



WESTSOUND
WATERSHEDS COUNCIL
Agenda

West Sound Watersheds Council (WSWC)
June 13, 2012 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Poulsbo City Hall

- 9:00 Introductions, review agenda
- 9:15 Kitsap County Forest Stewardship Policy
Arno Bergstrom WSU Extension Kitsap County
- 10:15 Update on Salmon Recovery topics
2012 Grant Round
Watershed Implementation Status Conference
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Round the table announcements and information sharing
- 12:00 Adjourn

Future meeting dates (typically 9-noon) to hold:
July 18 (Port Orchard)
August 15 (Suquamish?)
September 12 (location?)

West Sound Watershed Council

Meeting Sign in Sheet

June 13, 2012

Poulsbo City Hall

NAME

EMAIL (if not on file)

1	Kathy Peters	
2	Linda Owens	Linda.Owens@leg.wa.gov
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5	Tristan Peter-Corlesse	
6	Tom Ostrom	
7	Jeff Adams	
8	Arvo Bergstrom	
9	Joy Davison	on File
10	Peg Tillery	on File
11	Marie Libby	mklabby@earthlink.net
12	Sam Montgomery	
13	Mauro Heine	On File
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West Sound Watersheds Council Meeting
June 13, 2012, 9:15am -12:00pm
Poulsbo City Hall

Notes taken by Joy Davison, volunteer scientist and Finn Creek data manager

Intergrated Forest Stewardship Policy - Kitsap County
Arno Bergstrom WSU Extension Kitsap

<http://www.kitsapgov.com/parks/Parks/Documents/Forest%20Stewardship%20Policy%20-%20Revised%204-23-2012%20WithMaps.pdf>

The Integrated Forest Stewardship Policy was contrived in late 2009 and materialized in 2010 with the support of Steve Bauer. Commissioner Bauer's concern was finding a way to keep the land forested and working the forest with the goal of long term health and complexity. The Navy offered an example of proficient management for their Douglas fir forests. Walter Briggs, the Navy's Regional Forester, and a few others worked and met regularly to develop a management plan that involved no clear cutting and goals that were ecosystem focused rather than profit motivated.

The original Kitsap County vision was broader but shifted to existing county-owned properties. 7000 acres, but this is a floating number. Something like 5000 acres has been acquired since the late 90's. Much of this land has been managed by DNR. Most of these have been cut at least twice. These are 3rd and 4th growth forests, harvested repeatedly and re-planted with Douglas fir, resulting in a pretty simple canopy.

No one really knows what the impact is of this management, but the goal is diversity and complex habitats. There has been quite a bit of recent research generating newer, hopefully more integrated management methods. Most of the research has been done Dr. Jerry Franklin, Professor of Ecosystem Analysis, at the College of Forest Resources, UW, Seattle.

No one thinks of a park as a working forest, but this can be consistent with the long range goals.

The program will be based in the Parks Dept. Meetings are being scheduled. A public meeting will be held July 17, at the Kingston Community Center, hosted by Commissioner Gelder. The policy is open for public comment

Send email or mail comments to Parks Director James R. Dunwiddie,

jdunwiddie@co.kitsap.wa.us

http://www.kitsapgov.com/parks/Contact_Us.htm

The Park Dept. and WSU Stream Stewards have done quite a bit of this research. They've been looking at some of the largest parks, Banner and Coulter Creek, Newberry Hill North Kitsap Heritage Park Note- Heritage Park is in the process of expanding. Arno offered some history on these parks.

It should be noted that the goal is not to protect from disease and other natural selectors but to guide these forests to a more resilient, diverse ecosystem condition.

Another goal is to encourage respectful land use and controlled commercial activities like brush picking. A park like Banner would produce 200,000 bunches of florist quality salal per square mile. It is possible to produce revenue streams and remain consistent with conservation goals. The idea is to make sure the cutting (pruning) is done correctly to encourage healthy growth and be self sustaining in a non destructive way.

Another consideration is to manage for public recreational access (non motorized), safety and risk management. Public access will build stewardship in the community.

The methods are science based using ecosystem management and restoration forestry.

The goal is to return the forest to an old growth condition, and increase diversity resulting in a complex forest that supports a greater diversity of wildlife.

- Complex, multi layered canopy

- More understory diversity
- Restore function
- Healthier more resilient trees
- Habitat
- Human benefits

Arno displayed a spreadsheet that broke down the county properties into ecotype and age, as well as complexity. The majority of these county properties are a simple single dominant species canopy; Douglas fir plantations.

Douglas fir is a commercially desirable, dominant, full sun, pioneer species, which comes in after disturbance and is more durable than hemlock and cedar. It needs all the space it can get. The young trees crowd each other, competing for sun, water and nutrients. The first 50 years is critical if it is to become a Centenarian. The trees that put on the most girth in that time frame have the best chance of survival to old age.

Red alder is also pioneer species, but conifer was planted as the preferred commercial crop. There are limited hardwoods and where they exist (generally riparian) is still unsurveyed. Many of these do comprise head waters for creeks. We do have some legacy growth, and some individual legacy trees, but the county owns a lot of young forest.

The self-sustaining plan is to thin 200 acres per year, working the forests which are not complex and will enjoy an eco-benefit from thinning. The thinning would be both a pre commercial and commercial. Variable density thinning consisting of 20% skips, 20% gaps and 60% thinning to uniform density, based on age and soils and ecotypes, creates a mosaic which should mimic natural management such as fires. The idea is bio- mimicry.

The plan also involves brush leases and using grants and contracts. With this level of management, this is looking like at least a 20 yr project.

Advantages of thinning with horses:

- Less soil compaction
- Faster recovery
- Less damage to trees and skid roads

Disadvantages:

- Lower production for a higher initial cost
- A higher level of skill is required
- There are fewer horse loggers

The board of commissioners will be looking at this and there will be a meeting, probably no later than September 10.

Discussion

- Tom-Mountaineers property in the Chico drainage does have a stand of late succession forest in pre-contact condition.
- Arno-200 years is the standard we're using.
- Bill-Bremerton has done commercial thinning, returning a 3rd of the value back to the city and the structural complexity and habitat of the forested land does benefit.
- Kathy-Do these plantations hinder invasives and what will be the effect of thinning?
- Arno- Invasives need sun, so roads are the greatest issue with invasives and that will be the focus of control.
- Jeff-Can you harvest within those dense stands of conifers?
- Arno-Yes, a skilled forester could simply drop the trees. Some might be marketable, but also they could be left to decompose.
- Jeff- Does your plan incorporate the planting of tree species which are missing?
- Arno-Yes, that would be part of the management plan. Working to add shade tolerant diversity and understory.
- Jeff- How much damage would occur to the understory when thinning?

- Arno-We've been looking at the research that deals with that. Clearing roads and skid trails create the most damage. Using the existing ones will limit that damage. It seems complete recovery occurs in about ten years. Under Walter Briggs' plan, the Navy does a lot of horse logging which has a greater impact but a narrower footprint, allowing regrowth to occur more quickly. The recovery is noticeable even the next year. The idea is to put a minimal damage requirement in the contracts.
- Bill- The plan needs to be stated in detail and it's critical to get someone in there who understand your goals.
- Arno- There is success with replanting western red cedar and leaving the natural seed sources for cedar and hemlock.
- Peg- What has the tribe and the City of Bremerton, and so forth, done to make sure the right kinds of trees and plants are used. I've seen replantings using the wrong plants...such as Sitka spruce.
- Bill- Sitka spruce is not the best choice as they are predated by insects, however here and there they do crop up, naturally.
- Arno- Spruce was very a valuable commodity in the 40's and during WW2, and as such over harvested. It's more predominant on the coast.
- Kathy- There are some spruce in part of the Forest and Bay project (which makes this a desirable acquisition) at "the Divide" off Miller Bay Road.
- Tom- The goals are great but it seems like it should be an integrated parks/planning goal/methodology. We all have this as a priority
- Arno- This is addressed in the latest Open Space Plan for Kitsap County. http://www.kitsapgov.com/parks/Parks/Pages/PROS_Plan.htm
- Tom- It doesn't jump out. It should be more prominent.
- Arno- True but it has been included. There are phrases in different places that allow this to become policy. The problem is perception. When this kind of forest management is mentioned eco-people immediately go to a dark place.
- Tom- Agreed. The emphasis needs to stress ecosystem goals and management.
- Arno- this was based on the Navy program which is very rigid and prescriptive. For the county, we would like to be a little more flexible in order to fine tune this to the ecosystem goals of each property. Limiting the thinning to 200 acres per year adds caution to the plan and gives the space and time needed for learning as we go. Management changes with research. Plus many things were not addressed in the various park master plans, including risk management for public access.
- Tom- there are so many stresses on these lands, this piece needs to be more prominent in the open space plan and needs to emphasize function and ecosystem management. One thing you may add to the legal context is that many of these properties were leverages for legacy grants and therefore there is a need to recognize that each property has a different circumstance and requirements, which must be addressed. You have to make sure the requirements of the funding are integral. Incorporating protections; the tribes deal with this, but these are only as good as our memory. After we are gone, anything can happen that may violate the letter and spirit of the initial acquisitions.

Christine Rolfe visited the meeting

We introduced ourselves around the table and Kathy explained the structure and function and finding sources of the WSWC. Kathy answered Christine's question about why Kitsap is split into two lead entities.

As State Senator, she helped to get funding for Carpenter Creek Estuary Restoration. She serves as Vice Chair on the Environment, Water & Energy Committee. She is a watershed planner by training.

Kathy noted Linda Berry Maraist's contributions on behalf of WSWC (SRC, ECB)

Sharing and Announcements

Bill

Planning to get together with Arno for a watershed tour of the Bremerton area.

Gorst Creek and the landfill outfall: hopefully there is going to be some movement on this. The City of Bremerton has written a letter of support for this. The city has a plan with the EPA and there will be a meeting between these entities on June 26.

Kathy

We are in the middle of SRFB grant round. TAG met and scored the projects.

- Doe-keg-wats Marsh, cut-wood removal on an experimental basis
- Acquisition of shoreline in the city of Poulsbo. The acquisition near Liberty Bay Auto may not be a good acquisition because of the limited protection possible.
- Anderson Island, culvert in Pierce Co.
- Rocky Bay Estuary acquisition, GPC
- Filucy Bay bulkhead removal and shore revegetation. The one down side is that it's a very short stretch instead of a drift cell length.

Tom

Jeff head- It is a large tidal marsh covered with cut logs. With an old marsh underneath, removing the log wood could restore function and get the marsh flushing normally. Tons of creosote logs have been removed and log removal will continue. It was noted that there is a need for outreach because we've been so conditioned to consider any kind of large woody debris beneficial.

90% of the debris is anthropogenic wood, logs, which has been hauled for 50 years and which get loose. As wood value goes higher we may be seeing less of this lost wood. It just doesn't exist the way it once did and there is an effort to clear it due to navigation hazard.

Funding is provided by the funds from the Foss oil spill in 2004. The trustees have put together restoration funds for the plan. They have added monitoring as a goal, so there is a request for SRFB funding so the Foss funding can be used for monitoring.

There is a lot to be learned here. We've lost so many marshes due to dredging and other destructive activities. It is considered to be too expensive to restore these lost marshes, but if this marsh can be restored by simple wood removal...if this can be proved, this could be applied to other marshlands.

There is no monitoring plan yet, but would like to have a small workshop to input toward a plan. Peg offered the extension's help with data collection, management, etc.

Kathy- There are other marshes, which could benefit from this. Many are in remote areas.

Tom- There are not many marshes like this, which other than the wood are very pristine. The naturally occurring wood with the root wads has growth sprouting, while the cut wood is all bare. It's easy to distinguish. Dead wood and creates a dead spot in the march. The creosote logs were removed by helicopter. The other cut wood will not be as expensive to get rid of because it's not contaminated.

Kathy- Look at Habitat Work Schedule to see the pictures.

The ESRP grant round is coming up. Betsy Lyons is in contact with Kathy. They are interested in locating shoreline restoration projects.

Coming up Oct 10-12, the Watershed Implementation Status Conference. WSWC will be there to let them know we need assistance. That we are behind the curve, under staffed and under funded. Not sure how that will be staffed. We need to make a plan.

SSWM, Shoreline Master Plan, Salmon Recovery Council

Tristan added that they, as a policy body, need to know where the gaps are.

If anyone wants to jump in to work on this please let Kathy know in order to draft something to take to this conference.

There is some funding...perhaps to hire a consultant

Rob Purser will represent us at the salmon recovery council

Linda is focusing on the ECB side

It's important to note that the cities don't have the staff or resources to deal with salmon recovery. They are focusing on their SMP's \$13,000 will come to each lead entity for implementation tracking updates in HWScontact Kathy for details.

Kathy has talked to Paladin about pulling together some monitoring.

Note that SRFB funds must be used for actual salmon recovery. There is a benefit to combining public works, and salmon recovery, but in order to qualify for SRFB money there must be some engineering that directly benefits salmon.

Mauro introduced his summer intern, Sam Montgomery. They will be continuing benthic monitoring in September.

He is attending the committee for the Ecosystem Monitoring Program to see where they are in their process. They have a framework for the direction they want to go but the plan is still light on parameters. The chair, Bruce Crawford, is seeking feed back from salmon recovery areas, as to what kind of work and monitoring is being done and contact information from people involved. He's gathering information in an informal way; perhaps a meeting could be arranged.

Kathy has contacted Bruce, by phone, left a voice mail and invited him to attend the WSWC meeting. Also there are a lot of different tribal monitoring projects going on. He should be talking with the tribes directly.

Tom confirmed that this was fresh water. He also brought up the lack of communication between entities and monitoring projects. The example is the USGS monitoring efforts in West Sound. With our local entities now being now charged with gathering data on forage fish and eelgrass, it would be incredibly helpful to work hand in hand with the USGS surveys of eelgrass. There is a tremendous lag time between the work and the publishing of the data. It would be helpful to USGS as well. Since USGS people come from all over the country, checking in with the local entities first would help orient them to local conditions, cultural issues and species confusion such as a noted error in which a chum salmon was listed as a sockeye.

USGS is not just a geological survey. It's now a super science group as designed by the Natural Biological Survey Act-President Clinton.

In 07 they came to present the published data, of 5 studies, Coastal Habitats in Puget Sound <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2006/3081/pdf/fs20063081.pdf>

The county GIS imagery aeriels are being updated soon and will eventually available, in the county system, late 2012 or early 2013 (Kathy will find out). It is a match for the water typing project, using LIDAR modeling for stream and water body predictions. The resolution will be 1.2ft per pixel for the new set

Peg announced the next Native Plant Advisor training.

<http://county.wsu.edu/kitsap/calendars/Lists/Events/Attachments/463/Native%20Plants%20Course%202012.pdf>

And a save the date for the next West Sound Symposium, Sound Living Expo, October 20, at the Norm Dick Building in Bremerton.

Jeff discussed the monitoring on the Powel Property. The volunteers did beach profiles... seven profiles and he will be looking to see how these line up with the engineers' findings. Scheduled are nine profiles; seven where bulkheads are being removed, one which will retain bulkhead...one where the beach is natural and unaltered. It will be interesting to monitor the peninsula for changes that occur with the bulkhead removal, including vegetation and fauna. It will also be interesting to see how volunteers can help in this kind of monitoring...the potential and limitations. One new BW volunteer relocated here from Island Co and has experience with the method used.

Kathy asked about how the data is stored. Jeff answered that this is still being investigated. Island County had a database and an application for entering data in the field. Right now the Powell property data is going into an Excel spread sheet.

They will also monitor the effects of the barge sitting on the tide lands.

Tom brought up that there are two methods of equipment management during a bulkhead removal, moving the barge and moving the excavators. The excavator can really churn up the beach

Need to look at that at Anna Smith. Right now there are no plans for monitoring. Hopefully there will be an opportunity to partner with the county when they do Anna Smith Park.

On another note, they will leave the salt water swimming pool, which is on the Powell site. It's a neat refuge. Jeff noted that there is invasive tunicate there and also Olympia oyster and tons of 3-spine stickleback.

Kathy Mentioned that Kristen, Gig Harbor Wild Watch needs help with the monitoring at Penrose Point. She has volunteers and needs guidance. Kathy forwarded the Island County Protocol. And it was suggested that extension interns might help Jeff articulate the protocol and work on data management.

Jeff explained Bio Blitzes which involves taking a geographic area and during 24 hours, ID everything they can. This would require volunteers to ID species. Jeff mentioned that one volunteer, who has a particular interest in lichens and mosses was able to add a number of new species. Doris is Jeff "go-to" expert for fish. Nothing is really happening yet, but this would be a cool thing to develop.

Tristan reported on the recovery and implementation document draft. The draft of common framework is out for peer review and will finalize in a month or two. There will be work to tailor adaptive management to each watershed. Tom is reviewing the draft. This was discussed at the SRC. It relates to the open source Maradi software.

Kathy mentioned that some time back, there was a training session on using this software and the lingo used. Tristan added that it uses a very visual framework

Kathy announced that the TAG will be discussing this in a work shop. It isn't scheduled yet. She also mentioned that PSAR money supports Kathy's position but some is earmarked for adaptive management monitoring.

Tom- It just hasn't gotten done.

Kathy- This is one of the main criticisms in this watershed plan.

HCCC The Forest and Bay Champion award nominee will be announced at the HCCC meeting. And the final draft of the In Lieu Fee program has been submitted to Army Corp of Engineers who will sign off on it. It may be applied in July.

Mark reported on the efforts on the Markwick property. The Army Corps of Engineering has been stalling. There are salmon and tails will be constructed along Ridge Top.

Clear Creek has been having a real problem with cedar boughs being stolen, butchering the trees 50 feet up. Kathy suggested installing wildlife cams.

The big project is the flood plain restoration. The 30% walk through is completed. Work continues on hydrology and topography.

There has been some hard push back from the tribe about work to restore creek area. There is a concern about the number of people and pets that will impact a potential salmon stream. This area has been open and thick with invasives. The wrong trees were planted and a big problem is reed canary grass.

On a positive note, we had a work party who planted sweet gail and shore pine (these can tolerate salinity and some inundation as well as drought).

Kathy **Doris** is trying to get shell fish folks to come to next meeting. Native oyster is so important and it will be great to get a plan for fin fish and shell fish to co-exist.

A water typing grant will take all the data gathered by WFC and apply the updated data to the county Maps, replacing the DNR maps where the data is available. The DNR maps are so erroneous it's alarming. This is a new and more accurate method of prediction modeling, using LIDAR. The planning department needs more accurate maps when approving plans for new construction, including single family dwellings.

The **Carpenter Creek** culvert removal is restoring estuary function. The next culvert upstream in the estuary, on West Kingston Rd, is now the problem.

Kathy was looking at the culvert projects list from 8 years ago. Sadly, the same ones are still to be done.

Wouldn't it be great to add salmon recovery to the priority criteria to public works? Environmental deficiency has a very low priority score. There was discussion about how to coordinate the salmon efforts with public works to maximize resources. A near term action speaks to nudging public works to be consistent with salmon recovery.

Kathy has been looking at old applications for SRFB funding. These were projects for 2001. We need to go through these documents, review the limiting factors and reassess these for prioritizing. It's interesting to see why these old projects didn't go forward. This should be part of our monitoring adaptive management plan.

Kathy attended the county planning meeting and they talked over her, stating that these objectives are assumed. Peg added that SSWM states that these priorities and goals should be written specifically. Tom added that it's important for them to see that if there is a great environmental benefit, these goals should become a public works priority.

Jeff added that this council should revisit this topic annually.

Kathy- If we did that we would actually have something to bring to the status committee conference

Tom asked Kathy if there was a work plan? Kathy- yes and I write reports to PSAR to explain how the funding is spent.

Tom-.It would be nice to have that to refer to

Arno- Do something that is specific. Gather the documents, meet and the meet discuss. This might attract the old guard back and get them involved them again. Institutional memory is important.

Kathy- Some of the more affluent councils do this; meeting with participants and partners.

Tristan- Perhaps we should choose 3 near term goals and concentrate on them.

Kathy announced that we got conformation that Tristan will remain with us and he should help on this. Tristan agreed and will be glad to help.

Kathy- It would be great to be able to report successes and present a polished report to the state leads. Peg suggested Kathy contact Huxley, whose students must intern for 300 hours before graduation. Peg will assign Rene to find a student to help Kathy.

Meeting adjourned