



Earth Day Weed Removal and Native Planting Along Shelton Creek.

Mason Conservation District

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State Legislative District #35

Congressional District #6

Board of Supervisor Monthly Summary of Activities

April 2017

Engineering Team Update

Rodney Tennison has been working on waste storage structures designs, as well as wind design parameters and structural analysis models, for Jefferson, Kitsap and Thurston Counties. He has also been working to upgrade MCD's engineering softwares (AutoCad, RISA, etc) to allow us to be more efficient and flexible. Finally, as time permits, Rodney has been slowly beginning to work on file and records restructuring for the engineering office to increase efficiency in file storage and location. We have been focusing survey time on the Gosnell Creek Stream Enhancement project, the Duckabush River Floodplain Restoration project, as well as culvert assessments by Jenn Symons and Ron Whitney.

Northwest Salmon Center, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The April agenda provided a discussion on a Draft Framework for the Work Plan, and an introduction to critical aquifer recharge areas. Group attendance has remained consistent and progress has been very positive. New members and citizen participation is always encouraged.

Habitat Program Update

The culvert inventory crew has completed inventory work in the Sherwood and Schneider drainages, and has started inventory work along un-named tributaries and Perry Creek. To date, the crew has assessed just over 100 culverts in WRIA 14.

Voluntary Stewardship Program

The Work Group continues to meet monthly, with its sixth meeting on April 25 at the Mason County Public Works Building. Agenda topics and discussions have included an overview of the County's agricultural activities, identification of types of critical areas, specifics on wetlands, best management practices, and funding options. The Group has also had a representative from the National Resources Conservation Service speak, as well as guests from the Washington State Conservation Commission, University of Washington Extension Office, Pacific

Restoration Field Crew: Planting goals for the season have been achieved, and we have approximately one week left of planting before transitioning into maintenance season. The next BOS update will contain the planting metrics achieved for the season.

Staff is continuing to work through the permitting and design process to construct two Family Forest Fish Passage Project (FFPP) bridge installations this summer. The team is also prepared to construct the Weaver Creek Reconnection project this summer.

Habitat Program Update CONTINUED...

MCD staff, with the help of Mason County Public Works staff, conducted a public meeting to gain feedback from the community regarding a recently completed Skokomish Valley Road Relocation Feasibility Study. The community is continuing to provide feedback through email, phone calls, and written letters.

Staff is continuing to work with Mason County, Skokomish Tribe, and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to maintain progress on the Skokomish Ecosystem Restoration Projects. The current focus remains on landowner outreach to keep the community informed and to obtain signed rights of entry to allow additional data collection by USACE. USACE is continuing to make progress on the next phase of the design, and have most recently been focused on updating the hydraulic model using updated LiDAR to support the design process.

During April 2017 the WRIA 14 LE Committee completed and approved updates to their process guide. This work included revisions to the conflict of interest policy and clearly identifying the roles and responsibilities for the Citizen Advisory Committee. The guide was also underwent an overall reorganization to promote clarity. The LE Committee will be attending site visits on May 9, 2017, visiting two bulkhead removal, one acquisition and one riparian maintenance site.

Community Engagement

A team of volunteers showed their true Western Washington grit and worked through the rain this past Earth Week Sunday as part of an AmeriCorps project to restore part of Shelton Creek. Sara Sedgwick worked with Mark Ziegler from City of Shelton Parks & Rec to determine a project site that would be beneficial to our watersheds. Volunteers removed Himalayan blackberry, as well as some scotch broom before planting native species, including Scouler's willow, swamp rose, pacific ninebark, Douglas hawthorn, and Oregon ash. A lively and determined bunch, our volunteers worked through the downpours and made their Earth Day impact.

FireWise: Mitch Redfern has been meeting with local fire chiefs and Department of Natural Resources staff in order to prioritize outreach efforts. He has also been working on program development and conducting outreach to prioritized communities. Mitch and Kevin have been working on the FireWise website material and design.

Kevin Schmelzlen has been leading the ECO Net coordination of Oakland Bay Day 2017, to be held at the Bayshore Preserve on June 4th. The ECO Net partners went into planning for this year's Oakland Bay Day with the idea that we wanted this event to be bigger than ever before, to make sure that the number of people participating in the event is worth the time and resources the organizations are putting into its implementation and to contribute to a substantial increase in public awareness of actions that can be taken to protect Oakland Bay and other watersheds. In order to accomplish this goal, we have invited conservation partners from a wider-than-normal geographic region to have booths and lead activities at the event, including Center for Natural Land Management, who will be leading a prairie restoration tour. The theme of the event is "Love Your Watershed", which we believe will allow for us to incorporate more partners and be more relevant to a wider population while unifying the messages that will be communicated by the various partners.



Kevin has also been working with Karin to achieve her desired social media/ public engagement outcomes for the Shore Friendly Mason (SFM) program. The SFM grant had several social media metrics for the Shore Friendly team to reach, including a certain number of Twitter followers. Kevin is working to develop a Twitter account that will not only accomplish the required SFM metrics but will boost Mason Conservation District's ability to provide valuable information to a larger audience.

Farm Planning

Amy Rosen is continuing to support 7 landowners with WA State Conservation Commission Shellfish funding in completing the implementation of their projects before the end of next month - projects ranging from Heavy Use Area Protection to Fencing for Prescribed Grazing and Pipelines for off-stream watering systems. At the same time, she is preparing plans for both new and continuing cooperators who are interested in improving their management practices so that they can be eligible for cost-share funding in the new biennium.

Amy also received grant funding from WSDA to hold 3 events this spring on manure management and clean water. The first, a presentation by nutrient management specialist Nichole Embertson from Whatcom CD, was attended by almost 20 landowners. Alayne Blickle has agreed to return as a presenter for the second workshop, and other regional experts will come to take part in a planned field day in June.