

Clarks Creek TMDL Stakeholder Meeting
09/21/15
Meeting Notes

Participants

Brett Raunig, Department of Ecology
Tanyalee Erwin, WSU Puyallup
Laurie Larson, WSU Puyallup
Mark Palmer, City of Puyallup
Matt Curtis, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jenny Wu, Environmental Protection Agency
Patty Carter, Puyallup Historical Hatchery Foundation
Georga Prossick, Puyallup Historical Hatchery Foundation
David Rietz, Creekside property owner
Karen Rietz, Creekside property owner

TMDL Updates:

Ecology and Pierce County have agreed on supplemental implementation plan language for the Clarks Creek TMDL and Pierce County has dropped its formal dispute resolution request. Ecology is updating the Clarks Creek TMDL website and will post the clarification document on the webpage in October.

Round Table:

Jenny gave an update to the group on an EPA funded biological monitoring project on Clarks Creek. EPA selected the meeker creek restoration project and had already collected pre-project samples and planned to collect more when the project was finished. The monitoring data will be used to quantify how the restoration project influenced biological activity in meeker creek.

The Puyallup Historical Hatchery Foundation voiced concerns about Clarks Creek. The hatchery was important to the watershed and WDFW planned to invest in improvements to the facility. The group was also interested in doing riparian work around the hatchery.

They were concerned about stormwater projects and wanted to know how the public could be involved in the NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit renewal process. They mentioned concerns about the recent completion of the Pioneer Place II Stormwater upgrade.

Brett agreed to send website links to where citizens could find information about the NPDES Municipal Permit process and public engagement opportunities. See links below:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/PROgrams/wq/stormwater/municipal/index.html>

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/links/educate/index.html>

David and Karen Rietz voiced concerns about high water in Clarks Creek. They stated that they were seeing very high water and were concerned because it had been a drought year. WDFW discussed that they had been working with USGS on a few streams with the same condition. They were not sure what was causing the higher water but discussed one possible explanation — stating that it could be the higher use of groundwater to irrigate during a dry year and this overland flow was contributing to high water in some groundwater fed streams.

The group discussed the elodea removal project. The removal of elodea had opened up the creek for other aquatic plants and these plants seemed to be taking over. The group asked if the issue could be discussed through the Elodea Task Force.

Brett and the group discussed how these issues would need to be documented and used to adaptively manage implementation actions on Clarks Creek. That the system was complex and that it would take time to implement and adjust BMPs and there were several moving pieces (a healthy riparian corridor, sediment controls/removal, elodea, and stormwater).

Review Projects and Grants Spreadsheet:

Brett discussed the Projects and Grants Spreadsheet and reminded the group that it would be posted to the Website in October. The spreadsheet would be updated as projects were finished and new projects were proposed. He also discussed the added adaptive management tab where issues would be captured so the group could discuss and adjust implementation with monitoring and evaluation data.

WSU Puyallup discussed two outreach projects that are currently underway in Clarks Creek:

Eyes on the Watershed

Washington Stormwater Center developed a series of storymaps to illustrate the connections within a watershed, from businesses to homeowners to natural processes.

These maps are intended to be used as education and outreach tools, to show the inhabitants of the watershed how they interact with the watersheds—and how the watersheds impact them.

In an effort to get people out in the watershed the Stormwater Center is holding a contest where citizens can explore a local watershed and take pictures based on clues and what they see.

PhotoVoice

Photovoice invites participants to identify, represent, and enhance their community through a shared photographic process.

For more information on both projects visit the following links:

Eyes on the Watershed: www.wastormwatercenter.org/eyes-watershed/

PhotoVoice: <http://www.wastormwatercenter.org/photovoice/>

Next Meeting — December 14th