

Lake Chelan Watershed Planning Unit is March 12, 2025, 1-3 PM, at the Chelan Fire Hall (232 E Wapato Ave). Hybrid Meeting

1. Welcome and introductions

- a. **In attendance:** Clay Patmont(Anchor QEA), Stephen Lesky (CCNRD), Elle Robinson (CCNRD), Wendy Neet(ECY) Andrea Reyes (ECY), Phil Long (LCRI), Rich Ulhorn (All Things Lake Chelan), Sara Peck (PUD), Dan Haller (Aspect), Brad Hawkins (BOCC), Adrienne Roumasset (Consultant), Gina Hoff (BOR), Steve Nelson (RH2), Carson Moscoso (ECY), Kelsey Mach (Aspect), Brian Patterson (Lake Chelan Conservancy) Scott Hopkins (CPUD), Wade Ferris, Rod Anderson (LCRD), Anna Gallipeau (LCRI)

2. Roundtable updates

- a. BOR WaterSMART Watershed Plan Update (Mike Kaputa/Elle Robinson, Chelan County)
- Chelan County received a BOR WaterSmart Grant to update the existing watershed plan for the Lake Chelan Watershed. There is also a need to diversify and formalize this group into the Lake Chelan Collaborative for purposes of the grant. This will likely consist of a main group for development of the watershed plan and a subcommittee that will focus on developing an aquatic invasive species management plan. CCNRD is looking for volunteers for the AIS subcommittee as well as suggestions of who to reach out to amongst the Chelan and Manson Communities to participate in the larger collaborative.
 - RFP has been posted to solicit a consultant to work on this project. CCNRD aims to have a consultant selected and under contract by end of April. CCNRD is looking for volunteers to assist with the consultant selection process. Please email Elle if interested:
elle.robinson@co.chelan.wa.us
- b. Chelan PUD Update, Sarah Peck / Scott Hopkins
- Sarah reported that there is not anything new to pass on to the group, but, excited about the grant and developing a new watershed plan. Scott Hopkins reported the Lake Chelan Fishery Forum met in November and heard reports from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on kokanee and cutthroat kreek surveys. National Park Service reported on their kokanee spawning surveys and that some project work was postponed due to the Pioneer Creek Fire. WDFW and NPS are working to develop the 2025 work plan and will report on that once finalized.
 - Richard Ulhorn asked about any new developments on the bulltrout plan. Scott H. responded NPS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are the points of contact for bulltrout, and, they are working on drafting a plan that will be published once complete.

3. Water rights coordinated cost reimbursement update (Andrea Reyes, Ecology)

- a. Not much has changed since last meeting, currently in batch 4. Reviewed 7 out of 9 applications, should be posted for public comment in next few weeks.

Awaiting on ground water applications. Next meeting should show balance of the reserve change and be more accurate. Next few months will be contacting applicants in batch 5, reserve will likely get to zero in batch 5. Total quantity of water to approve is to be determined

- b. The group had questions about what will happen when available reserve gets to zero. Andrea responded that once reserve gets to zero no more applications will be processed.
- c. Commissioner Hawkins had questions about how the program is run and how the amount of water was decided on for applicants to request. Sarah P., Andrea R., Dan Haller provided some background information for Commissioner Hawkins on how the program was developed, concluding this topic deserves a much larger timeframe to fully be addressed. Elle Robinson added that topics such as this will be addressed in much greater detail by the watershed planning committee during the new watershed plan development. Andrea R. added she would be happy to address questions in more detail directly outside of the meeting.

4. Aquatic Invasive Species Update

- a. Stephen Lesky gave the group an update on Watercraft Inspection operations for the 2025 Summer. Available funding will require the program to be downsized to Saturday and Sunday only inspections from 7am to 5:30pm. Stephen is working with Justin Bush of WDFW to possibly secure more funding to expand the operation to similar hours of the previous summers. Justin is working with the State Legislature to secure funding for AIS inspections across the state and wants to keep partnering with CCNRD and their efforts.
- b. Stephen also updated the group that part of the new watershed plan grant will be to develop an Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan that will address the management of existing AIS in Lake Chelan (milfoil, pondweed, Chinese Mystery Snails, etc) and develop methods for preventing new AIS introductions.
- c. Stephen addressed previous questions about how the current voluntary watercraft inspection program transition to a mandatory program. Ultimately this is a topic we hope will be solved with the AIS sub-committee under the new grant.

5. EPA/Ecology Toxics Project Update (Clay Patmont, Anchor QEA; Phil Long, LCRI)

- a. Clay gave an overview and background of the toxics project and what has been accomplished to date and some possible treatment options such as the creation of constructed wetlands in Manson streams/creeks. Clay also noted that this will be a long term undertaking to get levels down to targets set by Dept. of Ecology. Clay and Phil both provided a review of the new EPA funding and how this will aid the effort moving forward. The agreement is in final stages of contracting and a final signed agreement is expected soon.
- b. Questions came up regarding algae in Roses Lake. Adrienne Roumasset provided an update on a Dept. of Ecology grant that she helped prepare and submit with CCNRD to aid in addressing the topic. Phil L. also noted that LCRI is working with volunteer homeowners on Roses to collect temperature and secchi disk data.

6. Trash Clean Up

- a.** Phil L. and Anna Gallipeau provided an update on trash clean up /collection efforts around the lake and and update on the upcoming “Restore the Shore” event and how people can get signed up to participate.

Next Meeting: June 11, 1-3pm