

Clarks Creek TMDL Stakeholder Meeting
06/08/15
Meeting Notes

Participants

Brett Raunig, Department of Ecology
Tonyalee Erwin, WSU Puyallup
Steve Carstens, City of Puyallup
Matt Curtis, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Char Naylor, Puyallup Tribes of Indians
Jenny Wu, Environmental Protection Agency

TMDL Updates:

EPA approved the Clark Creek Dissolved Oxygen and Sediment TMDL on May 27, 2015

Ecology and Pierce County have met twice to work on a solution to Pierce County's dispute resolution request. A future meeting is scheduled in June and Ecology will keep stakeholders informed on progress and outcomes.

Round Table:

The City of Puyallup notified the group about the DASH Elodea project starting again. The contractor is moving quickly through the watershed. The past efforts have reduced Elodea a lot and they do not need to pull as much.

The Puyallup tribe noted that without the Elodea in the watershed the Tribal Hatchery was having a lot of difficulty with fine sediment. The sediment was having an effect on their juvenile salmon. This caused them to have to release them early and the juveniles were not as healthy. The Tribe was looking into the following possible alternatives to mitigate these issues:

- added sediment basin
- some type of filter
- switching to pumped groundwater

None of the alternatives seemed viable and the tribe asked the group to look for information on other hatcheries with similar issues and possible solutions.

WSU Puyallup talked about the addition of a fish lab. They were looking for stakeholders and planned to run forums to gather research questions. They discussed the current example on work they had done with USGS on Stormwater runoff/filtration/and salmon pre-spawn mortality.

Review Projects and Grants Spreadsheet:

Brett reminded everyone about the projects and grants spreadsheet. He noted that it would be posted to the website soon and wanted everyone to look at it one more time to see if projects or grants were missing.

The group talked about the next priority of projects in the watershed and everyone agreed that channel stabilization projects were the priority. They also supported WDFW pursuing the maintenance and removal of the sediment above the WDFW fish hatchery intake.

The tribe suggested adding a tab to the spreadsheet for ongoing issues/problems — an adaptive management tab was added to the spreadsheet.

Other:

The City of Puyallup noted that the sediment removal project was out for bid again this year. The Army Corps had removed the restriction on returning water to the creek. The location would be downstream of the 12th street Bridge.

The group discussed the following regarding a new development called Ryder's Ridge:

- concerns about its possible impact on Clarks Creek
- TMDL requirements on future growth
- Municipal SW permit requirements

Ecology noted that any construction activity over 1 acre required a NPDES Construction SW permit.

Grants

Tanyalee asked the group if they knew about the Russell Family Foundation grant and whether it could be used in Clarks Creek somehow. The group was unsure how the program would work in Clarks Creek and agreed to give it more thought and discuss at a future meeting.

Brett notified the group that Ecology is looking to move up the time frame, a couple weeks, on their combined grant funding cycle. The group discussed meeting with an Ecology grant manager to talk about possible projects to get ideas on what Ecology was looking for, what type of projects scored well, and to get more information on dates.

Brett agreed to set up a phone conference with all stakeholders that were interested in July.

Future monitoring projects

The group talked about future EPA funded biological monitoring on Clarks and Clear Creek. WDFW and the City of Puyallup mentioned that they had toured the Meeker Creek and Clear Creek projects with staff from EPA.

Jenny said she would check on the status of the monitoring projects.

Next Meeting — September 14th