

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

Thursday, March 26, 2009 -- 9:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.  
Tumwater Fire Department, 311 Israel Rd.

## Attendees

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### **Agriculture (WSDA), Dept. of**

- Ann Wick

### **Black Hills Audubon Society**

- Sue Danver

### **Ecology (ECY), Dept. of**

- Michael Bergman
- Betsy Dickes
- Chuck Hoffman
- Garin Schrieve
- Lydia Wagner

### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

- Dave Ragsdale

### **Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Dept. of**

- Rich Eltrich

### **General Administration (GA), Dept. of**

- Tom Evans

### **LOTT Alliance**

- Chris Cleveland, Brown & Caldwell
- Karla Fowler
- Laurie Pierce

### **Olympia, City of**

- Laura S. Keehan

### **Olympia, Port of**

- Don Bache

### **Puget Sound Partnership**

- Duane Fagergren

### **South Puget Environmental Education Clearing House (SPEECH)**

- Jeff Mocniak

### **Squaxin Island Tribe**

- Levi Keesecker

### **Thurston Conservation District**

- Kathleen Whalen

### **Thurston County Environmental Health**

- Sue Davis

### **Tumwater, City of**

- Dan Smith
- Tim Wilson

### **Washington State University (WSU), Thurston County Extension**

- Karen Janowitz

## Advisory Group Representation

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There was considerable discussion on who should be part of the advisory group. The goal is to have all major stakeholders and interests represented. Concern was expressed about having balance between government and non-government entities. The following is a list of stakeholder and special interests identified during this meeting:

## Government

- Agriculture, WA Dept. of
- Ecology, WA Dept. of
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Fish & Wildlife, WA Dept. of
- General Administration, WA Dept. of
- Health, WA Dept. of
- LOTT Alliance
- Natural Resources, WA Dept. of
- Olympia, City of
- Olympia, Port of
- Puget Sound Partnership
- Rainier, City of
- Squaxin Island Tribe
- Thurston County
- Transportation, WA Dept. of
- Tumwater, City of
- WSU Thurston County Extension

## Non-Government

- Agriculture - General
- Business
- Citizen-at-Large
- Environmental (*for example, Black Hills Audubon Society and SPEECH*)
- Forestry
- Recreation (*for example, Olympia Yacht Club*)
- Permittees
- Thurston Conservation District
- Weyerhaeuser

Most of the government entities are already participating on this group. All were included in the initial invitation to participate. (*The list is available on-line at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/OutreachJan09.pdf>.*) We discussed having a “slot” allocated for each of these entities. We’ve already agreed that each slot can have two representatives (primary and alternate).

We have not come to a conclusion about the “citizen-at-large” slot so we continued the discussion started in February about citizen involvement. (*Note: This is a separate issue from the “public comment period” included at every advisory group meeting. At that time any meeting participant can ask questions, make suggestions, or offer comments.*) A concern was expressed to keep information accessible and easy to understand for the average citizen. Questions that came up during this discussion include:

- What is the best way to achieve citizen involvement?
- Do we limit the number of citizens to two?
- Do we reserve a “percentage” of the advisory group for citizen involvement?
- How do we reach out to the public to encourage interest and participation?

Ecology's goal is to ensure all interested citizens have an opportunity to participate and comment during the process of developing the implementation strategy. Ecology will have a **public involvement strategy** later in the process when they have written the Water Quality Improvement Report. Part of this strategy includes public notice, comment, and meeting. The citizen involvement we are discussing now is separate from the public involvement strategy to come.

We discussed ways to reach out to those who have not yet participated. Kathleen Whalen, Thurston Conservation District, and Karen Janowitz, WSU Thurston County Extension Office began developing a list of people to contact. We still need to come to agreement on the "citizen-at-large" item. (*Note: This is an April agenda item.*)

We also discussed the possibility of occasionally having an evening meeting. This change in time could increase citizen participation.

**Note from Lydia:** It is important to remember the role and purpose of this advisory group. The following is text taken from the Ecology brochure, "*Advisory Groups for Water Quality Improvement Projects, also known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)*", available on-line at

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/0510101.html>:

*"What is an advisory group? An advisory group is made up of people representing a full range of interests in the watershed, brought together to help Ecology develop a Water Quality Improvement Plan (or TMDL). Experience has shown that smaller groups, with no more than one person from each interest group, function more effectively. Although decisions about the content of the TMDL remain Ecology's responsibility, group recommendations can influence the focus and direction of the TMDL study and implementation plan. The group should promote education, encourage detailed discussions of issues, and allow informal dialogue between all participants and with the local community."*

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## Decision Making

Our goal is always to reach consensus. If it is necessary to take a vote, we will decide by majority. The notes will reflect the voting results and any dissensions or unresolved concerns.

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## Next meeting

It is on Wednesday, April 22, from 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon, at the Lacey Community Center, 6729 Pacific Avenue SE. Draft agenda items:

- Citizen Involvement – finish discussion and vote.
- Strategy options - finish discussion and vote.

## Participant Letters

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Lydia will provide a template for two letters to members of the advisory group. These letters are not required but strongly encouraged.

1. Delegation Letter: This letter serves two functions. The first is to state the intent of the entity to participate on the advisory group and work to develop the implementation strategy. The second is to provide the names and contact information for the primary and alternate representatives.
2. Concurrence Letter: This letter states the intent to implement action items identified for their organization. This letter would come much later in the process.

## Public Comment

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There was no public comment during this meeting.

## Strategy Discussion

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Ecology began by presenting several options on how to begin our work on developing the implementation strategy. These included:

Option A Group Geographically	Option B Group by Parameter	Option C Hybrid Approach
Upper Deschutes	Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	Fecal Coliform – entire watershed
Lower Deschutes	Fecal Coliform (FC)	Upper Deschutes – DO, Temp, FS, & pH
Budd Inlet/Capitol Lake	Fine Sediments (FS)	Lower Deschutes – DO, FC, FS, pH, & Temp
	pH	Budd Inlet/Capitol Lake – DO, Temp, FC
	Temperature (Temp)	

Option A was the most popular choice during this meeting. The goal of this meeting was to begin the discussion with the group making a decision at the April meeting.

### Things to consider:

- What is the most efficient way to approach this task?
- What other TMDLs provide a good model? (*EPA suggested looking at the Nooksack Fecal Coliform TMDL. One issue it addressed was urban development as a “moving target” in the watershed.*)
- What strategies have worked in other areas?
- What are the beneficial uses for the watershed?
- What parameter is best to work on first?

- How will data gaps get addressed? *(This question specifically addressed Urban Growth Areas. Changes have occurred in areas where data was originally gathered. More changes will come. How will we identify the impacts?)*

**General comments:**

- We have the technical information needed.
- We know the potential solutions.
- We are looking for a systematic way to begin.
- We need to make the information easy for the public to understand.
- Suggestion for agenda item: Ask each represented entity to state their concerns and why they are participating on this advisory group.
- What are the objectives? The answers identified should help us develop our strategy.
- The Technical Report (TR) shows what reductions need to occur.
- Make sure we address the issues identified in the TR.
- The TR lists where the water quality standards are and are not met.
- We can identify the priorities better as Ecology identifies the targets for non-point sources (load allocations) and point sources (wasteload allocations).
- Does the TR address specific causes for the various parameters?
- Does the TR identify the contributors to the problems?
- Include monitoring as a future agenda item.
- Look at the severity of the individual parameters and spend time on where we will achieve the most benefit.
- First look at the watershed by geographic areas, then concentrate on the parameters, and identify the causes or sources of the pollution.

**Geographic option:**

- Look at Budd Inlet and Capitol Lake as separate issues.
- People can relate more to their homes and private property.
- Upper Deschutes – How would this get done? What is the impact to businesses, land development, and homeowners?
- Look at the violations in specific geographic areas.
- Concentrate our efforts geographically but consider the entire watershed holistically.
- We should not concentrate heavily on individual geographic areas or landowners.

**Fecal coliform:**

- We know the needed reductions.
- Fecal coliform fits well for a whole watershed approach.

## Visual Aids:

- The group would like to have visual aids at the meetings. These include maps and aerial photos.
- Potential items to identify include monitoring data, potential solutions, and primary concerns.
- If possible, include sub-basins and failing septic systems.
- Levi Keesecker, Squaxin Island Tribe, has GIS expertise. Perhaps he can help develop something
- Are there other resources for maps and photos?

## Update

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Beginning in May, all meetings will occur in the Deschutes watershed. Ecology has rescheduled the next few:

Old	 NEW
May 27 (Wed)	May 26 (Tue)
June 24 (Wed)	June 25 (Thu)
July 22 (Wed)	July 28 (Tue)
Lacey Community Center 6729 Pacific Ave. SE	Tumwater Fire Department 311 Israel Rd. SW