

# Lake Chelan Collaborative Meeting Summary

JUNE 3, 2026, 1-4 PM

CHELAN FIRE STATION, 232 E WAPATO AVENUE + CALL-IN OPTION

County's website will host meeting materials/meeting information:

<https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/watershed-plan-lake-chelan>

## Attendees:

**In person:** Kelsey Mach (Geosyntec); Elle Robinson (CCNRD); Stephen Lesky (CCNRD); Gretchen Muller (Cascadia); Nate Hough-Snee (Meadow Run); Brian Patterson (Chelan Basin Conservancy); Richard Uhlhorn (All Things Lake Chelan); Phil Long (LCRI); John Olson (Resident); Tim Hollingsworth (Chelan City Council); Clay Patmont (Anchor QEA); Holly Krake (USFS); Lucas Lachica (Cascadia CD); Justin Bush (WDFW); Nate Schmidt (WDFW); Amber Brooks (WDFW); Alene Underwood (CPUD); Mallory Hirschler (WDFW)

**Online attendance:** Dan Haller (Geosyntec); Gina Hoff (USBR); Kate Taylor (CPUD), Alex White (CPUD), Sara Peck (CPUD), Lloyd Stevens (DOE); Mike Kaputa (CCNRD); Mike Kirk (Mason Community Council); Jared England (Mason Growers), Scott Hopkins (Chelan PUD); Nic (Unknown)

## Action Items:

- Provide requests for September meeting topics to Kelsey ([kelsey.mach@geosyntec.com](mailto:kelsey.mach@geosyntec.com)) and Gretchen ([gretchen@cascadiaconsulting.com](mailto:gretchen@cascadiaconsulting.com)) by June 26, 2026.
- Provide suggested additions to the workplan to Kelsey (ongoing)

**Decisions Made:** Accepted land acknowledgement language for the LCC operating principles.

## Upcoming Dates:

Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Time: 1-4 PM

Location: Chelan Fire Station + Call-In Option

## Agenda Items:

### March LCC Meeting Recap

The group received a brief recap of the key topics discussed at the March LCC meeting.

### Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Subcommittee Meeting Recap

Nate Hough-Snee (Meadow Run Environmental) summarized recent AIS Subcommittee meetings and shared an update on two key deliverables: the Lake Chelan AIS Management Plan and the AIS Watercraft Inspection Program Plan. The inspection program plan is currently under subcommittee review, and both plans are expected to be presented at the December 2026 meeting.

### Tribal Land Acknowledgement

Participants were informed that the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation reviewed and approved the proposed land acknowledgement language. The LCC voted to adopt the language for inclusion in the operating principles.

#### Watershed Plan Outline

The group reviewed previous comments on the watershed plan outline and discussed the updates made in response. Participants that the LCWRP should coordinate with other related planning processes.

#### LCC Workplan

The group reviewed the workplan included in the pre-meeting packet, which outlines proposed technical presentation topics for upcoming LCC meetings intended to inform the LCWRP. Discussion included adding economic analysis to future presentations and adding potential topics such as the Roses Lake cyanobacteria management plan, the County's mitigation-in-lieu program, City sewer extension plans, and the ongoing City/County comprehensive planning effort.

The group also discussed proposed topics for the September meeting, including water supply planning, fishery health and habitat, and periphyton study results. Participants generally supported the proposed topics and presenters. Questions were raised about how climate change may affect water supply, and there was a request for a presentation on snowpack modeling. Alpine lake fisheries were also identified as a potential related subtopic.

#### Chelan PUD FERC License

Alene Underwood from Chelan PUD presented on the PUD's Lake Chelan FERC license and the key components that may be relevant to the LCC and provide potential funding for projects. These elements include Erosion Control (USFS and NPS), Large Woody Debris (WDFW), Stehekin (NPS), Fishery Management (WDFW, USFS, NPS), Lake Level, Chelan River, and Recreation Resources.

Participants discussed the current definition of large woody debris and whether the agreement could be updated to reflect advances in stream restoration practice over the past decade.

#### Lake Chelan DDT Study Findings

Clay Patmont (Anchor QEA/LCRI) presented findings from the recent Ecology-funded DDT monitoring study conducted on Lake Chelan from March 2025 to March 2026. The study aimed to better understand DDT behavior, mass balance over time, and the mechanisms contributing to lake water concentrations. Findings indicated that continued orchard runoff accounts for approximately 60 percent of current DDT inputs, while sediment porewater flux contributes the remaining 40 percent and is declining by about 5 percent per year.

Potential strategies for reducing DDT loading were reviewed, including improving irrigation efficiency, recycling or reusing orchard drainage, and constructing wetland systems. The group also discussed a possible amendment to the Lake Chelan Toxics Source Control Demonstration Project Agreement currently under discussion with Ecology. The target completion date for the feasibility study and conceptual design/permitting of a pilot project is June 2027, pending funding. Additional implementation funding will be needed.

Participants also discussed use of the Voluntary Stewardship Program to improve irrigation efficiency on priority farms. Jared England (Manson Growers) offered to support farmer outreach.

#### Lake Chelan Coordinated Cost Reimbursement Program Update

Andrea Reyes (Ecology) provided an update on the Lake Chelan CCRP program and schedule. There are currently 5,192 acre-feet remaining in the Lake Chelan Reserve, and 32 applications have been processed to date. The next batch of funding (Batch 5) is pending Ecology's contracting with selected cost reimbursement contractors and issuance of work assignments, which is estimated to occur by the end of the year. Batch 5 could allocate the remainder of the reserve.

#### Summer 2026 Recreation and Wildfire Season Updates

Holly Krake (USFS) provided a seasonal update for Lake Chelan, including road repair efforts following flooding, recreation access and payment updates, and forest management activities such as planned prescribed fire activities. The Lower North Shore project was highlighted because of its proximity to developed areas and its role in reducing community wildfire risk. An outlook on the 2026 wildfire season was also shared, including current staffing and equipment status. Snowpack is low this season, and wildfire conditions are projected to occur three to five weeks earlier than normal. Snowpack conditions were noted as similar to 2005, with temperature and climate trends resembling 2015.

#### Communication and Outreach Updates

An update was provided on communication and outreach efforts, including the FAQ and survey in both English and Spanish. Participants were also reminded of the public outreach event scheduled for June 3 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the Chelan Community Center.

#### Project Matrix

The project team provided a brief overview of the LCWRP project matrix being maintained by the consultant team, including its purpose and overall structure.