

## Deschutes River, Capitol Lake, and Budd Inlet TMDL Advisory Group Meeting

Thursday, January 26, 2012 -- 9:10 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.  
Tumwater Fire Department, 300 Israel Rd. SW, Tumwater

### Attendees

---

#### Black Hills Audubon Society

- Sue Danver

#### Capitol Lake Improvement and Protection Association (CLIPA)

- Bob Holman

#### Citizen

- John DeMeyer

#### Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team (DERT)

- Cliff Mitchell
- Sue Patnude
- Dave Peeler

#### Ecology, WA State Dept. of

- Bob Bergquist
- Linda Kent
- Kim McKee
- Greg Pelletier
- Brett Raunig
- Mindy Roberts
- Lydia Wagner

#### Enterprise Services (DES), WA Dept. of

- Carrie Martin

#### Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S.

- Dave Ragsdale

#### LOTT Clean Water Alliance

- Karla Fowler
- Laurie Pierce

#### Olympia, Port of

- Robert Zinkevich

#### Squaxin Island Tribe

- John Konovsky

#### Thurston County Environmental Health

- Sue Davis

#### Thurston County Water & Waste Management

- Barb Wood

#### Thurston Public Utility District

- Chris Stearns

#### Tumwater, City of

- Dan Smith

#### Washington State University (WSU) Extension Office

- Bob Simmons

### General Updates

---

**Deschutes Timeline Revised:** After reviewing the progress we have made, Ecology revised the timeline. We anticipate having some conversations earlier. We can use the time saved later in the year when the public comment period begins. A lot of work is involved in preparing the Water Quality Improvement Report (WQIR) for release. A copy of the revised timeline is available at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advisorycomm/12612-DeschutesAdvMtg-RevisedTimeline-Jan2012.pdf>.

**Revised Technical Report:** Ecology submitted the revised version of this report to the EPA on December 30, 2011. Since then Ecology presented the highlighted changes to the Squaxin Island Tribe and LOTT Clean Water Alliance. These are key partners who have a different focus on this effort. We waited to present an overview of the technical report to the advisory group at the same time so they would all hear the same message.

After today's meeting Ecology will release the December 2011 Revised Technical Report to the Advisory Group. Ecology is giving them the opportunity for 30 days to look at the changes made since Ecology released the October 2008 version. The invitation will also go out to anyone who has attended even one meeting. This captures people and organizations who have been engaged during various discussions as we've moved through the watershed. The review and comment period is January 26 through February 27. Ecology will point out the sections where substantive changes were made and ask reviewers to concentrate on those areas. Ecology will finalize the Technical Report in June 2012 and will send a notice when it is available.

Ecology values and appreciates the time and efforts already invested by the Advisory Group members. For this reason, Ecology is providing the group with two extra review opportunities. Many members of this group have been involved with this TMDL for years and had the chance to review the 2008 Draft Technical Report. Some became involved later and may have read the report but didn't provide comments the first time around. Now is their opportunity to see the improvements Ecology made to clarify issues and help the reader understand them better.

The next review opportunity will come when we have the draft Implementation Strategy, load allocations, and wasteload allocations section of the WQIR ready. The Advisory Group will have a chance to review and comment on the text before the draft WQIR is ready for the governmental reviews by EPA and the Squaxin Island Tribe. The last review opportunity is the same as everyone – the formal public comment period. This will be a 60-day comment period instead of the typical 30 days.

**Lake versus Estuary:** The EPA approves TMDLs based on current conditions and not on possible changes in the future. For this reason Ecology is developing the Deschutes Implementation Strategy with Capitol Lake in place; the current condition for this watershed. We have to remember we need to see improvements throughout the watershed regardless if there is a lake or an estuary at the end of it.

The presentation slides are available at

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advisorycomm/12612-DeschutesAdvMtg-LCW-Update.pdf>.

### **Public Outreach and Media:**

---

*Linda Kent, Communications Manager, Department of Ecology, Southwest Region*

She provided an overview of how she can help the group in deciding details on external communications. She asked the group to start thinking about the best way to get the word out when the Water Quality Improvement Report (WQIR) is ready for public review and comment. For example:

- *How many public meetings should Ecology have?*
- *Should Ecology actively solicit comments from organizations or individuals?*
- *Who should Ecology approach (from the Advisory Group) to provide a prepared statement of support for a news release?*

During this meeting, Ecology staff committed to develop a set of "talking points" for the Advisory Group members to present to their organizations. Ecology will make these available sometime after the Technical Report is released to the Advisory Group for their review and comment. Due to previous staff

time constraints at the end of January and beginning of February, Ecology cannot make it immediately available. (**Update:** The “talking points” became a “Project Update” and was sent out by e-mail on February 13. It provided a simplified background of the TMDL, technical foundation for the work involved, major technical findings from the Technical Report, identified the next steps in the process, and Ecology contact information.)

The following are some of the ideas expressed by the group.

- Contact John Dodge, The Olympian, about specific milestones in the process. (For example, when Ecology publishes the final Technical Report, and when the WQIR is ready to go out for public comment and review.)
- Technical Report: 1) Hold a public meeting to provide an overview. 2) Wait until the WQIR is ready and talk about it at the public meetings.
- Directly engage constituents. (For example, elected officials.)

A copy of the Project Update (talking points) is available at

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advisorycomm/12612-DeschutesAdvMtg-TechReport-ProjectUpdate-Feb2012.pdf>.

Contact information:

**Linda Kent**

Department of Ecology

Southwest Region Communications Manager

Office: 360-407-6239

Cell: 360-791-9830

E-mail: [Linda.Kent@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Linda.Kent@ecy.wa.gov)

---

**Budd Inlet, Capitol Lake, and Deschutes River TMDL Technical Report Status and Overview**

*Presentation by Mindy Roberts and Greg Pelletier, Environmental Engineers, Department of Ecology, Environmental Assessment Program*

Their purpose was to brief the group on the project status and report updates from the October 2008 draft report. They highlighted major findings for the model changes to the Deschutes River, Capitol Lake, and Budd Inlet models.

**The technical study addressed:**

- Deschutes River and tributaries bacteria, temperature, nutrients, dissolved oxygen, pH, and fine sediment impairments
- Percival Creek (tributary to Capitol Lake) bacteria, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH impairments
- Bacteria impairments in streams discharging to Budd Inlet
- Nutrients and dissolved oxygen impairments in Capitol Lake and Budd Inlet

### **Changes from the October 2008 version include:**

1. Added 303(d) listings which approved by the EPA in 2008 (proposed at the time of the external review draft and approved later)
2. Water quality standards (clarified pH), watershed description (updated general permits to reflect the 2008-2010 versions; grouped fecal coliform, nutrients, dissolved oxygen, and pH)
3. Study methods figures (updated maps)
4. Fecal coliform TMDL: fixed the upper Deschutes bacteria targets to reflect more stringent criteria, and clarified stormwater-only targets
5. Freshwater dissolved oxygen and pH TMDL: recommended nutrient load reductions, added groundwater scenario, clarified interpretation of maximum pH
6. Deschutes River fine sediment target: established the final target as 12%
7. Capitol Lake and Budd Inlet models were recalibrated
8. Conclusions expanded to capture more detail

### **Budd Inlet and Capitol Lake Models demonstration** – includes inputs from the Deschutes River and other tributaries

- The modeling team was a group effort between Ecology, Bob Ambrose, and ERM.
- Updates to the original model were necessary. Most of the updates were discovered during work on the South Puget Sound Dissolved Oxygen Study.
- The external experts on the team (Ambrose and ERM) vetted the updates and ERM updated the model.
- The updates required re-calibration of the model for Budd Inlet and Capitol Lake.
- This model includes inputs from the Deschutes River and other tributaries.

### **Slides focused on the following:**

- Measured and predicted concentrations of dissolved oxygen (DO) in the bottom layer in inner Budd Inlet.
- Predicted concentrations of DO in inner Budd Inlet with Capitol Lake as an estuary and with Capitol Lake in place for current loading (in layers with maximum difference).
- Four scenarios for model demonstrations
  - Scenario 1: Baseline estimated natural conditions
  - Scenario 2a: Current nonpoint sources without point sources
  - Scenario 2b: Current point sources with natural nonpoint sources
  - Scenario 3: Current point and nonpoint sources
  - Scenario 4: Permitted point sources and current nonpoint sources
- Comparison of April-September dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) loads from rivers and wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) for each scenario
- Predicted maximum violation of the DO water quality standard with Capitol Lake in place
  - Scenario 2a-1: current nonpoint
  - Scenario 2b-1: current WWTPs
  - Scenario 3-1: current nonpoint and current WWTPs
  - Scenario 4-1: current nonpoint and permitted WWTPs
- Predicted maximum violation of the DO water quality standard with Capitol Lake in place due to nonpoint sources only
- Predicted maximum violation of the DO water quality standard with Capitol Lake as an estuary

## Next steps

- Prepare the Water Quality Improvement Report (WQIR) Volume 1 and publish by January 2013
  - Refine the Deschutes Advisory Group scenarios (February 2012)
  - Apply the model to a subset of scenarios (March-June 2012)
  - Establish load and wasteload allocations based on the existing Capitol Lake (Summer/Fall 2012)
- Technical Report (Volume 2)
  - Briefings (January 2012)
  - External review by advisory group (February 2012)
  - Paid independent review of model code
  - Revise report (February – April)
  - Publish (June 2012)

The presentation slides are available at

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advisorycomm/12612-DeschutesAdvMtg-BuddDeschutesBriefing-EAP.pdf>.

## Contact information:

### **Mindy Roberts**

Department of Ecology  
Environmental Assessment Program  
360-407-6804  
[Mindy.Roberts@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Mindy.Roberts@ecy.wa.gov)

### **Greg Pelletier**

Department of Ecology  
Environmental Assessment Program  
360-407-6485  
[Greg.Pelletier@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Greg.Pelletier@ecy.wa.gov)

## Open Comment

---

- **Chris Stearns** (paraphrased): It is important to understand about the unused capacity of LOTT (Clean Water Alliance). He is advocating work done based on the study.
- **Cliff Mitchell**: "Great job."

## Next meeting

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2012  
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon  
Place: Tumwater Fire Department, 300 Israel Rd. SW, Tumwater  
Agenda: Refine modeling scenarios discussed at the September 22, 2011 meeting

**Update:** *The February meeting location was moved to the Department of Ecology, 300 Desmond Dr. SE, Lacey.*