

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

Thursday, July 28, 2011 -- 9:05 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.
Tumwater Fire Department, 300 Israel Rd. SW, Tumwater

Attendees

Black Hills Audubon Society

- Sue Danver

Citizen

- Debra Jaqua

Capitol Lake Improvement and Protection
Association (CLIPA)

- Gary Larson

Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team (DERT)

- Sue Patnude

Ecology, WA State Dept. of

- Chuck Hoffman
- Stephanie Jackson
- Kim McKee
- Paul Stasch
- Lydia Wagner

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Dave Ragsdale

Health, WA State Dept. of

- Mark Toy

LOTT Clean Water Alliance

- Karla Fowler

Olympia, City of

- Laura Keehan

Olympia, Port of

- Robert Zinkevich

People for Puget Sound

- Dave Peeler

Thurston County Environmental Health

- Sue Davis

Thurston Public Utilities District

- Chris Stearns

Transportation, WA State Dept. of

- Jana Ratcliff

Tumwater, City of

- Dan Smith

City of Olympia Storm and Surface Water Program Presentation

Laura Keehan, NPDES Coordinator, City of Olympia, Public Works, Water Resources

The City of Olympia is a Phase II NPDES community. The Storm and Surface Water Program meets and exceeds the requirements of their NPDES permit. Major components of Olympia's program include flood control, public education and outreach, illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE), private maintenance inspections, asset management, pollution prevention for municipal operations, water quality monitoring, aquatic habitat enhancement, and retrofits.

The utility was originally created to manage flooding. It has since increased responsibilities to include improving and maintaining water quality, and protecting aquatic habitat. Examples of aquatic habitat enhancement include work done at Black Lake Meadows and Allison Springs.

The goal of pollution prevention for municipal operations is to remove pollutants before they enter waterbodies. They achieve this through such programs as their Street Sweeping and Catch Basin Cleaning Programs, establishing standard operating procedures (SOPs), and training for staff and field crews. Water quality monitoring is not currently a permit requirement but will become one with the

next permit issuance. Their monitoring includes macro-invertebrate and stream water quality. The City has determined areas of Pacific Avenue in need of stormwater retrofit and is making this a high priority project.

City of Olympia website links:

- **Storm & Surface Water:** <http://olympiawa.gov/city-utilities/storm-and-surface-water.aspx>
- **Policies – Western WA Municipal Stormwater Permit:** <http://olympiawa.gov/city-utilities/storm-and-surface-water/policies-and-regulations/policies-western-wa-municipal-stormwater-permit.aspx>
- **Stormwater Management Program Plan:** http://olympiawa.gov/city-utilities/storm-and-surface-water/policies-and-regulations/~media/Files/PublicWorks/Water-Resources/StormwaterManagementProgramPlan_CityofOlympia2011.ashx
- **Stormwater System Maintenance:** <http://olympiawa.gov/city-utilities/storm-and-surface-water/Stormwater%20System%20Maintenance.aspx>

Laura’s presentation slides are available online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advgrp.html/072811-DeschutesAdvMtg-LKeehan.pdf>.

NPDES Stormwater General Permits Presentation

Stephanie Jackson, Construction Stormwater Inspector, Ecology, Southwest Regional Office

Stephanie provided an overview of the stormwater regulations, permits by the numbers, basic compliance requirements, and policies for compliance and enforcement. The following are highlights from her presentation.

Stormwater General Permit Types and Numbers

Permit Type	Statewide	Thurston County	Deschutes Watershed
Construction Stormwater General Permit	1963	81	67
Industrial Stormwater General Permit	1183	25	19
Sand and Gravel General Permit	858	39	16
Municipal Phase 1	6		
Municipal Phase 2	115	4	
Municipal Phase 2 Secondary	40	1	

Statewide, Ecology has approximately 11 stormwater inspectors and 6 Municipal Stormwater Permit Managers. This limits how many site visits are conducted. The inspectors and permit managers prioritize site visits by considering resource risk, complaints, history of non-compliance, previous inspections, and general follow-up.

She provided key components of the Construction, Industrial, Municipal General Permits. (*See presentation slides for full details.*)

Enforcement is a factor in all NPDES permits and can be either informal or formal. Informal actions can include verbal notices, inspection reports with violations noted, warning letters, or a Notice of Corrective Action. Formal enforcement can include administrative orders, Notice of Penalty (field tickets), or recommendation to EPA for civil or criminal cases. Since July 1, 2005, Ecology's Water Quality Program has issued, within Thurston County, 13 formal notices of non-compliance, 18 Administrative Orders, and 19 penalties.

Anyone can report an environmental complaint to Ecology:

- Call the Southwest Region Environmental Report Tracking System Coordinator at 360-407-6300 or
- Fill out an Environmental Incident Report Form online at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/forms/nerts_online/SWRO_nerts_online.html.

Stephanie's presentation slides are available online at

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advgrp.html/072811-DeschutesAdvMtg-SJackson.pdf>.

Ecology website links:

- Department of Ecology, Stormwater Main Page:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/index.html>
- Department of Ecology, Stormwater General Permits Publications:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/permitfocussheets.html>
 - This includes information about the Municipal, Construction, and Industrial General Permits

For more information contact:

Construction Stormwater General Permit

Stephanie Jackson
360-407-6294
Stephanie.Jackson@ecy.wa.gov

Industrial Stormwater General Permit

Paul Stasch
360-407-6273
Paul.Stasch@ecy.wa.gov

Municipal Stormwater General Permit

Lisa Cox
360-690-7120
Lisa.Cox@ecy.wa.gov

Sand and Gravel General Permit

Chris Johnson
360-407-7194
Chris.Johnson@ecy.wa.gov

Deschutes Multi-Parameter TMDL Timeline

Lydia Wagner, Water Cleanup Plan Coordinator, Ecology, Southwest Regional Office

Key milestone dates:

- **December 2011:** Ecology completes the *Deschutes River, Capitol Lake, and Budd Inlet Temperature, Fecal Coliform Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen, pH, and Fine Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load Water Quality Study Findings*. (We generally refer to this as the Technical Report.)
- **June 2012:** Ecology assigns Wasteload Allocations (WLAs) for point sources and Load Allocations (LAs) for nonpoint sources.
- **October 2012:** The draft Water Quality Improvement Report (WQIR) is out for public review and comment.
- **January 2013:** Ecology submits the final WQIR to the Environmental Protection Agency. The Deschutes Advisory Group (DAG) reconvenes and continues work on the Water Quality Implementation Plan (WQIP).

Ecology anticipates active involvement from the Deschutes Advisory Group (DAG) with the following activities:

- **WLAs and LAs:** Ecology and the DAG discuss options based on information contained in the Technical Report and any other information we've gathered during the process. Ecology has the final decision on what allocations go into the WQIR.
- **Implementation Strategy (IMS):** This is part of the WQIR and the DAG will help develop key components. Examples include specific implementation actions, identifying who will perform those actions, developing an implementation schedule, and identifying monitoring and adaptive management actions.
- **Public Outreach Strategy:** The DAG will help determine a strategy to let the public know about the draft TMDL. Items to consider are: how many public meetings to have, location of meetings, should the public comment period remain at the standard 30 days or should it be longer?
- **Review of IMS, WLAs, and LAs:** The DAG will have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft language for the Implementation Strategy in addition to potential load and wasteload allocations.
- **Public Comment Period:** The DAG will have the opportunity to review and comment on the entire draft Water Quality Improvement Report.
- **Water Quality Implementation Plan (WQIP):** After Ecology submits the final WQIR to the EPA, the DAG will reconvene to develop the WQIP. They will use the Implementation Strategy previously developed for the WQIR as the starting point.

The following are key activities Ecology Environmental Assessment Program (EAP) or Water Quality Program (WQP) staffs are responsible for during the development of this TMDL:

- **Finalize the Technical Report** (EAP)
- Run computer **modeling scenarios** with and without Capitol Lake (EAP)
- **Assign WLAs and LAs** (WQP)
- **Write the draft WQIR** (WQP)
- **Conduct internal policy and peer review** of the draft WQIR (WQP and EAP)
- Provide a **Government-to-Government review** of the draft WQIR to the EPA and the Squaxin Island Tribe (WQP)
- **Publish the draft WQIR and provide a Public Comment period** (WQP)
- **Prepare Response to Comments** and incorporate those into the draft WQIR (WQP)
- **Finalize the WQIR and submit it to the EPA** (WQP)

Comments, issues, and questions brought up during this presentation:

Implementation Strategy models

Q: Are there other TMDLs the group can review to use as a model for this one?

A: There is not another TMDL addressing the same five parameters. Advisory Group members are encouraged to check Ecology's website to view completed Water Quality Improvement Reports, and come to meetings prepared to discuss components of the implementation strategy portion that may work for the Deschutes strategy.

Following are links to other Water Quality Improvement Reports. *(Since the suggestion is to look at other Implementation Strategies, this list does not include combined reports or Water Quality Implementation Plans.)*

- Whatcom, Squalicum, and Padden Creeks **Temperature**:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1110019.html>
- Pend Oreille River **Temperature**:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1010065.html>
- Spokane River and Lake Spokane **Dissolved Oxygen**:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/0710073.html>
- Wenatchee River Watershed **Dissolved Oxygen** and **pH**:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/0810062.html>
- South Fork Palouse River **Fecal Coliform Bacteria**:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/0910060.html>
- Hangman (Latah) Creek Watershed **Fecal Coliform**, **Temperature**, and **Turbidity**:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/0910030.html>
- Bear-Evans Watershed **Temperature** and **Dissolved Oxygen**:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/0810058.html>
- Clarks Creek Watershed **Fecal Coliform**:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/0710110.html>
- Henderson Inlet Watershed **Fecal Coliform Bacteria**, **Dissolved Oxygen**, and **pH**:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/0610058.html>

Modeling scenarios

Q: *What is involved in running the computer models?*

Q: *Will the models factor in urban growth?*

A: We will answer these questions and have further discussion at the August or September 2011 Deschutes Advisory Group meeting. Staff from Ecology's Environmental Assessment Program will come to provide more details about what is involved in running computer models.

Technical Report

Q: *Why are the WLAs and LAs not included?*

A: Early in the TMDL process, Ecology's Water Quality Program (WQP) asked the Environmental Assessment Program (EAP) to develop a technical report minus load and wasteload allocations. The discussions around Capitol Lake were consuming considerable time and emotion at the local community level and WQP staff did not want to compound or confuse the lake discussions by adding allocations to the mix of topics. The WQP opted to wait until later in the TMDL process to have these discussions.

South Puget Sound Dissolved Oxygen Study

Q: *What is the timeline to complete this study?*

A: We believe the current target is June 2012.

More information on this study is available online at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/puget_sound/dissolved_oxygen_study.html.

Other comments or suggestions:

- Holistic approach: We need to consider the entire Deschutes ecosystem. If it is to function properly, all aspects of the system need to work together. If one aspect is off balance, it can affect the entire watershed system. We do not want to fix one problem with the TMDL yet create a different problem elsewhere in the watershed.
- Consider starting a Watershed Advisory Group to help keep the work going after the WQIP is finished. An example of such a group is the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Nisqually River Council. *More information is available online at <http://nisquallyriver.org/who-we-are/citizens-advisory-committee/>.*
- Future meeting subjects: Wastewater, the reissuance of the Municipal Stormwater General Permit
- Outreach: We need to get the City of Rainier involved in this process.
- How is the TMDL addressing growth? Does it thoroughly address point sources and nonpoint sources with increased capacity? If it doesn't already, it needs to.
- Instream Flows: Ecology is not directly addressing instream flows in this TMDL. The WQIR may include flow as an implementation recommendation but not a requirement.
- Grant Funding: We need to continue looking for grant opportunities to fund implementation work.

- Silver Springs Organics (SSO): A concern was raised on the activities going on at a local composting facility. *Follow-up: Thurston County Public Health & Social Services (PHSS) provided notes from a July 27, 2011 meeting with representatives from PHSS, SSO, Olympic Region Clean Air Agency, and the Department of Ecology. The notes are available online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advgrp.html/072811-DeschutesAdvMtg-SSO.pdf>. More information about SSO's capitol improvement project is available online at <http://www.silverspringsorganics.com/events.html>.*

Lydia's presentation slides are available online at

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advgrp.html/072811-DeschutesAdvMtg-timeline-summary.pdf>.

The Deschutes Multi-Parameter TMDL Draft Timeline is available online at

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advgrp.html/072811-DeschutesAdvMtg-tmdl-timeline.pdf>.

Open Comment: None

Next meeting

Date: Thursday, August 25, 2011
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Place: Tumwater Fire Department, 311 Israel Rd. SW, Tumwater