

# Whiteman Cove Stakeholder Meeting

September 19, 2019

3-5 p.m.

Key Peninsula Fire Station 47

## Attendees:

Kathy Ketteridge – Anchor QEA

Jessica Cote' – Blue Coast Engineering

Chris Patterson – Washington State Parks

Matt Love – Van Ness Feldman LLP

Norma & Dave Toland – Whiteman Cove residents

Matthew Griffin – Washington State Legislative staff for Representative Caldier

Meredith Cambre – YMCA

Bria Cartwright – YMCA

Dana Postlewait – R2 Consulting

Mary Louise Keefe – R2 Consulting (on the phone)

Chad Ross – Whiteman Cove property owner

Dave Palazzi – WDNR

Kristin Swenddal – WDNR

Amalia Walton - WDNR

## Agenda

1. Review comments received to date
2. Anchor QEA overview of existing data and studies on Whiteman Cove (see presentation)
3. Baseline study needs discussion with meeting attendees
4. Next steps

## Baseline study needs received to date

- Include surface water inputs to lagoon in modeling
- Consider potential impacts to domestic wells
- Install necessary monitoring equipment early on in the process (now)
- Assess potential for erosion on private tidelands
- Assess potential changes in property values
- Assess changes in water levels throughout tidal cycles
- Assess ecologic changes that may occur with change to freshwater environment at the head of the bay that will result from loss of tidal inundation
- Ensure that other sources of pollution do not impact the success of the project
- Impacts and benefits to recreational opportunities and viewscapes
- Document the changes that will occur with the loss of the saltwater lake ecosystem
- Qualify the restoration's contribution to salmon recovery
- Evaluate tide gates as a restoration option

## **DNR staff identified the next steps in the process:**

1. Identify baseline data needs for identify restoration options – Input provided at September 19 meeting.
2. Identify restoration options and make available for review
3. Complete draft scope of work and make available for review
4. Identify project options – To be presented at the next meeting (to be scheduled)

## **Notes from meeting:**

Matt – What are the objectives of the project? Fish passage plus protecting existing uses? What do we want to accomplish as far as the fish passage objective? An option that maintains the lagoon and provides fish passage.

Mary Louise – Objectives will help us ID data needs; the baseline data may shift depending upon the objective.

Jessica – New information since 2015 Whiteman Cove analysis was done; working on a new project with WDFW to figure out how big a channel you need for velocities, and another study to define how fish use it – ensures that a restored estuary will be fish passable.

Kathy – We will be conducting water quality sampling on September 24.

Mary Louise – How will those 2 pieces of info inform this project?

Kathy – The information will be used to inform development of the project.

Mary Louise – Suggests conducting water quality sampling at different times of the year. Make sure we know what temperatures will be at the times of year the salmon would be present.

Kathy – Yes, we are doing that and fish bio is reviewing the sampling plan.

Matt – Would like to have WDFW and tribes present if they are decision makers

DP – Not necessary – we will take all ideas forward to WDFW and tribes for discussion

Mary Louise – Any data on current fish use of the cove or the creek? It looked like there might be fish in the cove.

DP – Not aware of any fish studies on Whiteman Creek or Cove.

Mary Louise – Did we estimate flows of the creek?

Matt – Seattle Shellfish has concerns about impacts to shellfish

Jessica – Has experience doing that sort of impact analysis (working with Taylor Shellfish)

Matt: Look at social & economic impacts

Dave: This is not included in Anchor's work. This is assessed through the SEPA process and assessment of potential changes to property values based on the final design.

Mary Louise - Are you modeling to figure out how much time that berm would be open?

Matt – Would like to have input on barriers and tidal inlets and geomorphology as R2 has expertise there.

Mary Louise - How long would the opening be maintained?

Chad: The cove is reliant on the creek; there needs to be an analysis of how to restore the creek as well; it's been filled in; look at a geology stream map.

Mary Louise – Not sure there is a clear objective of what success is; think an objective should be more than just fish passage. What is the value of the project in the end? Is it also looking at the creek? Must look at this in order to pick a complete project.

Kathy –The feasibility study will define the project objective

R2 – Concern is maintaining the level of the lake – trade off of passage window and sediment; consider a “fish friendly tidegate.” This allows fish to go in during the flood tide. The gate is electronically opened and closed but with a fish friendly exist to maximize window so fish aren't pinched or injured.

Chad – Noted the Bryan Abbot Memorial Fish passage list – good to refer to this.

## **Suggested Baseline Studies**

1. Water quality data collection:
  - Request from YMCA to review sampling plan and provide comment
  - Data collection effort should be developed to study or inform evaluation of fish habitat within the lagoon under a variety of fish passage options
  - Collect data during time periods when fish would be using the system
  - Salinity and temperature data should be collected along the fringes of the lagoon (i.e. underneath overhanging vegetation) and not only out in the center of the lagoon
2. Whiteman Creek, and its relationship to the Cove, should be considered when evaluating the fish habitat in Whiteman Cove
  - The creek has been alternated, including construction of culverts and addition of fill within the channel
  - Conduct a stream survey as part of base-line data collection
  - Reach out to homeowners connected to the creek to evaluate their interest in the project
3. What is the similarity of Whiteman Cove to two nearby systems –Rocky Bay and Vaughn Bay? Do these systems have deep water in them at low tide?
4. Question about fish survey in Whiteman Cove
  - DNR is not aware of any previous fish survey work being done in Whiteman Cove. This was identified as a data gap.
  - Baseline data collection should include an evaluation of current habitat in the Cove, including a fish survey

5. Quantify value of current habitat versus potential future habitat conditions
6. Discuss the project with Seattle Shellfish company
7. Develop specific project objectives prior to moving forward with feasibility study and/or development of options
  - Have baseline data on hand to inform development objectives
  - Identify specific fish and life cycles that will be addressed with this project
  - Define success of the project, how will DNR monitor success
8. Suggestion of options to consider –self regulating tide gate
  - This was followed by discussion of challenges to developing tide gate operations that would allow fish passage and retain current water levels due to the relatively high elevations of the bottom of the Cove