

## **6/20/2017 Meeting Regarding Stormwater Runoff**

### **Thurston County Attendees:**

Ryan Langan, Stormwater Operations Manager, Stormwater Utility, Thurston County

Mark Mauer, Water Resources and Stormwater Utility Planner, Resource Stewardship, Water Resources Division, Thurston County

Pat Allen, Senior Civil Engineer, Technical Services Group Lead, Water Resources Division, Thurston County

### **SLWQ Attendees:**

Nancy Friend

Debbie White

Vaughn Hodgins

Jack Benjamin

Deb Martinelli

**Goal of Meeting:** To explore what can be done to improve Summit Lake Water Quality by working together to mitigate stormwater runoff.

### **Take Aways:**

The County has responsibility for inspecting various storm and surface water facilities (e.g. culverts) where it has easements. While annual inspections are the goal, that apparently occurs only for pipes, etc., putting storm water directly into the Lake.

There was some discussion of best practices re: drainage ditches, etc.—rain gardens are not necessarily effective; grass-lined ditches are considered more effective than gravel-lined (no trimming is necessary, but if trimmed we should leave 4-5 inches of growth); standing water in ditches may be ok to the extent that particulates may get a longer chance to settle out before winding up in the Lake. Anything sprayed on stormwater drainage ditches will likely end up in the lake, so we should not spray.

Public Works of Thurston Co. monitors and removes beaver dams. Ryan said he would call the individual that monitors SL beaver dams and get back to us. (See below for update.)

Washington Department of Natural Resources administers forestry logging practices and would be the government entity that would establish requirements for buffers and other erosion control practices for logging around SL.

Summit Lake has an assigned a Water Master who works for Public Works of Thurston County, whose responsibilities include managing the Lake level by means of boards used for that purpose.

County Stormwater Utility will respond to citizen complaints regarding stormwater problems, and will work with individual landowners to recommend methods to manage stormwater. Examples of

problems are blocked culverts, drainage problems, observing wetland plants around seeps, the presence of standing water, and constant runoff flows from a particular source.

Pat and Mark described a process whereby storm water projects such as a “runoff treatment facility” are identified by county staff, evaluated based on a set of criteria, and then presented to an advisory board for review and approval. This process is completed each May, so the next opportunity for approval of any project is May of 2018. This board—the Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board—is appointed by and advises the County Board of Commissioners and recommends projects for consideration in the Capital Facilities Plan and the County Budget.

(Note: Information about this advisory board can be found at <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/stormwater/sswab/sswab-home.html>. The minutes of the advisory board’s May 2016 meeting, found using this link, include a discussion of this process of reviewing and recommending projects. Advisory Board members are described as representing particular watersheds.)

County staff indicated that this Advisory Board experiences high turnover, which could present an opportunity for Summit Lake to gain representation in the future. It appears unlikely that the Capital Facilities Plan and County Budget processes could provide relief any time soon, but nonetheless are avenues SL may wish to pursue as one part of our longer-term water quality improvement effort.

SL residents can usefully work with County stormwater staff by helping to explore grant funding sources, identifying matching funds if needed for mitigation projects, demonstrating SL community support for proposed projects, etc.

Ryan and Pat talked briefly about a Special Purpose District that has been established at Scott Lake. It was described as a district that taxes itself, and manages those revenues to support projects to benefit the community served.

#### **To Do List:**

1. Ryan gave SLWQ representatives arial photographs he had prepared that show property lines and an overlay of stormwater features. On these photographs:

Brown line = stormwater ditch

Square graphic = catch basin

Dotted line = culvert

Circle = manhole

Solid Gray = pipes

Ryan asked SLWQ attendees to help the Stormwater staff to identify problems such as broken or blocked culverts, areas of constant water flows, drainage problems, wetland plants around seeps, and standing water. The SLWQ group that includes Vaughn, Debbie W. and Nancy will coordinate this and respond to the County. This should result in these issues around SL getting more prompt attention from

the County, and possibly leading to a more significant mitigation project being conceived, via the process described above.

2. Ryan indicated that he would contact the Beaver Dam specialist on our behalf.

Shortly after our meeting, Ryan reported that the drainage crew chief is assigning staff to make a site visit tomorrow (6/21/17) or Thursday (6/22/17) to determine what action will be taken at the SL beaver dam. He will follow up with Nancy regarding actions they plan to take and the timing.