

Deschutes Advisory Group (DAG) Meeting

Thursday, July 21, 2016

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Attendees

Capitol Lake Improvement and Protection Association (CLIPA)	Olympia, City of
Jack Havens	Susan McCleary
Bob Holman	Skokomish Watershed Action Team (SWAT)
Bob Wubbena	Mike Anderson
Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team (DERT)	Rich Geiger
Dave Peeler	South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG)
Ecology (Ecy), WA State Dept. of	Bob Barnes
Anise Ahmed	Jerilyn Walley
Honor Carpenter	Stream Team
Rich Doenges	Martin McCallum
Sam Knox	Thurston County
Andrew Kolosseus	Jeff Killelea
Lydia Wagner	Jane Mountjoy-Venning
Fish and Wildlife (DFW), WA State Dept. of	Allison Osterberg
Theresa Nation	Transportation (WSDOT), WA State Dept. of
LOTT Clean Water Alliance (LOTT)	Elsa Pond
Lisa Dennis-Perez	Tumwater, City of
Karla Fowler	Dan Smith
Wendy Steffensen	

Special Recognition

After introductions, Ecology gave special recognition to **Karla Fowler**, LOTT Clean Water Alliance. She has been a member of the DAG since its inception and prior was a member of the Deschutes Technical Advisory Group. She is retiring at the end of July and will be missed. Her work with Ecology on the Deschutes River TMDL and Reclaimed Water Rule are very much appreciated.

Skokomish Watershed Action Team (SWAT): Mike Anderson, the Wilderness Society and Rich Geiger, Mason Conservation District

Mike and Rich provided background information on how and why the SWAT was formed. We watched a 2014 video, *“Coming Back: Restoring the Skokomish Watershed”* that further explained the origins of the SWAT and some of their successful projects. Afterwards they spoke more about working collaboratively with a variety of partners and interested organizations including the Skokomish Tribe, U.S. Forest Service, Green Diamond Resource Company, Mason County Public Works, Mason Conservation District, and others. They had a rough start and found success by identifying smaller projects and getting agreement on what was needed and how to get it. The SWAT continued to work on increasing larger projects and have achieved significant success and restoration in the Skokomish Watershed. A key suggestion was to start a conversation with staff level first, develop a shared vision,

identify a project and subsequent funding, work and complete the project, and watch as success turns into increased trust, respect, and leadership.

Additional information available at:

- Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) Website:
<http://waconnect.paladinpanoramic.com/project/170/39828>
- YouTube video “Coming Back: Restoring the Skokomish Watershed”:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeOce9ENHm0>

Contact information:

Mike Anderson, SWAT Facilitator
Mike_anderson@twc.org or 206-624-1670

Rich Geiger, Engineer
rjgeiger@masoncd.org or 360-427-9436, ext. 118

Construction Stormwater General Permit: Sam Knox and Honor Carpenter, Construction Stormwater Inspectors, Ecology

They provided an overview of the Construction Stormwater General Permit (CSWGP) and how it relates to TMDLs and 303(d) listed waterbodies. Included were photo examples of what “to do” and “not to do” on a construction project. The presentation slides are available online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advgrp.html/72116DAGCSWGP>. More information about the CSWGP is available at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/construction/>.

Also discussed was who to contact if a potential violation or significant environmental concern is observed. If you see environmental issues, let Ecology know by phone call or by completing an online form. The information is logged into the Environmental Response Tracking System (ERTS) database and referred out to the appropriate Ecology program or outside agency (*for example, local health department or other state agency*).

- How to Report Environmental Problems: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/reportaproblem.html>
- Ecology Southwest Regional Office (SWRO): 360-407-6300
- SWRO Online Form:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/forms/nerts_online/SWRO_nerts_online.html

Contact information:

- Honor.Carpenter@ecy.wa.gov or 360-407-7320
- Sam.Knox@ecy.wa.gov or 360-407-6294

Additional information: After this meeting Elsa Pond, WSDOT, provided the following slides used for internal training.

Erosion is the soil particle movement by the actions of water, wind, ice, or gravity. **Erosion** is a natural process but construction practices accelerate the natural rates of erosion and increase erosion related risks.

Construction Practices:

- Remove vegetation and topsoil
- Excavation
- Cut slopes
- Fill and take
- Deep soil drilling
- Alter natural hydrology
- Alter land contours
- Add impervious surfaces
- Soil compaction
- Stockpiling
- Rock blasting



Deschutes River Watershed Cleanup Projects Staff Changes: Lydia Wagner, Ecology

- **Mindy Roberts**, Environmental Assessment Program (EAP) Project Lead, has left Ecology. Anise Ahmed is currently taking the EAP Project Lead role, focusing on the Budd Inlet Model efforts.
- **Dustin Bilhimer** is returning to the Water Quality Program's Headquarters office to work on the Puget Sound TMDL and Dissolved Oxygen Study. Some of his work will interface with the Budd Inlet TMDL project.
- **Lydia Wagner** is changing water quality improvement projects. She will remain as the DAG Coordinator through 2016. Andrew Kolosseus will be the primary contact person until a new TMDL staff person is hired and assigned this project.

Budd Inlet TMDL Update: Lydia Wagner, Andrew Kolosseus, and Anise Ahmed, Ecology

The current project is only addressing Budd Inlet 303(d) Dissolved Oxygen listings (slide 5). Staff are developing a discussion paper outlining the project focus. It will provide a brief explanation of why Ecology is or isn't including specific listings and will be available by the next DAG meeting.

There have been some changes in modeling results from the Salish Sea model showing the natural conditions are higher than previously stated. This is a direct result of refinements made to the computer modeling. Results could change again as the modeling runs are completed and we will continue to update the DAG.

Also changed is the compliance grid cell size (slide 6) for the Budd Inlet model. Different cell sizes are used for TMDL monitoring, establishing a 303(d) listing, and the Salish Sea model (slide 9). The geographic area for 303(d) listings is larger than the Budd Inlet model. It makes sense to combine some of the Budd Inlet model to fit into the 303(d) list scale to address surface levels. A primary consideration when making these decisions is that we cannot average data in any way to ensure violations are reduced or eliminated. If a violation existed before, it will likely remain, but the severity of the violation may change. (See slides 7 and 8 for more information on the applicable Water Quality Standards.)

Slide 10 provides more specifics for the Budd Inlet Modeling. It includes a time series of dissolved oxygen levels for existing and natural conditions, and identifies violations. We are using a new scientific tool, sediment diagenesis, to help develop the natural conditions. This is a preliminary plot and more information will be provided at the next DAG meeting. The new Budd Inlet model scenarios discussed at the May DAG meeting have not begun yet. We are continuing to make improvements to the model and will run the scenarios and share the results at the September DAG meeting. This will likely include a reconstructed bar chart showing the impacts to Budd Inlet by the previously identified sources.

Contact information:

- Andrew.Kolosseus@ecy.wa.gov or 360-407-7543
- Lydia.Wagner@ecy.wa.gov or 360-407-6329
- Anise.Ahmed@ecy.wa.gov or 360-407-6767

The presentation slides are available at
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advgrp.html/72116DAGmtgEcy>.

Roundtable

Martin McCallum: He provided copies of the recently published Deschutes Watershed Guide. It is available online at http://www.deschutesestuary.org/wp-content/uploads/DERTGuide_5-16_final.pdf.

Next meeting

Date: Thursday, September 15, 2016
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Place: Tumwater Fire Department
311 Israel Rd. SW, Tumwater, WA

Agenda topics: Mussel Pilot Project, Pacific Shellfish Institute
Watershed Story Maps, Washington Stormwater Center
Budd Inlet Modeling: Ecology update and DAG discussion