

# East Fork Lewis River Partnership for clean water

## Facilitated Discussion Notes from August 8, 2018

During the August 8, 2018, East Fork Lewis River kickoff meeting, a facilitated discussion on getting to clean water in the East Fork Lewis River enabled meeting participants to discuss historical challenges and barriers related to achieving clean water in the East Fork Lewis River. With partnership and funding needs in mind, partners were also asked to discuss some of the current projects underway; and brainstorm next steps, future priorities, programs, and projects needed to achieve clean water in the watershed.

The following notes were translated from the facilitated discussion portion of the agenda. These notes are a synopsis of varying opinions and insights from 47 different stakeholders. These notes do not represent the views of the Department of Ecology or the East Fork Lewis River Partnership as a whole. These notes function as a draft list of potential discussion items for future meetings.

**Table 1. Notes from the facilitated discussion**

Question	Notes
<p><b>Past</b> - What are some of the historical challenges or barriers related to achieving clean water in the watershed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrial issues affecting effecting turbidity, erosion, and debris.</li> <li>• Historical landfill could have caused past issues in upper McCormick Creek.</li> <li>• Surface Mining / Gravel Mining.</li> <li>• Compliance and enforcement issues.</li> <li>• Changes in forested areas – logging industry.</li> <li>• Funding availability / financial constraints.</li> <li>• Challenges funding projects on private land.</li> <li>• Landowner engagement and willingness to implement.</li> <li>• Development – Expanded urban growth boundaries.</li> <li>• Political environment.</li> <li>• Challenging to maintain momentum of partnerships.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Present</b> - What are some of the ongoing challenges, priorities, projects, planning, or implementation efforts in the watershed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making contact with private landowners.</li> <li>• Diverse population and land use in the watershed.</li> <li>• Climate change and impacts on hydrologic regimes, including reduced snow pack and changing base flow.</li> <li>• Value systems - property rights vs. implementing on private land for public impact – turf wars.</li> </ul>



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**Table 1. Notes from the facilitated discussion (cont.)**

Question	Notes
<p><b>Future</b> - What are some of the next steps, future programs, and projects needed to achieve clean water?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance water quality with urban growth and development.</li> <li>• Education for developers and new home owners on land use practices for water quality.</li> <li>• More collaboration between agencies, non-profits, and private land owners.</li> <li>• More investigation into sources of bacteria pollution and source tracking opportunities.</li> <li>• More monitoring and long-term data collection with the potential to focus efforts between Heisson and Sunset Falls.</li> <li>• Identifying where to submit volunteer data (specifically from La Center schools) for use by stakeholders working in watershed.</li> <li>• Outreach and community building.</li> <li>• Focus on relationship between ecological restoration and the economy.</li> <li>• Need to study effects of temperature in tributaries; identify shade deficits and implementation opportunities on tributaries not just the mainstem.</li> <li>• Need to consider temperature challenges related to the width to depth ratio of the river.</li> <li>• Provide education to private landowners and develop incentives for implementation to drive behavior change.</li> <li>• Focus on culverts and addressing fish blockage.</li> <li>• Build collaborative partnerships with landowners.</li> <li>• Develop backyard habitat program for residential lots in the watershed.</li> <li>• Develop early partnership for mining reclamation/remediation.</li> <li>• Support Conservation District funding and programs.</li> <li>• Develop common strategy for identifying priorities and a shared vision for work in the East Fork Lewis River.</li> <li>• Establishing metrics for evaluating the watershed that consider the State's transition from a Fecal Coliform to E. coli bacteria standard.</li> <li>• Identify endpoint for monitoring - establish a goal or endpoint for accomplishing clean water in the watershed.</li> <li>• Identify what's working in the watershed to improve water quality.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other</b> - Is there anyone that should be engaged in the partnership that isn't currently at this meeting?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cowlitz Tribe</li> <li>• Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group</li> <li>• Private Land Owners</li> </ul>

