

**Goose Creek Watershed Meeting
March 20, 2018
Sheridan County Courthouse Community Meeting Room
Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Orrin Connell, SCCD	Amy Ormseth, USFS	Jessica Winter, SEO	Pat Best
Susan Holmes, SCCD	Tom Ringley, County	Mike Albrecht, UW	John Best
Brad Bauer, SCLT	Travis Cundy, WGF	Roger Reinke	Laurie Bratten
Ken Muller, County	Dave Engels, EnTech	Jack Landon, Jr	
Lane Thompson, City	Bryan Lozier, SEO	Mike Watkins	

Open and Introductions:

Orrin Connell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and introductions were made.

Brief Background Summary:

Susan provided a brief background on the Goose Creek watershed effort. After an initial assessment, a watershed plan was developed. Upon completion of a TMDL by WDEQ in 2008, the group incorporated some of the recommendations into an Implementation Strategy, which was updated in 2016. As with the initial plan, the Implementation Strategy includes assistance for projects, information and education activities, and monitoring. Most the recommendations are being addressed by SCCD, City, and County programs.

Goose Creek WWDC Level 1 Watershed Study Update:

Dave Engels, EnTech, gave an update on the Goose Creek WWDC Level 1 Study. In 2015, the SCCD was approached by a water improvement and service district requesting the District to pursue a Level I Study through the Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC). The SCCD Board decided to include the entire Goose Creek watershed in the request. EnTech presented the draft Level 1 Study Report in December 2017. Final completion/approval has been delayed by a request from WWDC that they incorporate a new model from the Basin planning efforts. The most current model, and which EnTech used, was from 1992. However, WWDC has not finished or released the new model and the project deadline is approaching. The total estimated cost of projects identified in the study includes: \$5.3 Million in projects eligible for Small Water Project Program and \$1.5 Million in projects related to fisheries. Other costs are unknown.

Goose Creek WWDC Fire Hazard Mitigation Study Update:

Dan Coughlin, SAWS, and Dan Roberts, City of Sheridan were unable to attend the meeting. Amy Ormseth, USFS, explained that the City of Sheridan and SAWS were approved for funding through the WWDC to conduct a Fire Hazard Mitigation Study for the municipal water supply. The project would be similar to what was completed for the City of Buffalo. The WWDC has issued the Request for Proposals and will be awarding the project to a consultant in late spring. The report will be due March 2019 and will include a baseline assessment of drainage fire potential.

Goose Creek Section 1135 Feasibility Report Update:

Lane Thompson, City of Sheridan, provided an update on the Army Corps of Engineers Section 1135 Study on the feasibility of restoration of the Goose Creeks within the City of Sheridan. The report discusses the alternatives to improve fish passage and habitat, while maintaining the integrity of the flood control aspects of the original levees. The total cost is expected to be from \$3-5 million, with the City responsible for 25% of that cost. While there were options discussed to address the concrete chutes on Little Goose Creek, several factors (including cost) limit the ability to address the chutes at this time.

There was additional discussion on concerns with salt entering the stream systems from stockpiling snow removed from roadways. The snow storage areas have been tested and are within normal limits.

Implementation Strategy Progress Review:

The group reviewed the completed and upcoming activities for the Implementation Strategy, which was updated in 2016. Annual meetings and watershed newsletters were completed as planned as well as updates on Progress Registers and load reduction estimates. The District completed the data validation for all of the Goose Creek water quality data in the database. The District is still working on a process for following-up on projects; previous attempts did not work well. The District continues to work with the City of Sheridan on stormwater education.

Progress and Priority Updates:

The group reviewed the Goose Creek Watershed Progress Register and Load Reduction Priority Maps. Overall, across all watersheds, project requests are down, though there are some under construction in the watershed. To date, SCCD has assisted with over 50 projects within the watershed including corral relocation/modification projects, septic replacements, diversion replacements, and bank/channel stabilization through structural work or willow planting. There was discussion about how to encourage people to complete improvement projects. The District is not regulatory and does not target individuals.

Load reduction requirement maps were distributed last year through the annual watershed newsletters; these will be updated after 2018 monitoring. SCCD uses the maps when ranking projects; the load reduction category of the appropriate subwatershed is one of several ranking criteria used to determine whether a project is funded. In 2015, load reduction requirements improved in most areas.

2018 Interim Monitoring

As per the 3-year monitoring rotation, Goose Creek is scheduled to be monitored again in 2018 and proposes sampling for pH, conductivity, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, discharge (flow), turbidity, and *E.coli* on Goose, Big Goose, Little Goose, and Soldier, Beaver, Park, Rapid, McCormick, Kruse, Jackson, and Sackett Creek. Specific locations will be dependent upon access permission. The Board may consider some modifications to the schedule and sites at their meeting in April.

There was discussion on the monitoring goals. The ultimate goal would be confirming that streams meet all of the water quality standards appropriate for their designated uses and having them removed from the list of impaired waterbodies. However, in the meantime, monitoring information is used to track whether activities and projects are having an impact on water quality. There was discussion on the correlations between temperature and flow; these have been examined and certainly higher water temperatures are observed during the summer when flows are down. There were additional questions on whether the cost/reliability of DNA testing for bacteria has improved. There are concerns that *E. coli* may not be best indicator of water quality. There was a request to add a sample station on Kemp Creek because of concerns with bubbles/suds; however, it is unlikely that the District will be able to add another station at this time.

Other Business:

There were no additional comments from the group.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 2019.

Submitted by Orrin Connell and Susan Holmes