

Lake Chelan Collaborative* Meeting Summary

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

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

*Draft Name

Attendees:

In person: Elle Robinson (CCNRD); Mike Kaputa (CCNRD); Mallory Hirschler (WDFW); Jared England (Manson Growers); Brian Gatson (WDFW); Steve Wilkinson (Roses Lake Assoc.); Anna Galipeau (LCRI); Phil Long (LCRI); Patric Sawyer (Colville Tribes); Mike Kirk (Manson Community Council); Brian Patterson (Lake Chelan Conservancy Board); Richard Ulhorn (All Things Lake Chelan); Rod Anderson (LCRD); Clay Patmont (Anchor QEA/LCRI); Dom Amor (Manson Community Council); Jamie Silva (Roses Lake Assoc.); John Olsen (resident); Sarah Peck (Chelan PUD); Mike Lesky (Chelan Douglas Farm Bureau); Alene Underwood (Chelan PUD); Dan Haller (Aspect Consulting); Gretchen Muller (Cascadia).

Online: Alex Safiq (WDFW); Andrea Reyes (Ecology); Doug England (resident); Justin Bush WDFW (AIS); Lisa Dowling (WDFW); Mark Peterschmidt (Ecology); Travis Denham (City of Chelan); Scott McFarland (DNR); Holly Krake (USFS); Steve Nelson (RH2); Robin Pittman (Manson Parks and Rec); Toby McKay (Hinterland Farms); Travis Maitland (WDFW); David Bowen (Ecology); Kelsey Mach (Aspect Consulting).

Action Items:

1. Provide feedback on Operating Principles
2. Provide any timely short agenda items for December meeting

Decisions Made:

1. No decisions made this meeting

Agenda Items:

Welcome and Agenda Overview

- Mike Kaputa provided an overview of Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant and vision behind the Lake Chelan Collaborative and renewed Lake Chelan Watershed Restoration Planning effort.
- Introductions from attendees.
- Kelsey Mach of Aspect Consulting provided an overview of the consultant support team and overall project plan, key milestones, schedule and decision points.

Discussion #1 - Issue Identification and Categorization

- Initial list of issue categories were provided for group feedback.
- Attendees provided input on additional categories and sub-categories/projects.
- Discussion on prioritization at future meetings.
- List of issues presented

- Water quality
 - DDT and relic toxics
 - Water temperature
 - Mine cleanup impacts (Railroad Creek)
 - Permanent lake stratification
 - Nutrient inputs and harmful algal blooms
 - Tires/trash in the lake
 - Waterfowl population control/ Swimmers itch
 - Microplastics
 - Secchi depth
 - General pollution category?
 - Fire impacts
 - Prioritization of uses for higher quality water
 - Roses lake – phosphate increases
 - Sewer/wastewater/stormwater management
 - Sediment delivery from unmaintained forest roads
 - CO2 monitoring in lake and atmosphere and tributary during periods of heavy smoke
 - Water quality regulations
- Lake fishery health/future of fishery management
 - Bull Trout reintroduction
 - Question on if this would be positive
 - NPS feasibility study
 - Cutthroat Trout
 - Fish passage removal/habitat restoration projects (i.e. box culvert on 25-mile creek)
 - Species composition of the lake (Sturgeon?)
 - Burdot DDT sampling
- Water rights
 - Tribal input
 - Defining existing water rights
 - Long term strategy for water supply
 - Power generation water rights
 - Keep water locally in Lake Chelan basin
 - Municipal demand
- AIS
 - Mandatory boat inspection program
 - WDFW funding
 - Aquatic vegetation management
 - Roses Lake milfoil and pondweed
 - Prevention of new and containment of existing
 - Emerging AIS species of concern
 - AIS will negatively impact every other topic discussed here in a short timeframe, high prioritization?
- Watershed health broadly
 - Fire management
 - Aesthetics
 - Western gray squirrel

- Monitoring of runoff after wildfire event and impacts to water quality
- Unstable slope assessment
- Grizzly reintroduction
- Beaver reintroduction
- Recreational/Boating impacts
 - Wave generation
 - Low-income community access to lake resources (particularly Roses Lake)
 - Fishing and swimming access
 - Btex concentrations due to heavy boat traffic
 - Tourism impacts
- Climate change
 - Increased fire risk
 - Water supply limitations in future based on demand
 - Changes in lake dynamics
 - Watershed model and 2D model coupled to better understand future risk of stratification
 - Intersectionality of climate change, agriculture and AIS - economic, social impacts, ecological impacts
- Land use changes (urban development)
- Irrigation for agriculture
 - Upcoming food safety requirements regarding water quality testing
 - Irrigation efficiency upgrades/voluntary stewardship program to modernize irrigation systems
 - Nutrient/pesticide input, long-term and short term impacts
 - Expansion of new agriculture (new water rights)
 - Organized water rights districts
- Geographical components (Wapato Basin vs. Lucerne Basin, Roses Lake)
- Human health and safety

Discussion #2 - Decision-making Structure/Operating Principles

- Gretchen presented overview of Operating Principles document and requested feedback from group on roles and responsibilities of LCC members, vision statement, and decision making structure.
- Decision making structure will be based on majority rule with the goal of consensus.
- Updated version will be sent prior to December meeting for adoption by group.

Discussion #3 - Planning for Success

- Kelsey/Gretchen prompted group to provide feedback on their overall vision of success for this planning effort and gave some examples.
- Examples provided included:
 - Capitalizing on previous work completed.
 - Accountability for future actions.
 - Actionable goals and implementation plan.
 - Identifying key stakeholders.

- Future projections/planning for water quality, quantity, AIS and managing changes.
- Education process, storing knowledge, transparency of information.
- Managing increased tourism and public demand. Expanding public access and rec opportunities
- Water supply planning for various uses (irrigation, residential, commercial, etc.)
- Identification of 4-5 high priority projects, responsible parties and funding sources.
- Projects supported by the community
- Share and connect with traditional (Tribal) knowledge and practices.
- A plan that is used
- Address relic toxics issues
- Maintain a fully collaborative process
- Provide an avenue for sharing information to the public and elected officials, and getting feedback.
- Inspire other jurisdictions/be a model for developing similar planning processes
- Maintain flexibility to address topics as they become a priority/adaptive management
- Focus on key priorities that are likely to be successful
- Emphasis on wildlife and fishery resources, and recreational opportunities
- Where can state organizations play a role in active restoration of the watershed.
- Maintain a focused list of priorities and objectives that can generate and implement projects.
- Integration of land use planning with water quality concerns.
- Increased public awareness and access.
- A logo for LCC to help people recognize the project
- A place for sharing ongoing projects and sharing expertise

Discussion #4 – Public Engagement and Outreach

- Kelsey/Gretchen prompted group to provide feedback on what they think is important related to public outreach and engagement, what they would like to accomplish, and what they think the most effective mechanisms engagement are.
- Feedback provided included:
 - Importance of outreach to Latino community. Meet them where they're at, cannot assume digital access or public meeting attendance.
 - Engaging with Chelan and Manson Chambers of Commerce and utilizing them as an outlet of outreach to engage the business community
 - Get community feedback on issues and priorities, work to obtain community buy-in.
 - A lot of the success of this plan depends on the public – littering, tires, boat inspections etc.
 - Outreach to local schools could be a mechanism for reaching community and educating parents.
 - Signs where you drive into the watershed – please help us to protect our lake, be responsible, etc. – Salish, English, Spanish – similar to Enchantments campaign
 - Incorporate information and acknowledgement that Lake Chelan is in the traditional territories of the Chelan/Entiat/Methow/Wenatchi bands of the Colville tribes and the history of occupation.
 - Engagement locations could include city council meetings/community council meetings

- Forms and handouts given during in-person meetings made available to online people or members of the public. Provide meeting materials on County website or other?
- Request emails from members of the public and include them in email list serv.
- End of year report summarizing work that was done during the past year and goals for next year.
- Education on the science of the lake geared towards kids.
- Increasing accessibility of meetings by posting them on social media/advertising on KOZI.

Upcoming Meeting Date:

Date: December 3rd, 2025

Time: 1-4 PM

Location: Chelan Fire Station, 232 E Wapato Avenue + Call-In Option