



King County

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MEETING NOTES

CEDAR RIVER COUNCIL

May 23rd, 2017 – 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Riverbend Mobile Home Park Clubhouse
17410 SE Renton-Maple Valley Rd. #25, Renton, WA 98058

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

1st Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

Landsburg Mine Clean-Up Action – Jerome Cruz, Washington State Department of Ecology

Jerome Cruz, a site manager for state Department of Ecology, presented on Ecology's ongoing environmental clean-up at the former Landsburg coal mine site near Ravensdale. A public comment period in 2013 initiated a review of the department's cleanup process. Afterward, City of Kent requested a Health Department consultation. In response to this and public comments, the cleanup plan was revised to better protect people, drinking water, and the environment.

The cleanup focus is a ¾ mile-long trench created by a collapsed mining tunnel, flanked by the Cedar River and Rock Creek. Mr. Cruz stressed there has been no indication of groundwater contamination in the 24 years of monitoring at the site, but the potential remains. Any existing threat to people and the environment is limited to the northern trench area, where 4500 gallons of toxic waste such as paint solids, chlorinated solvents, gasoline-based liquids, and metals were dumped. He said it has been determined to be too hazardous to try to relocate the waste from the site, and while it is assumed there may also be waste underground, it has not been located.

Contingency plans and infrastructure are planned to have, if need be, a system in place to treat water from the site. Funding would be from the entities previously determined as "Potentially Liable Persons." The contingency plan includes installing a cement pad, electrical connections, fencing, and temporary pipeline, as well as improving an existing gravel road for access to pumping and treatment systems. Affected water would be pumped, contained, treated, and discharged back into sewer systems. Mr. Cruz explained the cleanup plan would protect outside elements by containing the waste, reducing rainwater seepage into the trench, restricting the land from specific future uses (residential, drinking water, etc.), and prohibiting groundwater use in the mine area, among other actions. He described a "cap and drainage" system of trenches to divert water out of the main affected trench. The key benefit of this is to maintain the "groundwater divide" at the site: currently, groundwater beneath the waste flows north, away from cities' water supplies, while clean water flows south. The groundwater is the principal pathway for water out of the site.

He said there are several wells monitoring groundwater around the site. These will track by timing, depth, location, and performance. There will also be private well sampling. Ecology's chemical sweep analysis of the water scans for 200-400 different chemicals. The plan also includes increased frequency of water testing, and quicker trigger points, as well as minor modifications such as a trench rim and surface water testing. The next step, in late summer 2017, is a "consent decree" and finalization of the cleanup action plan. Late 2017 will see the engineering design report, with long-term monitoring to begin after 2019. Total cost, with construction, is about \$2.4 million. He said the only likely delay in implementation will be if King County refuses connection to an existing sewer line near the site.

Several questions from CRC members followed. Max Prinsen asked about seismic triggers; Mr. Cruz replied this will be tested every 2.5 years, but if a seismic event occurs, the site will immediately be tested. Another question asked if City of Kent is satisfied with the revisions. Mr. Cruz said he has not heard from them recently, and his understanding is they adopted the Health Department's recommendations.

Cedar River Council Review

- 2017 CRC Calendar: Nathan Brown said June's meeting will be at North Bend's Cedar River Watershed



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Education Center, and involve a watershed tour. July's meeting will include a hot dog cookout at Riverbend clubhouse. He suggested a speakers' panel on climate change. CRC members suggested additional topics: large wood in the Cedar, potential sockeye run/outlook for the year, a fall update on the Cedar River Salmon Journey, effects of recent lack of snowfall on watershed conditions, and an update on the Habitat Conservation Plan. Mr. Brown said there is no August meeting, September may involve a tour on Taylor Creek or an update on monitoring of the Rainbow Bend project, and October will see the annual "I Love the Cedar River" event. He suggested another meeting break in November.

- CRC Membership Recruitment: Mr. Brown said there are three vacancies on the CRC – City of Maple Valley representative, Tributary Citizen-at-Large representative, and local business representative. Local resident Steve Farquhar has expressed interest in serving on the CRC; Mr. Brown asked about outreach to other potential members. Charles Ruthford said he will query a contact on the Maple Valley city council. Mr. Prinsen suggested switching Tom Allyn or Mr. Ruthford to the open Tributary Citizen-at-Large slot, and appointing Mr. Farquhar to the newly-vacated Citizen-at-Large slot. Mr. Prinsen then motioned to switch Mr. Ruthford to the Tributary Citizen-at-Large Representative slot; the motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Mr. Prinsen made another motion to appoint Mr. Farquhar as Citizen-at-Large representative. This was also seconded and unanimously approved. Mr. Brown suggested reaching out to local businesses for candidates, particularly a school such as Tahoma High School.

Updates & Announcements

- WRIA 8: Mr. Ruthford reported on last week's WRIA 8 meeting, focused on funding recommendations. The funding is provided by King County Flood Control District (FCD), among other sources. \$2 million is available to disperse. The following recommendations were made for dispersal: \$300K for monitoring, \$96K for outreach, \$600K for Bird Island shoreline enhancement, and \$362K for the acquisition of Royal Arch Reach. Tom Beavers, King County's Cedar River basin steward, noted funding is approved by the Salmon Recovery Council, but also subject to FCD approval.
- May 20th Cedar River Trash Pick-Up: Mr. Farquhar reported about 30 people attended the cleanup event, and less trash was found than expected. About 27-28 bags were collected over an area including several parks. Over 200 plants at the Riverbend/Cavanaugh Pond site were mulched, enough to cover ½ acre. Mr. Brown offered to do a write-up of the event for local media. Another cleanup is scheduled for August 12th. Other local citizens are assisting in locating funding for the event.
- Riverbend Clubhouse: Mr. Brown requested feedback on the clubhouse as an ongoing CRC meeting site. He explained King County DNRP's Rivers section now administers the site, but the County does not want to invest the many resources needed to manage it. After brief discussion, it was determined that DNRP's Water and Land Resources (WLRD) staff will do an options analysis to be reviewed by the CRC at a future meeting, possibly fall. Mr. Beavers said general consensus at DNRP is that this property would be better managed by the department's Parks division long-term. He added that Parks is not interested in the clubhouse, but other assets of the site: parking, and access to trails and Cavanaugh Pond. Jeff Neuner spoke of local residents' belief that a County presence at the site moderates the threat of theft and vandalism in the area. Mr. Prinsen suggested converting the clubhouse to a museum for the Cedar River. Mr. Brown offered to email WLRD staff with CRC recommendations.

2nd Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Next Meeting(s)

June 27th, 2017, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Cedar River Watershed Education Center, North Bend (Tour)

July 25th, 2017, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Riverbend Mobile Home Park Clubhouse, Renton