

Cranberry, Johns, and Mill Creeks
Temperature TMDL Advisory Group Meeting
Monday, January 30, 2012 – 9:00 to 11:40 a.m.
Mason County Public Works, 100 W. Public Works Dr., Shelton

Attendees

Citizens

- Conley Watson

Ecology, WA State Dept. of

- Lydia Wagner

Mason Conservation District

- John Bolender
- Evan Bauder

Mason County Public Health

- Stephanie Kenny

Mason County Public Works

- Loretta Swanson

Shelton, City of

- Steve Goins

Squaxin Island Tribe

- John Konovsky

WSU Mason Extension Office

- Bob Simmons

Oakland Bay Riparian Canopy Height Assessment

Evan Bauder, Mason Conservation District

Evan provided a summary of the data assessment done in 2002 by the Mason Conservation District. The purpose of this assessment was to develop a tool to help locate and prioritize potential restoration efforts. They looked at streams, buffers, and parcels. LiDar (light detection and range) was used to identify bare earth and top surfaces. These visuals helped determine the canopy height along streams. They wanted to include all areas within 300 ft. of a stream. Data gaps were generally from lake shorelines.

Slide 7: Canopy Height

- Low (LCH): 0-5 ft.
- Moderate (MCH): 5-30 ft.
- Tall (TCH): 30+ ft.

Slide 12: On the pie chart, “Unnamed 1” is Sunset Creek.

Slide 18: Prioritization of parcels within the entire watershed – separated by Low Canopy Height (LCH) size bins.

- Small: < .5 acres
- Medium: .5 – 5 acres
- Large: 5+ acres

Group Discussion

- **Cranberry Creek** is #1 priority.
- **Mill Creek:** We don't have any idea about key issues with this creek. We know above lake has the coldest water.

- **Johns Creek:** The #1 issue is the power lines. We need more trees planted along the lines. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) provided letter of support for previous work done by the MCD. There are three priority areas including Bay Shore Golf Course, Conservation Easement on Johns Lake Area, and a coldwater tributary (half owned by Bayshore Sand & Gravel). There is work underway with the Frank Family Foundation for Cranberry Lake. Johns Creek: There are three houses encroaching on the riparian zones. We hope these are the last ones to encroach on the wetlands. The Forest Practices Act buffer is smaller than the Green Diamond Resource Company buffer.
- **Lake Limerick:**
 - It stratifies. There is not a water master for this lake. We would need to work with the Lake Limerick Homeowners Association. They own the lake and have a water right.
 - There is 15 feet between top of pipe and the lake. Any changes to the lake may require a hydraulic analysis or fisheries permit.
 - The group is not aware of any permit regulations surrounding when the lake level needs to be raised or lowered. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) may have a prescribed process.
 - Ecology: Perhaps we need to arrange a meeting with Ecology, the WDFW, the SIT, and the Homeowners Association. If so, Ecology can take the lead on making arrangements.
- **Management of dam:** We should start simple and use the existing structure. We need to open it to get cooler water in at key times of the year.
- **Farmland:** The MCD may be able to help with efforts related to farmers.
- **Other:**
 - Another problem is the hatchery upstream of Highway 3, which impacts _____ creek.
 - We need more large woody debris at _____. An upstream risk is a railroad culvert.
 - We need improved infiltration of stormwater into all of these creeks.
 - We need to look at infiltration for entire watershed and not just small sections.
 - We can also look for other opportunities for easements and conservation.
 - The Trust for Public Lands is working with Green Diamond Resource Company (GDRC). We can look to see if there any GDRC-owned lands on the streams that we could recommend to place in trust?
 - We can use the data collected by Ecology and the MCD to prioritize where the work is needed.
 - The next round of data should help determine deciduous versus canopy. The higher priority areas are those with little to no canopy in place.
- **Shade and structure:** The largest increment of improvement will come from shade but not all reaches will attain water quality standards with just adding shade. Structure helps with deepening the water flow.
- **South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG):** Consider asking Brian Combs to come and speak with the group. The discussion could focus on habitat and surrounding bank stabilization.

Potential Implementation Actions

- In order to gain temperature benefits we need full leaf out and long-term vegetation. Some trees are limited in canopy height. We can start with the most desirable vegetation. If we get conifers established right away, they will eventually overtake the deciduous trees.
- Rain gardens: Consider catching and infiltrating water from storm events to augment and increase releases during the drier times of the year. These could also slow down the release of water eventually flowing into the bay.
- Develop a map to identify key areas needing attention. Decide on what details (for example parcel number or property address) to include.
- Education and Outreach is essential to the success of any implementation actions taken.
- Identify new or revised requirements needed to meet the TMDL mandate.
- Augmentation – is this a viable strategy? If so, add it to the TMDL. This can help with possible funding opportunities.

Conservation efforts

- Fronterra (formerly known as Cascade Land Conservancy) is not working on any projects in the Oakland Bay area.
- Capitol Land Trust is working on a piece of Chapman Cove property but nothing in these three creeks.
- They continue working on riparian restoration on Twin Rivers Ranch. They also have several funded acquisitions on Goldsborough Creek.
- We need to develop a map identifying key areas needing attention.
- Perhaps Green Diamond Resourced Company (GDRC) will commit to keeping some of the areas in their current condition.
- Ask GDRC if they would donate conifers for planting.

Regulatory perspectives

- We need to identify new or revised requirements, for example, changing the county's Low Impact Development (LID) ordinance.
- Remember regulatory changes can have big impacts on landowners.

Next meeting: We are not scheduling a follow-up meeting at this time.

Meeting materials are available online at

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/oakland_bay/index.html.