25 people). Several new people came.
 - b. The LIO needs to approve the draft charter and discuss what matters to us in the watershed at the next LIO meeting, which is tomorrow, Sept. 27th from 9-11am.
 - c. Krystal met with Lead Entity's Citizen Advisory Committee in September to discuss potential Vital Signs related to salmon recovery.
 - d. PCD is on track to enter into \$15,000 contract with Puget Sound Partnership to focus on writing portion of the plan to go to consultant. We still need to talk with PCD and Tacoma about scope of work for additional ERP funding.
 - e. Pierce County contract ends Sept.30th.
 - f. Need to look for other funding sources aside from National Estuary Program funds. Local jurisdictions should be buying in. Plant the seeds now for future funding to implement the plan.
 - g. Communications Committee can develop a plan for keeping the issue elevated and let elected officials know once we have the plan's priorities identified.

2. Communications Committee:
 - a. Committee meet on Monday 9/23 to plan the Puyallup Watershed Symposium.
 - b. Committee proposes \$15/\$24 ticket price and join registration with the Lead Entity's salmon event.
 - c. Catering as discussed with concern for sustainability in regards the amount of packaging and non-recyclable materials.
 - d. For food options, compost – ask Camilla at PCD.
 - e. Board is comfortable with ticket prices and joint registration.

3. Swan Creek Implementation Team:
 - a. Next meeting is Oct 22nd 9am-12pm at Farm and Franklin Pierce. They will make a field visit to TPU's project on Swan Creek during this meeting.

Roundtable and Partner Updates

1. Lead Entity: fish barrier removal passage funding cycle announced. Proposed due Jan.15, 2020.
2. John Doherty, Citizens Climate Lobby, would like to have Dr. Elly Claus-Gahan present at the Puyallup Watershed Symposium about climate change. Allan wants to connect to Nick Cusick; invited John to come to the LIO meeting.
3. Linda – questions about water rights in our state. "Water Undone" documentary by Dr. Jim Gawel recommended. Available on YouTube at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUrrBAIWSEo>