

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

Thursday, April 28, 2011 -- 9:10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
DSHS OB-2, Conference Room SL-03, Olympia

Attendees

Black Hills Audubon Society

- Sue Danver

Capitol Lake Improvement Protection Association (CLIPA)

- Jack Havens
- Jewel Goddard
- Gary Larson
- Bob Wubbena

Citizen

- Bob Holman
- Debra Jaqua
- Melanie Kincaid
- John Newman
- Lisa Riener

Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team (DERT)

- Cliff Mitchell
- Sue Patnude

Ecology, WA State Dept. of

- Shawna Beers
- Betsy Dickes
- Kim McKee
- Mindy Roberts
- Derek Rockett
- Sally Toteff
- Lydia Wagner

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Dave Ragsdale

LOTT Clean Water Alliance

- Karla Fowler
- Laurie Pierce

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

- Emmett O'Connell

Olympia, City of

- Laura Keehan

Olympia, Port of

- Robert Zinkevich

Olympia Yacht Club

- John DeMeyer
- Jim Lengenfelder

People for Puget Sound

- Doug Myers

Squaxin Island Tribe

- John Konovsky

Thurston County Environmental Health

- Sue Davis

Thurston Public Utilities District

- Chris Stearns

Tumwater, City of

- Dan Smith

Updates

TMDL Timeline: Ecology will meet with EPA staff to discuss particulars of the draft timeline. They hope to present it to the group at the May 26 meeting.

May 26 meeting: We return to the Tumwater Fire Department at 311 Israel Rd. SW.

Water Rights: As a follow-up to an open comment from the March 31 meeting, regarding what other Ecology programs are doing in the watershed, particularly regarding water quantity, Lydia mentioned an article written by John Dodge, The Olympian, titled “Hopeful signs that water rights disputes might be resolved”, and published on April 1. The full article is available through the newspaper website at <http://www.theolympian.com/2011/04/01/v-print/1600053/hopeful-signs-that-water-rights.html#ixzz1UZa3g06N> or on Ecology’s website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advgrp.html/042811-DeschutesAdvMtg-OlympianArticle-040111.pdf>.

Capitol Lake Improvement and Protection Association (CLIPA)

Guest Speakers: Bob Wubbena, Jack Havens, and Gary Larson

The following are comments, questions, and responses made during this presentation.

There is no conflict with the need to look up the watershed. *What is the connection to the lake?* The TMDL is lake/estuary neutral.

Response: They do not believe CLAMP’s report regarding fisheries. The lake is dirty because of upstream sources in the Deschutes River. If there is an accumulation of 6 inches of sediment, this causes a big problem for the waterfront. If dredging marine waters every 3-4 years occurs, this loses the balance needed for boating.

*Do their cost estimates include either repairing the **dam** or replacing it?*

Response: No, it only needs minor repair work so there no replacement is necessary. The CLAMP study stated the dam would only need minor repairs over the next 50 years.

*How does the CLIPA plan improve the **water clarity** of the lake and dissolved oxygen levels?*

Response: Reduce sediment loads and impacts from upstream of the lake as much as possible. We need to start the program and then make improvements as needed.

*How would the CLIPA dredge proposal increase the lake’s capacity to handle **floodwaters**?*

Response: There is only a flood risk at high tides. The main concern is the seawater dam.

*How are the **New Zealand Mud Snails** (NZMS) affected by CLAMP’s proposal?*

Response: This issue came up after the CLAMP report. Snails are also adaptable to saltwater. Ecology adds: The NZMS is a big invasive species issue and Capitol Lake is the only area in Washington with the problem.

More information on the NZMS is available from the WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW):

- Aquatic Invasive Species home page: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/ais/>
- New Zealand Mudsail Fact Sheet: http://wdfw.wa.gov/ais/html/potamopyrgus_antipodarum/NewZealandMudsailFactsheet.pdf

We need to remember there are numerous **stormwater** outfalls in this area.

Response: The Olympia Stormwater Group is focusing on those outfalls.

The presence of **stormwater** outfalls is still an issue for shellfish. *How will CLIPA's plan reduce pH and nutrients?*

Response: Dredging will reduce phosphorus. Lake management will reduce sediment loads.

The **Science Policy Board** seems like a duplication of efforts to the TMDL process. It is in everybody's best interest to work together and he suggested CLIPA be more involved with the Deschutes TMDL Advisory Group.

Response: The board consists of lay people who are interested in the problem. They want to look at the issues from a scientific basis to assess and understand the technical reports.

CLIPA's presentation materials are available online at

- *Jack Haven speaker notes:*
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advgrp.html/042811-DeschutesAdvMtg-CLIPA-JHavens-Notes.pdf>
- *Observations on Deschutes River Fall Chinook Run as it relates to Capitol Lake:*
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advgrp.html/042811-DeschutesAdvMtg-CLIPA-Observations.pdf>
- *Gary Larson speaker notes:*
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advgrp.html/042811-DeschutesAdvMtg-CLIPA-GLarson-Notes.pdf>
- *Strength of CLIPA's Watershed and Dredging Plan:*
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advgrp.html/042811-DeschutesAdvMtg-CLIPA-DredgingPlan.pdf>
- *CLIPA Dredging Plan map:*
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advgrp.html/042811-DeschutesAdvGrp-CLIPA-DredgePlan-Map.pdf>

More information about CLIPA is available at <http://www.savecapitollake.org>.

Contact information:

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Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team (DERT)

Guest Speakers: Sue Patnude, John Konovsky, and Doug Myers

The following are comments, questions, and responses made during this presentation.

*Has DERT looked at the **impacts to boaters and marinas**? Do they recognize the need to maintain beneficial uses and still achieve environmental benefits?*

Response: Discussions are ensuing. A marina was there before the dam. Doug Myers referred attendees to review the Deschutes Estuary Feasibility Study.

Ecology adds: Cost-sharing is important for activity and resolution of the issues. We need to be sensitive to the associated costs and who will ultimately pay them.

The Deschutes Estuary Feasibility Study Final Report, prepared for the WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), June 27, 2008, is available online at [http://www.ga.wa.gov/capitollake/Reports/03-DeschutesEstuaryFeasibilityStudyFinalReport\(June20\).pdf](http://www.ga.wa.gov/capitollake/Reports/03-DeschutesEstuaryFeasibilityStudyFinalReport(June20).pdf).

*Does the NOAA study about **smelt** relate to fish in the Deschutes River?*

Response: No, this is not a spawning area for smelt.

What kind of estuary would it look like?

Response: It would resemble Budd Bay.

How far out would the saltwater marshes go?

Response: That will depend on local development.

Is there any connection or resemblance to the Nisqually Restoration?

Response: No, the two watersheds are very different situations.

DERT's presentation materials are available online at

- *Presentation slides from Patnude, Konovsky, and Myers:*
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advgrp.html/042811-DeschutesAdvMtg-DERT.pdf>.
- *Upstream Priorities for salmonid Habitat Improvement, John Konovsky, Squaxin Island Tribe:*
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advgrp.html/042811-DeschutesAdvMtg-SIT-UpstreamPriorities.pdf>

More information about DERT is available at <http://www.deschutesestuary.org>.

Contact information:

Sue Patnude, President

Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team

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The following are general discussion comments regarding both presentations.

The focus of the TMDL Advisory Group is water quality. Yes, we need to fix problems up the watershed. The nature of watersheds is they gain nutrients. The bottom of the watershed will have a higher concentration of nutrients.

The TMDL process is a subset of effective land and watershed uses. *So how do you get landowners to do what is needed?* One suggestion is to put a “spotlight” on them the way the Henderson Inlet TMDL did.

There are concerns that the boating waterfront will disappear if the lake is gone. Alternately, there could be huge costs associated with dredging in order to keep the boating waterfront. *Who will pay?*

Is there an expectation that if we focus on watershed issues and make changes, the lake will become “pristine” and swimming can return?

We need to answer the question, *“What kind of lake environment does our community want?”*

There appears to be a perception that if the dam is opened up it will have a negative impact on the community’s livelihood.

How would removing the dam affect temperature?

Ecology response: The temperature of the lake acts as a solar collector. Free flowing water is cooler.

There is more common ground between CLIPA and DERT than most people realize. Both organizations want to find a solution that works.

Has Weyerhaeuser has been involved with this group?

Ecology’s response: Yes. They were very involved during discussions about the upper watershed. They are on the Deschutes TMDL distribution list and receive all e-mails with information about meetings, presentations, and other items of interest.

Is there willingness by Weyerhaeuser to go “above and beyond” fish and look at sediment issues?

Squaxin Island Tribe response: “Yes”. Weyerhaeuser and the SIT are having discussions outside of this TMDL process.

Open Comments

John DeMeyer: *Can we have a presentation focusing on the Capitol Lake outfalls and what is being done to address them?* Someone suggested we roll this in with the stormwater discussion.

Ecology’s response: This subject is already on the list of future meeting topics.

Jack Havens stated he is concerned about PCBs and heavy metals.

Ecology’s response: We acknowledge your concerns. However, this TMDL is not addressing these pollutants.

Sue Davis asked for clarification. *Does this group make a recommendation for a decision on the lake versus estuary debate?*

Ecology's response: We will address both options in the TMDL by providing two different baselines (lake and estuary). In the absence of the state legislature making a decision before this TMDL is completed, we want to have both baselines in place to move forward with the appropriate implementation actions. There will not be a declarative recommendation for either option in the TMDL report.

Next meeting

Date: Thursday, May 26, 2011
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Place: Tumwater Fire Department, 311 Israel Rd. SW, Tumwater