Deschutes Advisory Group (DAG) Meeting
Thursday, September 15, 2016
9:10 a.m. to 11:35 a.m.

Attendees

Capitol Lake Improvement and Protection Association (CLIPA)
- Jack Havens

Citizen
- John DeMeyer

Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team (DERT)
- Dave Peeler

Ecology (Ecy), WA State Dept. of
- Andrew Kolosseus
- Lydia Wagner

Fish and Wildlife (DFW), WA State Dept. of
- Theresa Nation

LOTT Clean Water Alliance (LOTT)
- Lisa Dennis-Perez

Olympia, City of
- Jeremy Graham

Olympia Yacht Club
- Jim Lengenfelder

Pacific Shellfish Institute (PSI)
- Aimee Christy
- Bobbi Hudson

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG)
- Bob Barnes
- Jerilyn Walley

Squaxin Island Tribe
- Scott Steltzner

Stream Team
- Martin McCallum

Thurston County
- Jeff Killelea

Transportation (WSDOT), WA State Dept. of
- Jeannie Hoxer

Tumwater, City of
- Amy Georgeson

WSU Stormwater Center
- Lisa Rozmyn

Mussel Pilot Project: Bobbi Hudson, Pacific Shellfish Institute

The presentation slides are available at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advisorycomm/91516DAGMusselPilotProject.pdf.

Additional information available at:
- Mussel Power website: http://www.pacshell.org/mussel-power.asp
- Shellfish at Work – Reducing Nutrient Pollution in the Budd Inlet Watershed: http://www.pacshell.org/pdf/ShellfishAtWorkFinalReport.pdf

Contact information:
Bobbi Hudson, Executive Director
360-754-2741 or Bobbi.pacshell.org

Watershed Story Maps: Lisa Rozmyn, Washington Stormwater Center

Lisa showed a live demonstration of the website. There are four watersheds highlighted on this site with associated story maps: Puyallup River, Kitsap County, Kennedy-Goldsborough, and Chambers-Clover. The Deschutes River Watershed is on the list to be added in the future. Each watershed has an interactive story map that provides information about the watershed including the history, areas impacted by pollutants, influences of development, and more.

Additional information available at:

- Eyes on the Watershed website: http://www.wastormwatercenter.org/eyes-watershed
- Washington Stormwater Center: http://www.wastormwatercenter.org/home

Contact information:

Lisa Rozmyn, Business Resource Program Specialist
253-445-4552 or lisa.rozymn@wsu.edu

Budd Inlet Modeling Update: Andrew Kolosseus, Ecology

The modeling shows the Capitol Lake Dam is the biggest source of dissolved oxygen (DO) depletion. Addressing the dam alone will not result in Budd Inlet meeting water quality standards (WQS) so all contributing sources need to be part of the solution. Defining **assimilative capacity** for this effort means how much pollution can the waterbody take and still meet WQS. The modeling shows East Bay is the biggest, but not only, problem.

Slides 4-12 are an attempt to see what elements or combinations will affect WQS. More work is still needed because currently the graphs indicate that even if all identified actions are taken, Budd Inlet will still not meet WQS. This means we need to identify what actions, and by whom, that will have the positive results needed.

Slide 15: Number 4 on this slide shows what could happen if LOTT does not discharge into Budd Inlet from March through October. Ecology will continue to work with LOTT to discuss this further and examine logical options for best/worst case scenarios.

Q: *Why Ecology doesn't consider the comparison of the other inlets such as Case, Carr, Nisqually, which also show DO depletions in the summer months?*

A: The Puget Sound Dissolved Oxygen study only looks at the external pollution, nonpoint sources, and wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs). It does not address the Capitol Lake dam.

Q: *Are the model grid cells the same used in Eld Inlet and the other inlets?*

A: Not yet. But both modeling projects (South Sound and Budd Inlet) will soon use the same grid cells.

Q: Averaging the three lower layers in grid cells may not protect the creatures at the bottom because fish and wildlife need oxygen to survive. *Is Ecology considering this potential problem?*

A: We recognize that averaging layers inappropriately can create problems related to biological creatures. We want to avoid this situation and encourage everyone to comment on this issue.

Q: *Where exactly are the white bottom cells for East Bay located because many of those areas do not have water at low tide?* (See slide 2)

A: We average **all** the water in East Bay and the white cells do not have water in them at low tide. If we have a photo of East Bay at low tide we could overlay this onto the grid cells graphic.

Q: *What is the margin of error for these predictions?*

A: It depends. We're giving this our best faith effort as we do all our regulatory work. The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) has a Margin of Safety. Ecology strives to use the most appropriate action levels to attain our goals of waterbodies meeting WQS. If there are unknowns then we have to use the worst case scenario to protect the environment.

Q: Regarding nitrogen removal – The model doesn't show nitrate reduction. Thurston County continues to fight controls and regulations on septic tanks, which by design do not pull out nitrogen and nitrates. *How is Ecology going to address nitrogen removal?*

A: We consider this as part of nonpoint pollution. Human contributions include onsite septic systems, pet waste, etc. The Deschutes River is a source of nitrogen that needs to be addressed. If anyone has innovative ideas such as the PSI mussel project, or using LOTT's reclaimed water, bring them to Ecology and we will review them.

Q: *What happens next?*

A: Internally we're developing the project timeline, run more detailed scenarios, develop the wasteload and load allocations, and then draft the water cleanup plan. We will continue to work with LOTT and the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) as two of the biggest sources impacting Budd Inlet.

Q: *What is the EPA approval status of the Deschutes River TMDL?*

A: It is temporarily stuck but Ecology and EPA are working on it together. One issue having an impact on the review and approval process is a lawsuit against EPA about natural conditions.

Q: *Is Ecology planning on updating the assumptions used in the model?*

A: Yes, we will make some changes, such as noting the current discharges from LOTT and the projected discharges or operational changes planned for the future.

Q: *Is Ecology going to address assumptions made about the plant contributions from the lake?*

A: We are concentrating more about future projections then past issues.

Contact information:

- Andrew.Kolosseus@ecy.wa.gov or 360-407-7543

The presentation slides are available at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advisorycomm/91516DAGBuddInletModelUpdate.pdf.

Roundtable

No stakeholder updates were provided.

Next meeting

Date:	Thursday, November 17, 2016
Time:	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Place:	Tumwater Fire Department 311 Israel Rd. SW, Tumwater, WA

Agenda topics:	City of Olympia's Natural Yard Care Campaign Reclaimed Water Infiltration Study Puget Sound Dissolved Oxygen Update