CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON
PUBLIC WORKS
CLEAN WATER

# CLEAN WATER COMMISSION

## Special Emergency Meeting Summary

**Wednesday, March 31, 2021**
**6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**
**WebEx Video Conference Due to Covid-19 Pandemic**

### I. ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm. Roll Call made.

**Members Present:** Brendan Addis, Michelle Girts, Matthew Jones, Marie LaManna, Sue Marshall, Justin Maynard, Michelle Maynard, and Charlie Tumelty.
**Members Absent:** Josh Seeds

**Staff Present:** Jeff Schnabel, Justin Collell, Bob Patterson, Chad Hoxeng, and Alice Millward
**Public Present:** none

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None. No requests for access, comments and/or questions were received by staff as of 6:15pm on March 31, 2021. Current notification process clarified. Update process on the CWC website and on the agenda with additional verbiage which better explain process to make comments and/or request to be included in the virtual meeting.

### III. PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / RECOMMENDATION / ACTION

**Clark County Vegetation Management -** Justin Collell, Noxious Weed Board Coordinator
***Vancouver Lake Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (IAVMP)***

Justin has been the primary staff person coordinating the *Vancouver Lake Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (IAVMP*). He explained the history of the milfoil problem in Vancouver Lake as well as the 2017 and 2018 surveys for Eurasion Watermilfoil (EWM) by the Friends of Vancouver Lake. He also discussed the findings of the two 2019 surveys for aquatic plants by the state of Washington and Clark County. It was found that he wildlife habitat of Vancouver Lake could be negatively impacted by milfoil outcompetes native plants that provide better shelter, food, and nesting habitat for fish and waterfowl There is also potential for milfoil to harm the 23 different fish species found in Vancouver Lake as these dense stands can decrease the water quality by reducing dissolved oxygen levels and may not contribute to a fisher food web as well as native plants would. In addition, if milfoil is left unchecked, its spread throughout Vancouver Lake could negatively impact swimming, sailing, and rowing, and cause important events to the community to be cancelled

The following goals have been developed for the Vancouver Lake Integrated Aquatic Plant Management Plan by a steering committee composed of several stakeholder groups and input from the public.

- Manage Eurasian watermilfoil and other state-listed noxious weeds in Vancouver Lake at a level that ensures safety and opportunity for aquatic recreational activities and does not negatively impact wildlife habitat.
- Plan and implement management efforts carefully to ensure treatments are efficacious while minimizing negative impacts to the extent practicable.
- Educate the public about how to avoid spreading Eurasian watermilfoil and other aquatic invasive species.
- Monitor the extent of milfoil and other noxious weeds on a regular basis to inform adaptive management decisions and help prevent the movement of milfoil from Vancouver Lake to other water bodies.
- Prevent the re-infestation of Vancouver Lake by managing adjacent weed sources (e.g. flushing channel, Lake River, etc.).

Justin then discussed various control methods and their advantages and disadvantages. They ranged from taking “No Action” to creating a “Bottom Barrier” to “Mechanical Methods such as Hand-Pulling and Harvesting” to “Biological Control” and “Herbicide”.

It was determined Vancouver Lake is not a closed system, and milfoil and other noxious weeds will likely be perpetually reintroduced from all three connected water bodies; Lake River, Burnt Bridge Creek, and the Columbia River are all infested with milfoil. Therefore, control strategies must be sustainable over the long-term and in line with the management goals, while reducing impacts to the environment. Native plants, which are a keystone in the food web, must be allowed to grow in the lake. Milfoil is a class B noxious weed, is designated for control, competes with native plants, and is a hindrance to recreational lake uses and a hazard to swimmers. The infestation in Vancouver Lake also poses a risk to the health of other lakes via boats fouled with milfoil.

To immediately reduce the level of EWM in Vancouver Lake, treating EWM with selective herbicide wherever it is found throughout the lake is prudent. Using an herbicide that has highest activity on milfoils, and much less destructive effect on other native plants, will ensure the least harm to any native plants growing alongside the milfoil. After the initial treatment, follow up monitoring and retreatments will be necessary to prevent the infestation from returning to the current level. Bottom barriers could be installed in small areas where all vegetation should be excluded such as swimming areas and boat docks, if budget allows, but this should be a second choice as the maintenance is cost-prohibitive as the barriers must be reinstalled every year.

**Clean Water Local Source Control** – Bob Patterson, Environmental Op..Specialist Sr.
Bob gave an program overview of the Local Source Control (LSC) program which targets the older portions of our MS4 system since they don’t have building protections to retain or treat stormwater before it enters our river, lakes and streams. This is part of our NPDES permit. The permit requires that Clark County create a business inventory, visit and inspect at least 20% (~150 business sites) annually and implement best management practices (BMPS). .

- The primary purpose is to fix the problems he finds with the LSC best management practices: which are operational and structural.
- Bob discussed the flow control and treatment aspects of stormwater management. He highlighted the critical role catch basins play in the system and the need for adequate placement and filtration. He also discussed other aspects such an oil separator and bio retention. Accurate mapping of infrastructure is critical so that they can access it in the field on their ipads. Bob showed some of the everyday inspection challenges that he faces and how he works with businesses to come into compliance and protect our water quality.
- Bob also explained the very successful Catch Basin Clean Out Program.

**Clean Water Monitoring Division** – Chad Hoxeng, Natural Resources Specialist III

Chad explained the status and monitoring trends of the Urban Streams in Clark and Cowlitz Counties in the Lower Columbian River Region (LCUS) program which CW is responsible for providing.

- The 2019 NPDES Permit states that Clark County will conduct regional urban streams status and trends monitoring in urban and urbanizing areas. Ecology will reimburse Clark County a total of $469,678 through July 31, 2024 to complete all associated project tasks. This monitoring is funded by Phase I and II Municipal Stormwater Permittees in Clark and Cowlitz Counties Clark County is required to contribute $54,496 annually for the project from August 2020 through July 31, 2024.
- The LCUS program consists of the following: five trend monitoring stations, 3 – 4 status monitoring stations a year, continuous stage, continuous stream temperature, continuous conductivity, habitat monitoring, macroinvertebrates and water quality
- Clark County's Wadeable Streams portion consists of the following: 9 index monitoring stations, 9 – 11 rotating panel monitoring stations, monthly water quality parameters, macroinvertebrates, OWQI scores calculated, BIBI scores, and data analysis will be used for the upcoming stream health report that will be incorporated into a Story Map
- Chad discussed the various Hydrology monitoring sites and locations through out the county.
- During the dry season the monitoring team conducts Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Screening (IDDE) to remove non-stormwater discharges.
- Microbial Source Tracking (MST) at Whipple Creek generated a lot of interest due to the following:
    - Known FC issues
    - Land use analysis
    - Septic tank compliance analysis
    - Human DNA was found at all monitoring sites
    - Dog DNA was found at all monitoring sites
    - Beaver DNA was only found at one site.
    - All sample locations had higher than background Optical Brightener values
    - Results Support Public Health

- MST along the East Fork of the Lewis River tributaries has also generated interesting results:
  - All sample locations had Human DNA
  - All sample locations had Dog DNA
  - All sample locations had higher than background Optical Brightener values
  - Results Support East Fork Lewis TMDL Alternative
  - Future MST sampling will support the Poop Smart Clark Ecology funded grant
- The monitoring group is planning a to conduct MST at Salmon Creek.
- Currently there are two large grants the monitoring group is managing: the Schriber Reforestation Project which the total cost will be $217,000 and the Heritage Farm Wetland Restoration total cost to be $1.4 million.
- Clark County Clean Water Monitoring partners with many local, state and private agencies.

**Alice Millward, Clean Water Commission Staff Liaison**, gave quick update on several matters.

- Clean Water is still working hard in a socially distant manner and have modified work processes in place.
- CWC Annual Report presentation was excellent. Kudos to Brendan and all of the Commissioners who were able to present to the Council via WebEx.

**Working Group Updates: Research, Partnerships and Outreach**

No Working Group updates.

## IV. COMMISSION DISCUSSION TIME

- No discussion.

## VI. ADJOURN – 08:21 PM

Summary provided by: Alice Millward, Clark County Staff Liaison / 564.397.5267

*Audio recordings of this and most previous Clean Water Commission meetings are available through the county website at:* https://www`.clark.wa.gov/public-works/clean-water-commission.