



## Clean Water Advisory Committee

January 10, 2019

San Juan Island Grange

### MEETING MINUTES

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Jenny DeGroot, Kyle Dodd, Kyle Loring, Bob Neiman, Gary Sale, Laura Jo Severson, Buck Smith, Kendra Smith, Kimbal Sundberg, Bill Watson

**Non-Committee Members in Attendance:** Krista Davis, Jolyn Leslie (on the phone)

**Committee members not in attendance:** Vicki Heater, Paul Kamin, Judy Meyer

8:39 **Welcome** *Kendra opens meeting*

#### Agency Updates

- *Jolyn* – pass, no updates at this time
- *Buck* – brief discussion of Jay Inslee's budget and of current WA SNOTEL index.
  - discussion about timing of rain this year and effect on local watersheds
- *Kyle Dodd*– Ag summit held in FH this year Feb. 2 & 3<sup>rd</sup>. John Rose from Ecology and myself will co-present a segment Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> on accessing water for farming. This is an opportunity to disseminate information on permitting for ponds.
- *Kimbal* – SJI is getting a habitat biologist from WDFW. Marcus Reeve, he's experienced in DFW, he'll share an office with the new WDFW enforcement agent.

ACTION ITEM: Invite Marcus Reeve to CWAC meetings

9:16 **Ground Water monitoring and strategy discussion** *Kyle Dodd*

This is a further discussion on results of the groundwater subcommittee (Gary, Kim, Vicki and Kyle Dodd). We met to come up with project proposals for 2019 to further goals in water element:

1. The county has an existing groundwater monitoring effort on Lopez = 9 wells in northern part of Island. We have transducers to monitor levels, and take samples to test for chloride (as a measure of saltwater intrusion). Sustainable funding is needed to continue (and eventually expand to more wells) this long-term monitoring effort – we're seeking money from the Clean Water Utility.

ACTION ITEM: Kyle will provide the CWAC with details such as number of wells, etc.

2. The Group B water use efficiency. Now group A (large, greater than 15 connections on residential side, or greater than 25 people for 60 days a year) need to have a water efficiency program to monitor for leaks etc. County regulates Group B = 3-15 connections. To make sure both groups are using water efficiently, we need to develop a program for meter reading, monitoring, and reporting for all the group B water systems between now and end of April when group B notices go out. There are 188 active Group B systems, accounting for approx. 20% of the population.

ACTION ITEM: Assemble stakeholders to come up with a proposal and fact sheet.

9:52 **Cascade Creek flow, next steps**

*Gary, Jenny*

Working with WDFW water rights biologist Steve Basso (*Steve joins the meeting remotely*), showing preliminary results up on screen: Modeled projections for three flows, low/medium/high. Highest possible flow was found to still be low compared to fishes' needs. Extrapolated to show habitat availability for these species: rainbow, cutthroat, chum and coho. Flow in cfs on x axis, weighted suitability curve on y axis. eg: in the peak curves for coho, spawning at 17.8 cfs.

*Question:* what time of year do we need to have these flows?

*Answer:* spawning timing. Coho in October-December. Cutthroat in Jan – March.

ACTION ITEM: Steve will send out a periodicity table showing generalized fish movement through SJI's (not specific to each creek).

What's actually in the creek? Data from 2017-2018 shows very little water most of the time, as low as zero on 10/6/17 but spikes based on large rain events.

Discussion continues regarding the Rosario diversion and water rights. The fish here are the only naturally-spawning population in SJ county.

Next steps? IDEA: find out Rosario's interest in the Hydroplant? What is OPALCO's financial relationship? Then, can we present to their next Board meeting in February? Make sure they know about this diversion and its effect on salmon.

IDEA: Mountain Lake water level was recently at an all-time low and Rosario was willing to turn valve down when asked. Meanwhile they're taking water from Cascade. We could calculate a volume within Cascade Lake that we can 'bargain with'. Can we get more cfs by diverting less and not take away total water right?

ACTION ITEM: continue subcommittee discussion.

ACTION ITEM: contact Bonneville Environmental Foundation and the Land Bank for help in discussions of offsetting power needs.

10:33 **Stormwater Erosion Control Challenges and Opportunities**

*Krista*

This topic is postponed until next meeting; out of time

10:33 **Public Comment**

*Question:* can we have a field trip to Cascade Creek? *Answer:* maybe April or May

10:35 **Adjourn**