

MAY 2020

# MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## BOARD OF SUPERVISOR SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

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State Legislative District #35  
Congressional District #6



### DRONE FLIGHT OVER CLOQUALUM CREEK

In preparation for a grant application submittals, drone flights have helped document project sites.

## HABITAT TEAM UPDATE

BY RYAN WILLIAMS AND EVAN BAUDER

The habitat team has been busy writing and presenting grant applications to support our ongoing and new projects. Most site visits during this grant season were conducted virtually. We are partnering with Great Peninsula Conservancy on the Hahobas Restoration project to remove pilings in Hood Canal and will be submitting permits for a summer 2020 construction window. Permits have also been submitted for over flow channel, blind slough and floodplain roughening construction on the old Bourgault Farm property in the Skokomish Watershed. RFQ are being prepared to support structural engineering for the Skokomish Valley Road and Habitat Enhancement Project.

We are working with WDFW and NRCS to complete restoration this summer on Wildcat Creek. We will be completing a drone flight next week for pre-project monitoring. We will also be conducting a drone flight of the Upper South Fork LWD project for a virtual site visit for the upcoming SWAT Team meeting. Agreements prepared for the design team to contract directly with USFS.

MCD successfully received a project development grant for the East fork Satsop River to identify project opportunities. And we are pleased to say that design phase has reached 90% completion for the Army Corps projects in Skokomish watershed, and local partners are continuing to make progress on real estate requirements.

## SHORE FRIENDLY MASON UPDATE

BY STEVE HAGERTY

Along our shorelines, the Shore Friendly Mason program has provided technical assistance services to marine shoreline landowners so far this year, by advising on a variety of resource concerns related to erosion, water quality and habitat to help community members better steward their properties. The Shore Friendly program is also advancing two proposals through the ESRP small grants program involving bulkhead removal and marine riparian restoration on local properties. Last, Mason CD has submitted a proposal on behalf of the Puget Sound Conservation District Caucus for a regional Near Term Action (as part of the Puget Sound Action Agenda) to support new and enhanced delivery of marine shoreline technical assistance services across Puget Sound Conservation Districts, collaborating with existing Shore Friendly programs.



## FARM PLANNING UPDATE

BY BARBARA ADKINS, KENDALL CARMEN AND KATRINKA HIBLER

The farm planning and design team has been working with cost-share recipients to complete projects and request extensions for projects that have been delayed due to COVID-19. Below are photos from a local landowner who built a waste storage structure during a previous funding round and now has completed this leachate collection system.

**Biochar Field Trials** In 2017 the District was fortunate to receive a three-year Grant from the Washington State Soil Health Committee

to study the effects of biochar as a soil amendment. Over the course of the Grant period, study sites have come and gone, but our mission to see the project through has never wavered. The Grant will end this August and our results will be added to the State's larger efforts to study biochar's impact on soil health. The data collected by the District shows interesting patterns in pH balance, retention of nutrients, amount of soil microorganisms, and crop yield. A final report of our findings will be ready in September.

**Voluntary Stewardship Program** The VSP is nearing its second year of implementation and the submission of its second monitoring report. This fall, the Work Group will review the Work Plan's progress and vote to submit their Five-Year Monitoring Report to the Washington Conservation Commission for final approval. The Report is designed to indicate the Work Plan's overall success by showing that the goal of protecting and enhancing critical areas in areas where agricultural activities occur is being met.



## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH UPDATE

BY WHITNEY MCDANIAL AND JEN THURMAN-WILLIAMS

The education and outreach team have shifted its focus during this time from providing outdoor youth education to updating website content and social media presence. The changes to the website will include easier navigation, updated content, program highlights and a cleaner more visually appealing look.

## WRIA 14 LEAD ENTITY UPDATE

BY STEVE HAGERTY

In the salmon recovery world, the Kennedy-Goldsborough WRIA 14 Lead Entity is currently undergoing its yearly Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant round. Site visits for these projects were held remotely this year, with engaging virtual presentations on the eight projects submitted this grant round. These proposals range from expanding estuary restoration at Shelton Harbor, to protecting habitat in Skookum Valley. The Citizens' Committee's yearly project ranking meeting will take place in July. The Committee is also actively working on an update to its 2004 salmon recovery strategy, to inform future project development and conservation and restoration priorities in and among local watersheds.

## FOREST STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

BY MARK MEAD

Our forestry program has seen a lot of activity in the past months. Mark has visited over 40 sites providing advice to forest landowners. Six forest stewardship plans have been submitted to Mason and Thurston counties for Timberland taxation designation. He has been working with community partners like South Sound YMCA to provide forestry expertise on the

construction site, Lake Cushman Maintenance Company to submit a draft Forestry Plan and Capital Land Trust to collect data for their Darlin Creek Preserve.

Mark has also been working on the Shelton Green Stormwater Infrastructure project, completing the GIS data evaluation.