Lacamas Creek
Partnership
for clean water

Lacamas Creek Partnership for Clean Water

Meeting Summary – April 16, 2021

Background

The Lacamas Creek watershed is on Washington State's polluted waters list for warm water temperatures, bacteria, dissolved oxygen, and pH impairments, which drives the need to develop a Water Cleanup Plan. To develop this plan, the Lacamas Creek Partnership was launched, which is a collaboration of local, state, and federal governments, non-profits, watershed groups, and private landowners working together to and implement a Water Cleanup Plan. This Water Cleanup Plan will be focused on implementation of best management practices (BMPs) to improve water quality. The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) will lead the Lacamas Creek Partnership for Clean Water. Supporting partners are Clark County, City of Camas, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Clark Conservation District, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the United State Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS).More information is available on the partnership webpage and on the project FAQ Sheet.

Meeting Summary

The first Lacamas Creek Partnership for Clean Water meeting was held on April 16, 2021. The objectives of this meeting were to:

1. Provide an overview of Ecology's Source Assessment and Water Cleanup process.
2. Learn about the different programs and planning efforts in the Lacamas Watershed.
3. Discuss roles, responsibilities, next steps, and project timeline.

The agenda and meeting materials are available on the Partnership webpage. During this meeting, Devan Rostorfer, Water Quality Specialist for Ecology presented on the goals of the Lacamas Creek Partnership and the planning process.

Molly Gleason, Water Quality Specialist for Washington State Department of Ecology presented on upcoming water quality monitoring and the Lacamas Creek Source Assessment. Molly also presented a draft Lacamas Creek StoryMap and upcoming plans to develop a Tableau page for data sharing. The timeline for Ecology's work in the Lacamas watershed is listed below.

Ecology's Lacamas Creek Project Timeline: 2021 – 2023

Months and Year	Milestone
June 2021	Begin water quality monitoring and data collection.
October 2021	Complete water quality monitoring.
August 2022	Complete technical analysis of water quality data.
April 2023	Complete Draft Source Assessment Report identifying critical areas for water quality improvement.
May 2023	Water Cleanup Plan begins focused on implementation of water quality BMPs.

Water Quality efforts in Lacamas Watershed

At the April 16, 2021, meeting, each organization was given the opportunity to present an overview of their work in the Lacamas watershed. The following is a short summary of each organization's ongoing and upcoming activities.

- **City of Camas**: In 2020, the City of Camas passed a resolution recognizing the importance of water quality in all three lakes in Camas, which include Lacamas, Fallen Leaf, and Round Lakes. With this resolution, Camas established a budget framework for improving water quality in the lakes. The City also established an advisory committee of seven members to provide input throughout the upcoming Lake Management Plan process. The current goal of the Lake Management Plan is to establish a baseline of water quality conditions in the lake through monitoring and assessment, in order to identify best management practices and strategies to reduce harmful algal blooms. Camas plans to hire a consultant to complete the Lake Management Plan in summer of 2021, with the goal to develop a plan by 2023. Recently, Camas received a small grant from the Department of Ecology's Freshwater Algae Control Program to support the development of a Lake Cyanobacteria Management Plan (LCMP). Additional funding necessary to complete this plan will be provided by the City of Camas. Ecology has provided a guideline and template for LCMP development. Ecology requires the development of a LCMP before the Freshwater Algae Control Program will fund implementation of control actions. For questions about Camas Lake Management Plan, contact Steve Wall, city of Camas Public Works Director.

- **Clark County Clean Water Division:** Approximately 88 percent of the Lacamas Creek watershed is Clark County's jurisdiction. Clark County will support water quality efforts in the Lacamas watershed by providing technical support for the Camas Lake Management Plan and Ecology's Source Assessment. Recently, Clark County completed a 1-year study of Fallen Leaf Lake, in partnership with the City of Camas. Additionally, Clark County has a long-term water quality monitoring site located at Matney Creek. At this site, Clark County collects a full suite of water quality parameters, including annual benthic data. Clark County is planning to complete water quality monitoring in the Lacamas watershed from October 2021 to September 2022. This data will support the Camas Lake Management Plan and Ecology's Source Assessment. In 2022, Clark County may consider implementing microbial source tracking (MST) to build off results from sampling in 2021 to 2022. This MST work will support pollution identification and correction efforts through Poop Smart Clark. For questions about Clark County's activities in the Lacamas watershed, contact Jeff Schnabel, Clark County Clean Water Division.

- **Clark County Public Health (CCPH):** Clark County Public health is the primary organization responsible for monitoring at designated swimming areas and issuing swimming advisories. In 2020, the first sign of algae in Lacamas Lake was reported in January 2020. In 2019, there were around nine reports of algae and by 2020; there were 40 reports of algae, with 31 warning or danger notifications. Recently, Clark County has developed new education and outreach materials related to water quality, harmful algal blooms, and swimming advisories. CCPH plans to have year-round advisory education related to harmful algae blooms. In addition to the Swim Beach program, CCPH is also the primary organization responsible for septic system management. CCPH intends to provide septic-related support through the Lacamas Creek Partnership. For questions about Clark

County Public Health's activities in the Lacamas watershed, contact Brian Schlottmann regarding swimming advisories, and contact Chuck Harman for any questions about septic systems.

- **USDA NRCS:** United Stated Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service is actively working with landowners in the Lacamas watershed with properties ranging from 5-10 acres. USDA NRCS works on non-industrial private forestlands up to 40 acres, and with farmers on a wide range of natural resource topics ranging from soil and plant health, to manure management. USDA NRCS works with landowners on a voluntary basis and relies on word of mouth. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) program is the primary financial assistance program provided by NRCS to help landowners address natural resource concerns. Applications are accepted on a continual basis with no deadline, but there is usually a cut-off in November of every year. Contact Lisa Schuchman if you have questions about USDA NRCS in Clark County.

- **Clark Conservation District**: Clark Conservation District currently has multiple online educational opportunities available, including amphibian and stormwater education and the new manure matters educational program. They also have a stewardship forester that can work with private landowners to complete forestry plans. The Conservation District is the administrator of Poop Smart Clark, which is a new pollution identification and correction program that provides funding for livestock BMP implementation. Poop Smart Clark is currently focusing on the East Fork Lewis River, but is planning to make Lacamas the second high priority for Poop Smart implementation. Recently, Clark Conservation District hired a Livestock Conservation Planner to help landowners with manure management and BMP implementation. The Conservation District is looking for funding to hire a coordinator for Poop Smart Clark. Contact Zorah Oppenheimer, District Management for Clark Conservation District if you have questions about Clark Conservation District.

- **WSDA:** The Washington State Department of Agriculture completes inspections on dairy facilities every 1.5 years. During this process, WSDA completes a facility walk through, and looks at all the drains, manure lagoons, and manure application practices, as well as setbacks and soil quality. Currently there are two dairies in the Lacamas watershed. These dairies sell products to companies that have high environmental standard, which results in implementation of best management practices for the environment at the farms. The primary feed for cattle is grass, so there is not much bare soil. One opportunity is to work with the dairies to update their individual dairy nutrient management plans. These plans were written 20 years ago and are due for updates. Opportunities to implement best practices for manure application may also help achieve phosphorous load reductions. Contact Kyrre Flege with WSDA if you have questions about dairy nutrient management in the Lacamas watershed.

- **Ecology's Freshwater Algae Control Program**: Camas was awarded a grant from Ecology's Freshwater Algae Control Program to develop a Lake Cyanobacteria Management Plan. Ecology is building partnerships with NOAA and WSU to help implement citizen science programs for data collection to support Lake Management Plan development. Ecology also has the ability to collaborate with WSU to complete nutrient and water budgets, which can help lower Lake Management Plan costs. Ecology's Freshwater Algae Control Program requires development of LCMP before any other control measures

can be implemented using Ecology's Freshwater Algae Control Funding. Contact Lizbeth Seebacher with the Department of Ecology if you have questions.

Next Steps

The Lacamas Creek Partnership will meet bi-monthly starting in June 2021. Molly Gleason will coordinate the partnership and share data with partners during the monitoring and assessment phase of the project, which is scheduled for June to October 2021. All meeting materials will be saved on the Lacamas Creek Partnership webpage www.tinyurl.com/lacamaspartnership.

The following table outlines the roles and responsibilities of individuals and organizations within the Lacamas Creek Partnership.

Roles and Responsibilities	Individual or Organization
Water Quality Data Collection (Lacamas Creek)	Molly Gleason, Ecology
Lacamas Creek Source Assessment	Sheelagh McCarthy and Molly Gleason, Ecology
Water Cleanup Plan (TMDL Alternative Restoration Plan)	Devan Rostorfer, Ecology
Lake Management Plan	City of Camas & Ecology's Freshwater Algae Control Program
Swim Beach Program and Swimming Advisories	Clark County Public Health
Dairy Nutrient Management Program	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Agriculture	Poop smart Clark (Clark Conservation District and NRCS) Note: Ecology's nonpoint source position is currently vacant.
Septic Systems	Clark County Public Health and Poop Smart Clark (Clark Conservation District and Watershed Alliance)
Stormwater	Clark County, Camas, Vancouver

FY 2023 Water Quality Combined Funding Program – Call for Projects

One of Ecology's goals is to help local jurisdictions develop competitive applications for Water Quality grants. To encourage communication earlier in the process and provide more time for project proposal development, Ecology is asking interested applicants to complete a short "Notice of Intent" form by June 15, 2021.Ecology will still host statewide application workshops in August and the final funding applications are due October 12, 2021. For more details, please visit https://tinyurl.com/ECY-SWRO-Grants, or contact Leanne Whitesell, Regional Fund Coordinator, Nonpoint Activity Projects, (360) 407-6295 or Leaw461@ecy.wa.gov.

Lacamas Creek Partnership Kickoff Meeting Attendees

The first partnership meeting was attended by 16 individuals representing seven different organizations from local, state, and federal government. Meeting attendees and their contact information are listed in the following table.

Name	Organization	Email
Steve Wall	City of Camas, Public Works Department	SWall@cityofcamas.us
Jeff Schnabel	Clark County Clean Water Division	jeff.schnabel@clark.wa.gov
Brian Schlottmann	Clark County Public Health, Swim Beach Program	Brian.Schlottmann@clark.wa.gov
Alyssa Payne	Clark County Public Health, Swim Beach Program	Alyssa.Payne@clark.wa.gov
Chuck Harman	Clark County Public Health, Septic Systems	chuck.harman@clark.wa.gov
Zorah Oppenheimer	Clark Conservation District, District Manager	zoppenheimer@clarkcd.org
Samantha Frundle	Clark Conservation District, Livestock Conservation Planner	sfrundle@clarkcd.org
Lisa Schuchman	United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service	Lisa.Schuchman@wa.usda.gov
Kyrre Flege	Washington State Department of Agriculture, Dairy Nutrient Management Program	KFlege@agr.wa.gov
Maddie Nolan	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Habitat Program	Madeline.Nolan@dfw.wa.gov
Rian Sallee	Washington State Department of Ecology, Vancouver Field Office Manager	rian.sallee@ecy.wa.gov
Lizbeth Seebacher	Washington State Department of Ecology Freshwater Algae Control Program (Lake Management Planning)	lizbeth.seebacher@ecy.wa.gov
Molly Gleason	Washington State Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program (Monitoring and Source Assessment)	molly.gleason@ecy.wa.gov
Sheelagh McCarthy	Washington State Department of Ecology, Environmental Assessment Program (Source Assessment)	sheelagh.mccarthy@ecy.wa.gov
Lawrence Sullivan	Washington State Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program (Supervisor)	lawrence.sullivan@ecy.wa.gov
Devan Rostorfer	Washington State Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program (Water Cleanup Plan and Implementation)	devan.rostorfer@ecy.wa.gov