

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

Thursday, November 17, 2011 -- 9:10 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.
Tumwater Fire Department, 300 Israel Rd. SW, Tumwater

Attendees

Black Hills Audubon Society

- Sue Danver

Citizen

- John DeMeyer

Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team (DERT)

- Sue Patnude

Ecology, WA State Dept. of

- Alex Callender
- Kim McKee
- Brett Raunig
- Lydia Wagner

Enterprise Services (DES), WA Dept. of

- Carrie Martin

LOTT Clean Water Alliance

- Karla Fowler
- Laurie Pierce

Olympia, City of

- Marcus Goodman
- Laura Keehan

Olympia, Port of

- Robert Zinkevich

Olympia Yacht Club

- Jim Lengenfelder

Thurston County Environmental Health

- Sue Davis

Thurston County Storm & Surface Water
Advisory Board

- Gary Larson

Thurston County Water & Waste Management

- Barb Wood

General Updates

December 15 meeting: We are cancelling this meeting and will reconvene on January 26, 2012.

Lower Watershed Summary: Presentation delayed until the next meeting. Ecology may decide to send the presentation slides by e-mail.

Thurston County Implementation Actions: The County will provide these to Ecology for posting on the website with the meeting notes. [They are available online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/Deschutes/advisorycomm/ThurstonCountyProjects.pdf>.]

Individual Wastewater Discharge Permits: Ecology recently changed the way the public can find information about water quality permits developed to protect water quality by regulating discharges to surface and ground water or municipal wastewater treatment plants. The permits can be accessed through a searchable database referred to as PARIS. (The full name is the Water Quality Permitting and Reporting Information System.) From the database people can review and download current (active) permits, draft permits, Fact sheets, public notice documents, and associated permit documents.

- **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits:** Issued to facilities that discharge to surface waters such as lakes, rivers, and streams.
- **State Waste Discharge Permits:** Issued to facilities that discharge to the ground or to a municipal wastewater treatment plant.

- External link to the PARIS database, including instructions on finding permit documents:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/wwdischargepermits.html>

Budd/Deschutes Watershed Environmental Stewardship Coalition: This is a newly formed alliance consisting of the cities of Olympia, Lacey, and Yelm, and the Squaxin Island Tribe. Their focus is habitat restoration projects to improve the Deschutes River watershed. They will focus on finding funding to use for implementing priority actions in the watershed that can happen soon. For example, The cities recently purchased a 197-acre farm on the Deschutes River near Lake Lawrence as part of mitigation for their new water rights. This site is targeted for an initial project for this coalition. The goal for this project is to improve salmon habitat.

Website links:

- City Council Meeting, November 15, 2011, Agenda Item 6A:
http://olympiawa.gov/documents/CouncilPackets/20111114/OB_MOU_SquaxinSTF.pdf
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Squaxin Island Tribe, Cities of Olympia, Lacey, and Yelm, regarding Budd Inlet and Deschutes watershed restoration:
http://olympiawa.gov/documents/CouncilPackets/20111114/OB_MOU_SquaxinATT1.pdf
- Program announcement for the signing ceremony:
<http://olympiawa.gov/documents/CouncilPackets/20111128/SquaxinMOUProgramMAP.pdf>
- King 5 News Article, Gary Chittim, Environmental Specialist, with John Konovsky, Squaxin Island Tribe: www.King5.com/news/environment/Farm-Deals-Clears-Olympia-Water-Jam-133849718.html

2012 Deschutes Advisory Group Meeting Dates: Lydia reminded the group that Ecology will have to cancel a few meetings once the work on the Water Quality Improvement Report is almost completed. The list of dates is available online at
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advisorycomm/DeschutesAdvGrp2012MtgDates.pdf>.

Black Lake Ditch: Establishing a Healthy Riparian Buffer, City of Olympia

Laura Keehan and Marcus Goodman, City of Olympia

They presented an overview of an Ecology Directed Implementation Fund (DIF) funded project, Contract No. C1100044, **Establish Riparian Forest Buffer Adjacent to Black Lake Ditch Project**. The purpose of this project was to interplant a previously planted area with succession species of native trees and plant live stakes along the bank sides of Black Lake Ditch. This area is adjacent to the City of Olympia's Black Lake Meadows Stormwater Facility.

Black Lake Ditch is a 303(d) listed waterbody and is included in the Deschutes River, Capitol Lake, and Budd Inlet Temperature, Fecal Coliform Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen, pH, and Fine Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Water Quality Study. The study reports Black Lake Ditch exceeds the state water quality standard for temperature. Establishing a healthy riparian forest buffer along the ditch will reduce the water temperature, as well as provide the associated benefits of tree cover, erosion control, pollution uptake, and naturally enhances stream channel complexity.

Page 155 of the 2008 draft study predicts, "Establishment of full mature riparian vegetation, with heights governed by soil type, would increase effective shade from 47%to 84% on average in Black Lake Ditch". Page 156 of the 2008 draft predicts, "Establishment of full mature riparian vegetation, with heights governed by soil type, would increase effective shade from 47%to 84% on average in Black Lake Ditch"

The ditch carries the naturally warm summer water of Black Lake into Percival Creek which drains into Capitol Lake. There are documented measurements of late summer water temperature in the ditch of 19° Celsius (66° F) with corresponding low dissolved oxygen levels of 7.5 mg/L.

The area is dominated by Reed Canary Grass (RCG), Scotch broom (or Scot's broom), and thistle. These plants grow well in open, disturbed, areas and tolerate fluctuating water levels well. The roots of streamside trees will protect the stream banks, reduce erosion, and assist in forming resting pools in the stream channel. Mature trees will shade the water and overhanging branches will provide juvenile fish with protection from predators.

The City of Olympia purchased and planted tree live stakes of Sitka willow, Hooker's willow, and red osier dogwood to continue efforts to enhance the riparian corridor habitat along the man-made ditch. They also planted western red cedar and Douglas fir trees, approximately 7-8 ft., to help reduce predation and increase successful growth. The planting project addressed primarily temperature, but secondarily addressed dissolved oxygen, pH, and fine sediments.

They planted live stakes and did not remove all the RCG. They also planted larger conifers, 7-8 ft. western red cedar and Douglas fir trees, in the midst of the RCG. This is resulting in a higher survival rate. The trees provide shade, which helps to reduce the growth of the RCG. Beavers are sometimes a bigger problem in this area. The City previously installed a 1600 ft. linear fence to keep the beavers out but there is still 5-20 ft they can't fence. The beavers have an affinity for cottonwoods and western red cedar.

The City does not have time for site maintenance and still has areas to plant. They have other potential projects but more help is needed. It is a challenge to find funding to continue the work. They are willing to work as partners with other groups who are interested, such as People for Puget Sound, who they have worked with on other projects.

Website links:

- City of Olympia presentation:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advisorycomm/111711-DeschutesAdvMtg-CityofOlympia-BlackLkDitch.pdf>
- Final project report:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advisorycomm/111711-DeschutesAdvMtg-Oly-Black-Lake-Ditch-Project-Report.pdf>

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Implementation Strategy Components

The group began discussing key elements of the implementation strategy, which is included as part of the Water Quality Improvement Report (WQIR). Areas to focus on include:

- **What:** Actions are needed
- **Where:** Specific areas to target
- **Who:** List the likely organization(s) to conduct those actions

Deschutes Advisory Group (DAG) comments and ideas:

- Black Lake Ditch: We need more planting is needed. The upper stream of Black Lake is in Thurston County, outside the City of Olympia boundary. The work done by the City of Olympia in this area is impressive. This type of work, planting vegetation, as well as reforestation, needs to happen throughout the watershed and is critical to get more shade.
- Aire Creek: What about the spring fed creeks? There is no shading in these little creeks. After the dairy was removed the water quality improved. Discussion about previous efforts by the Squaxin Island Tribe (SIT) who were talking to the property owner about donating the land. They wanted to restore the area for fish habitat. Unfortunately, this was an unsuccessful effort when the landowner backed out.
- Potential volunteers: The Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team (DERT) has some interest in volunteering, pulling ivy, for example. They are particularly interested in the Capitol Lake area but would also work throughout the watershed. Someone voiced a concern about volunteers doing work usually done by state workers.
- Homeless population: This is a sensitive issue that is raised for the first time in this process. *What ordinances or policies are already in place to address this population?* There should be a consistent policy specifically dealing with encampments. There are a lot of areas near I-5 where homeless people gather. **Ecology**: The WA State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has some plans to work on this issue. **DAG**: *Is this a systematic or complaint based plan?* They probably concentrate more on landscaping and clearing creeks. *Where are appropriate places for the homeless to gather and what kind of facilities are available?* Sanitation is a big concern. This is a broader socio-economic issue.
- Shade locations: The draft Technical Report already identifies areas in the upper watershed that need more shade. For example, stream restoration and tree planting is needed near stream disturbance zones.
- Middle watershed: Shade is beneficial mostly in the middle watershed so we should target those areas first.

- Challenges:
 - Multiple jurisdictions: Many of the actions include more than one governmental jurisdiction working with private landowners. It is much easier, and probably more effective, to have one entity/person the landowners would interface with on a particular action. Landowners who want to do the right thing can get confused with conflicting regulations, ordinances, policies, or required permits. For example, they may have to work with one state agency to develop a forestry plan and another to develop a stormwater plan.
 - Funding: We need to identify funding sources to pay for the needed actions. (*Ecology note: This is a component of the Water Quality Improvement Report.*)
- Education:
 - *How do we educate the residents about the environmental issues?* For example, how do we tell them the water is too hot and why it is important? Perhaps we can develop some success stories to point out good work already done to correct a problem.
 - The “Stream Team Newsletter” is a quarterly publication providing information on regional activities. This includes activities such as planting projects, marking storm drains, workshops, monitoring. More information is available online at <http://www.streamteam.info/>. The Stream Team is sponsored by the storm and surface water utilities of Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, and Thurston County.
- Project work: *What kind of projects has Ecology funded in the watershed? Can we track work dedicated to this watershed?* **Update:** Lydia is working with Ecology staff to identify funded projects in this area. She will provide this information (type of project, location, and lead entity) at a future meeting.

Next meeting: *Remember – We will not meet in December.*

Date: Thursday, January 26, 2012
 Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
 Place: Tumwater Fire Department, 300 Israel Rd. SW, Tumwater
 Agenda: (Tentative) Technical Report Update