

## In Attendance

### City of Enumclaw:

Eric Palmer

### King Conservation District:

Carrie King

Liz Clark

Jay Mirro

Matt Maria

Megan Weldon

### King County:

Jeanne Dorn

Cameron Chapman

Rick Reinlasoder

Meagan Jackson

Kollin Higgins

### State:

Michael Isensee

Lawrence Sullivan

Sheila Marcoe

Cleo Neculae

Molly Gleason

Anne Baxter

### Tribal Nation:

Nancy Rapin

## Session 2 (9am – 12pm):

### 9:00am – 9:45am 2020 Challenges / 2021 Next Steps –

#### What worked/didn't work?

- What DID work well .... We are very responsive to each other.
- He said / She said with enforcement is challenging.
- The challenge with digesters is that they are finicky systems. Unless something is dramatically changed, digesters aren't the answer, because there are not enough. 4-5 dairies are taking their manure to digesters – there are not enough during the saturated seasons. Digestate also doesn't reduce the amount of nutrients in the material the farmer will then have to take back and spread.
- Variable setback schedules can be challenging to know/understand. Setbacks are defined by Nutrient Management Plan (<https://www.wadairyplan.org/setbacks>).
- Challenges in getting folks to understand that waterways and ditches on their property are streams and/or connected to the White River (or Green River).
- 'Open Space' enrolled properties are not required to update farm plans, so the tax incentives that land owners receive aren't always accompanied by an up-to-date plan for land use.
- Licensed dairies are not subject to the King County Livestock Management Ordinance, if they're operating under a nutrient plan of some type.

## What are some key land-use behaviors that we want to address?

- Manure should not be spread on saturated or frozen ground.
- Wind can carry the manure that's being spread. A lot of applications are via big gun = 40' from ditches - year round. Benefits - to guns are that they spread fairly evenly and soil is not compacted, but accuracy is challenging due to winds.
- During the winter when lagoons are full, dairies are prohibited from discharging during the winters. WSDA recommends that operators need to find alternate methods of storage. In order to use the storage, they need to move it overland (because there are few underground lines on the plateau). One non-dairy operator and a few dairies have tankers. Moving to a different storage area and delaying application until the right season is a form of manure management. Trucks are used to transfer manure, but manure transfer is also a biosecurity issue.

## 2021 Next steps

- We need to try and increase availability of ways for farmers to viably manage manure.
- Timing tools we have available: Manure application Risk Management tool "ARM" for winter spreading <https://www.wadairyplan.org/ARM> ; and 4Rs from NRCS - right place right time <https://nutrientstewardship.org/4rs/> ; and <https://www.wadairyplan.org/setbacks>

## 9:45am –10:30am Jurisdiction, Responsibility, Coordination and Collaboration -

### Is there any overlap? Are there any barriers to collaboration?

- Roundtable
  - o KCD
    - We are non-regulatory, and we help implement recommendations and work to help to solve issues that we may find - But there are instances where the non-regulatory path creates barriers, because we're slightly separated from regulated arm. Barriers to collaboration exist, as do other barriers to implementation ag. It's no easy task to build a \$10,000 - \$20k composting facility because they take time and money.
    - What are the usual paths? How do people use services? A lot of times = word of mouth. Also, there are referrals: eg. County referrals for Open Space tax enrollment where they are required to have a farm plan.
    - The non-regulatory function is one of our greatest strengths. When land owners are told by us that they need to make a farm plan, we feel like we are crossing over the regulatory line. When we get in a situation where CD says something like "it's still too wet for you to spray and it's going to cost a couple grand for you to establish a working solution" is the point where we lose trust and they get put off from working with us. Limiting enforcement from CD will make the relationship stronger.
    - Word-of-mouth is huge. People who come to them the most, come from a benevolent place. We rely on non KCD folk sell services - and these referrals are more effective when word-of-mouth communication includes the diversity of services eg. Forestry/Shorelines that the CD provides.
    - Pre-Covid = active outreach. CD obtained funding and spent \$ to enlighten folks on what their options are.. KCD had planned to move into Pussyfoot and Second for this last year's outreach efforts. However, that got put on hold. All CD's social media is focused across-county. Still thinking about sending folks reminders.

- Specifics of Enumclaw public outreach.
  - Outreach started with tables at events. (ECY should reach out to Enumclaw expo center to get a table for 2021).
  - We're doing an education program called "stream stewards" Enumclaw connected with the wastewater facility. We have dedicated stream stewards working to sample along shorelines.
  - Online water stewardship classes and webinars are available:
    - [https://kingcd.org/eventbrite\\_category/webinar/](https://kingcd.org/eventbrite_category/webinar/)
  - We have an engagement with Enumclaw HS to do water quality training (based on Pierce CD's program).
  - We are also doing events related to Farm tours/farm walks.
    - County has purchased some of the properties that we were sampling. Couple weeks ago, KC's green globe award for habitat "Boise Creek Dairy" was highlighted for making an impact. But doesn't happen overnight.
  - Focused our mailings to swaths of landowners. Covid hit, and we have scaled back.
- Also, there has been a really high demand for our services. We do the best we can. Usually couple months lag. Hopefully folks get referred internally, but there are lots of ways to get information. Only thing that would bump up someone's priority would be if they were flagged for code enforcement... but we don't want to go there because our services are not going to be as well received and sometimes it's not as productive to spend our time with unwilling land owners as it is for willing land owners.
- What are some of the top reasons people contact you? Cost share, Too much manure, too much mud, fencing.. Better grass, pasture health, teaching soil type / Educating on that ....TA visits.

#### o City

- Grant funded programs with CD are not available to folks within City Limits.
- Spring fed ditches and stormwater ponds within MS4 make the work challenging.
- Challenges along Lateral A - mobile home park = no buffering / no setbacks at all ... grass clippings/yard waste are commonly thrown into the ditch.
- May be worthwhile to work to educate commissioners who live or have to live along drainages.
- For the city of Enumclaw's standpoint, the main focus is managing stormwater covered under various components under TMDL and includes performing routine source tracing within MS4. The City operates under permit requirements to do source tracing and stringent follow-up criteria for responding, investigating and eliminating illicit discharges/connections.
- There are jurisdictional challenges when systems run to County to City and back to County.

#### o County

- Stormwater Services responsible for source tracking identifying illicit discharge etc. and work to try to pinpoint sources. Very clear-cut when find failing septic systems. We turn to the public health department when we know.
- King County Livestock is an interesting cocktail of responsibilities and challenges. Scope includes education and technical guidance and works to establish things like densities and manure management. Role is to work in educational capacity if necessary for citizen who has questions. Works to provide match funding NRCS or

Land Owner Incentive Cost share funded by surface water management... currently looking at roof runoff project.

- Also work as technical liaison for code enforcement but their staffing has been gutted. These staff are primarily responsible for looking at cases that have an absolute and direct connection to human health. This includes site visits with code enforcement officers who are very thorough try to pinpoint things as best as they can. If it's something that looks like code enforcement issue, letter goes out to land owner setting up site visit etc...
- Environmental Health - Enforcement and OSS issue part of work. When notified follow up with property owners and confirm that septic system is failing, we will run a dye test. Bacterial daily sampling as well. Work with owner to fix connections. Start with Education and technical assistance, and then if they don't take the initiative to do that on their own, we will start with enforcement actions. Fairly lenient on approach. Make sure folks have the resources they need first, like resources to replace septic systems, and then work a little more on prevention, and finally enforcement. We've developed general information to new owners who have septic systems. We also have a partnership with habitat for humanity for new developments. Craft3 and King County Housing repair provide grants when working with lower income housing owners.

o State

- WSDA: All Dairies are required to obtain a plan and they have 2 years to get that done. We operate in the regulatory and compliance sphere and are proactively engaging in ongoing and regulatory monitoring. The Enumclaw area has a lot of smaller/long term facilities that have not seen much investment (a lot of unmaintained) in infrastructure. A lot of deferred maintenance turn many of the large livestock operations into ticking time bombs. There are times when we are reactionary and there are times when we are not.
- ECY: We responsible for conducting monthly water quality results in the watershed. Our form of collaboration is trying to effectively communicate the results of our ongoing monitoring.
- Since the June 2020, the project is entering the stage where Ecology is not watershed-wide monitoring across different stretches of the creek. As was outlined by our project plan for this effectiveness monitoring study, Ecology is only collecting at the most long-term sites from 2020-2024. By scaling back our sampling efforts, the results we provide may not be as extensive as the first year of monitoring, but we are still collecting valuable data at the long term stations.
- If room in the budget allow, Ecology tries to prioritize areas to collect investigative samples. For example, Ecology shares source tracking results with the City of Enumclaw to determine the areas with the highest bacteria issues. From our combined efforts, we've been able to show that rural unincorporated areas bordering the City are a significant source of bacteria to the stormwater flume and Boise Creek during the wet season.
- Ecology has also been bracket sampling properties in Pussyfoot and Second Creek areas to provide to nutrient and bacteria results at areas of concern along the tributaries. The latest results have indicated a significant input of nutrients in upstream sections of Second Creek compared to the smaller tributaries that feed to Second Creek downstream. Results, field observations and pictures of

nonpoint issues of have helped guide prioritization for nonpoint site-visits and focused outreach implementation work.

- Ecology is also exploring the appropriate medium and platform to share our water quality results; most of the feedback has been that visual platforms are preferred. The [Puyallup River Tributaries Effectiveness Monitoring StoryMap](#) provides a visual platform with maps and charts to communicate bacteria, nutrient and conventional water quality parameter results from the ongoing monitoring. Ecology also provides updates to Whatcom CD's [Fecal Coliform Monitoring webpage](#). This platform only shows fecal coliform data, but it provides a collective display results from multiple partners.
- Nonpoint is responsible for addressing sources of water pollution including chemicals, excess nutrients, fecal bacteria, and temperature. So, we have a large umbrella under which we are working - and we don't work with land owners who are operating under permits, so many of our enforcement challenges arise from educating everyday/non-permitted folks who are unaware of 90.48. Currently are working on nonpoint issues across Clallam, Jefferson, Mason, Thurston, Pierce, and (Enumclaw) King counties. One of our day-to-day challenges includes 'how to follow-up with land owners'. When we identify properties that other partners have (or haven't) worked with and send out letters, we will refer them to the Conservation District for assistance and if they start working with the conservation district, then we typically pass the baton - however that doesn't always seem to work. (From KCD - We need to maintain a relationship of confidentiality, so ECY should plan on following-up, even if there is that extra burden on the land owner). Agreed, ECY needs to shoulder the follow-up responsibility. Our approach in Enumclaw is to work in geographic chunks to identify the most significant sources of pollution and begin enforcement activities with those properties. We will be more effective if we can work in tandem with our other partners re: education/outreach and we appreciate feedback and communication from all of the partners on the plateau.

-----5 min BREAK-----

## **11:10am - 12:00pm Messaging and Developing Strategies/ Outreach –**

Is it possible to streamline our messaging? How? What would broad scale implementation look like?

- General education –
  - Waterway vs. ditch: talk about drainage and connection to the White River network.
  - Livestock access.
  - Manure management.
  - Climate change/ broader issues on plateau.
- Stay away from heavy handed messages.

- Talk about **all** of the sources of preventable pollution / everyone has role to play (pets/yard clippings/ etc).
- Peer-to-peer education (farmers educating farmers) works – they can send messages about:
  - Benefits of clean water.
  - Benefits of working with CD (vets educating farmers).
  - Increase productivity with well managed pastures. Savings \$.
- Focus on “Livestock/human Health” (A good selling point for land owners: if your pasture looks good, your animals will be healthier), “Clean Water” (People drink the water downstream), “connectedness” and “part of a network.”
- Focus outreach on commercial beef operators.
- Fish is not a motivating factor.
- Present opportunities for financial compensation for loss of viable farmland.
- Using the results as a definite and firm detail about the impact of a property.

## How is Enumclaw exceptional?

- Enumclaw is a newer community and not as connected to each other as other farming communities. There is also an anti-animal welfare crowd within the plateau. Focus Dairy-only to Dairy-only for special group.
- Many farmers are connected to King Pierce Farm Bureau Board – Farmer advocacy groups. AFT... Washington Cattlemen’s association vs to each other.
- Influx of Hispanic farmers – Bilingual ed/outreach materials will be needed to effectively reach out to all farmers.