

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting #37, May 8, 2008, 7 p.m., Fauntleroy Church**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed residents: Steve Bomkamp, Judy Pickens, David Follis, Steev Ward, Scott Dolfay, Jack Lawless

Fauntleroy Community Association: Phil Sweetland

Fauntleroy Church: Randy Sleight

Seattle Public Utilities: Kathy Minsch, Andy Rheume, Laura Reed

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

State Department of Ecology: Sinang Lee, Alice Kelly

Guests: David Anderson (Envirotest), representatives of Gatewood and KapKa schools

Facilitator: Randy Sleight

Scribe: Judy Pickens

**NOTES**

**1. Introductions**

**2. March minutes**

Approved as circulated.

**3. Treasurer's report**

In his absence, Dennis Hinton left word of \$2,361.75 in the Council checking account. Judy reported expenditures of archival supplies to complete accessioning of photos for the Southwest Seattle Historical Society and also maps to aid planning for the Fenton Glen restoration project.

**4. In the media**

Judy noted a quote and reference to the creek in the recent book, *Emerald City: An Environmental History of Seattle*.

**5. Research presentations**

**Macro re-establishment study:** Teacher Trisha Montemayor introduced three representatives of Team 5 at Gatewood Elementary School, who reported on their study of macroinvertebrate re-establishment in the reach to the beach (see attached report). In summary, they found macros in both undisturbed and new channel over the study period, with the latter especially alive. After questions and discussion, Kathy Minsch presented a framed certificate of appreciation from Seattle Public Utilities, with sincere thanks to all the students who participated.

**Pet-waste study:** Parent volunteer Pat Neff introduced seven representatives of KapKa Cooperative Primary School and led them in summarizing their follow-up study of pet waste along a trail segment in Fauntleroy Park. In summary, they found fewer

fecal deposits than during the 2004 baseline study, with most concentrated along a flat portion of the trail (see attached report). After questions and discussion, Sinang Lee presented a certificate of appreciation from Ecology and a unique trophy bearing a dog and full scoop! The students presented Judy with a thank-you poster for her help.

## **6. TMDL implementation**

Sinang distributed copies of the draft water-quality improvement plan summarizing efforts to reduce fecal coliform bacteria in the creek. She also distributed a flier requesting public comment by June 16.

***Action item: Sinang will place a copy of the draft plan in the Southwest Library. Judy will post the call for public comment at the fish-ladder viewpoint, Chris Nack will post it on the website, and Phil Sweetland will request that the FCA board include it in the next e-news.***

(DOE now has information on this project at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/FauntleroyFCTmdlsummary.html>.)

Sinang cautioned that we will not likely see dramatic reductions in fecal levels but should expect to see some through the focus on educating pet owners. She reported that Ecology has allocated \$300 for signs emphasizing the health risk of pet waste, which will be available by July 1.

***Action item: Judy will work with Carol Baker on the choice of commercial signs for Fauntleroy Park and other key locations in the watershed.***

## **7. Sea lettuce removal project**

Sinang introduced Alice Kelly, project manager for Ecology, and David Anderson, PhD, who has the contract to develop removal methodology. After Alice summarized the project, David provided a detailed report and responded to several questions, as follows:

After much research to find a method that will remove nitrogen-generating seaweed from the marine environment, David has recommended vacuuming dead seaweed as the outgoing tide floats it off the beach. By taking seaweed that is already decomposing, the process will avoid removing marine organisms that are typically food for juvenile salmonids. The process would remove most of the water; yet to be determined is what to do with the dewatered lettuce. Ecology will let a separate contract for actual removal. The plan is to set up a portable pump at the street end (Brace Point S.W.) south of the ferry pier, where the lettuce is known to concentrate. Past production has been approximately 6 tons per day or some 100 tons over the course of one summer.

Regarding environmental details, Alice noted that the SEPA checklist prepared for the project is available upon request ([akel461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:akel461@ecy.wa.gov)). She reported that no one from the neighborhood had commented on the SEPA mailing sent to all affected residents in early April.

David emphasized that care will be taken not to disrupt the food web. He added that this kind of seaweed scrubs nutrients, heavy metals, and other pollutants from areas where it grows, all of which would be removed from the marine environment along with the seaweed. In theory, he said, harvesting can improve productivity of beneficial marine flora; no monitoring will be done to find out, however, because funding is limited to removal costs.

Alice said that she didn't yet know if the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would require a permit for the project; she will be filing the JARPA soon, which should trigger this determination. Because the extent and timing of permitting are not yet determined, she said that removal will likely not be done this summer but that funding will carry over to do it in summer 2009.

## **8. Agency updates/news**

**Seattle Parks:** Carol Baker reported that Steve Hodson has worked with her crew to pick up lots of heavy garbage that he has collected in Fauntleroy Park. Also, her crew repaired one loose board in the wetland boardwalk and she will mark a missing board for replacement.

**Seattle Public Utilities:** Kathy reported on the following programs:

- Planning is on track to open the Aquatic Habitat Matching Grant Program for applications mid-late June. Applicants will have two months to submit their proposals.
- Public outreach associated with the city's Restore Our Waters program will be conducted through a challenge campaign in October, with emphasis on such things as natural yard care and responsible car-washing.
- The Puget Sound Partnership is looking at combining all agency water-quality monitoring in one program. Also, this new state agency will soon be ramping up public-information activities.
- The "STORM" consortium (STormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities) has been formed to leverage water-quality outreach by local jurisdictions as part of meeting Ecology's stormwater permit requirements. The consortium received a grant from EPA to help fund its coordinated outreach campaign, which should be up and running by fall. It is also coordinating with the Puget Sound Partnership's outreach campaign.

## **9. Stormwater code and CSO updates**

Randy presented a draft letter commenting on several aspects of the city's proposed updates to the stormwater code and noted that he would tweak only a few details, saying that the city had done a good job overall.

***Action item: Randy will submit the letter as a member of the Council.***

Randy attended an April 30 public workshop hosted by Seattle Public Utilities to focus on developing the city's 2010 CSO Reduction Plan, present preliminary rankings of CSO sites, and get citizen input on priorities for CSO control projects over the coming

decade. He said that Fauntleroy has reason to be especially concerned as an average of four CSO discharges enter Fauntleroy Cove every year; they are roughly 10 percent from the sewer system and 90 percent from the stormwater drainage system.

**Action item:** *Randy will keep the Council apprised of the best timing for input on CSO control priorities.*

## **10. Upper-watershed projects/news**

**Fenton Glen infestation:** Judy summarized her conversation with Barbara DeCaro with Seattle Parks about the department's plan to test two creek-friendly herbicides on the yellow archangel infestation adjacent to Fenton Glen on park property. The permit trailblazing done by Parks for that area should smooth the way for permitting similar work during the upcoming restoration of Fenton Glen (owned by Fauntleroy Church).

**Wayfinding signage:** David Follis showed a computer-generated image of the park showing trail intersections and said he had identified some 20 spots where wayfinding signs might be helpful to park users. He will work over the summer to draft specific language, with an eye toward reducing the number of locations. He suggested that the project could also serve to renew use of the three habitat stone markers in the upper creek, installed several years ago as part of an education project.

**Trails signage:** Chris Nack asked what happened to the large trails map in the Barton Street kiosk. Judy had replaced it with a size that could be laminated for better color preservation and leave room for displaying posters. All agreed, however, that the map needs to be bigger.

**Action item:** *Judy will send Chris the map file so that she can print a large version; Judy will post it.*

## **11. Lower-watershed projects/news**

**Salmon releases:** Judy reported having more than 300 youngsters to date on salmon releases and roughly 1,500 coho fry released. Three school releases remain, plus a Cub Scout release and one by international visitors to a program at Antioch University. Volunteer Jack Lawless has provided vigorous fish for four releases.

**Work parties:** Cub Scouts and parents put in a Saturday morning in the park, mulching an area of new plantings, laying fell limbs along the trail at the large clearing to reduce off-trail foot traffic, and (least favorite) digging blackberries. Judy singled out senior gardener Phil Renfrow in particular for his assistance identifying tasks. Also, the entire KapKa Cooperative Primary School put in cedar, spruce, and hemlock seedlings during a recent work party.

**Out-migration study:** Steev Ward reported that he and Jack Lawless installed the trap on April 1 and began catching smolts right away. Either he or Jack checks it daily. One

incident of overflow prompted him to add wire screening to extend the sides of the trap so that smolts couldn't escape. Judy and Phil saw a school of seven - the largest group ever spotted in the creek - in mid April. The count to date was 17.

## **12. Executive Committee projects/news**

**Puget Soundkeeper:** Judy distributed copies of the report prepared by the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance on the oyster study that included Fauntleroy Creek and reported that the water-quality sign provided by the alliance is not installed at the fish-ladder viewpoint.

**Sustainable West Seattle Festival:** Judy reported that the first such festival drew a large crowd to the Junction, with many booths to browse on a sunny Sunday. A few people attended the watershed panel on which she participated; all presentations were poorly attended, and organizers promised better placement of stages in the future.

**Summer meeting:** David asked why no Council meeting in the summer. Judy explained that it had been tried for two summers but attendance was very low. All agreed to enjoy the recess!

**Next meeting: 7 p.m. Thursday, September 11, at Fauntleroy Church.** Agenda items will include

- WRIA 9's "Fit for a King" salmon-recovery plan - Dennis Clark, King County
- Wayfinding signage - David Follis
- Restore Our Waters Challenge campaign - Miles Mayhew and Susan Harper, SPU.