

Lake Whatcom Management Program 2020-2024 Work Plan

Lake Whatcom Policy Group Update

September 30, 2019

Work Plan Timeline

- August/September: compile draft content
- October: review/edit content
- November – January: develop final plan
- February: Councils & Commission review
- March Joint Councils & Commission Meeting: formal adoption

Goals for today's discussion

- Provide a summary of proposed work plan activities
- Get Policy Group feedback on proposed actions

Program Area Highlights

Primary Activities for the Next Five Years

TMDL requirements noted

Land Preservation

- Buy and maintain properties for watershed protection (continue ongoing program)

DRAFT Performance Measures

- Number of development units removed from watershed
- Number of acres acquired or otherwise protected in the watershed
- Number of acres in early succession, acres in mid succession, acres in mature forest

Stormwater

- Install infrastructure upgrades for pollution reduction
 - *Provide annual prioritized list of projects (6-year plans)*
 - Construct new capital stormwater facilities
 - Retrofit existing stormwater facilities
 - Continue the Homeowner Incentive Program (HIP)
- Plan for future improvements
 - Develop neighborhood stormwater management plans
 - *Publish retrofit plan for upgrading existing treatment systems*
- *Conduct inspections & maintenance of stormwater facilities*

Stormwater

- Conduct research and Quality Assurance / Quality Control
 - *Test and document performance of existing stormwater systems to reduce phosphorus and fecal coliform*
 - Characterize phosphorus reductions from operations and maintenance
- Provide watershed-wide technical assistance
 - Work with other program areas to maximize water quality benefits

Stormwater

Performance Measures

Evaluate and track phosphorus reductions in the following categories:

- *Phosphorus treatment and flow control capital projects*
- *Homeowner improvements through the Homeowner Incentive Program (HIP)*
- *Land use regulations*
- *Operations and maintenance activities*

Land Use - Development

- Provide outreach to increase understanding of and compliance with regulations
- Collaborate when developing watershed regulations
- Track building/development activities (Annual Buildout Report)
- Monitor required mitigation (Natural Vegetation Protection Areas)

Land Use - Forestry

- Engage with private landowners to achieve consistency with the Landscape Plan
- Review reports of DNR activities
- Review private forest practice applications
- Track permitted forest practice activities
- Collaborate with DNR to improve mapping of forest practice activities

Land Use

DRAFT Performance Measures

- Total area of new and redeveloped properties considered phosphorus neutral
- Increase watershed residents' knowledge of phosphorus-neutral development regulations
- Acres of timber harvested and replanted on public and private forest lands
- Miles of road constructed/abandoned on public and private forestry lands
- Acres treated with herbicides on public and private forest lands

Monitoring & Data

- Monitor lake & tributary water quality
 - Continue contract with WWU
 - Provide data for models and annual water quality reports
- *Evaluate stormwater facilities' effectiveness*
 - Make recommendations to improve
- Improve load and response model accuracy
 - *Revise loading capacity as appropriate based on new models*
- Monitor potential impacts from septic systems
- Develop summaries of monitoring data & reports

Monitoring & Data

DRAFT Performance Measures

- *Update and calibrate models*
- *Revise loading capacity as appropriate based on new models*
- Provide annual summary of monitoring activities and reports

Hazardous Materials

- *Facilitate removal of hazardous materials from watershed residences*
- Protect water quality through spill prevention and response programs

DRAFT Performance Measures

- Pounds of all hazardous materials collected from watershed residents
- *Pounds of phosphorus-containing materials collected from watershed residents*
- Track number of spills, illicit discharges, or incidents reported in the watershed

Recreation

- Focus on the nexus between recreational activities and facilities and watershed stewardship
- Develop or improve recreational facilities to promote recreational opportunities while reducing impacts to lake water quality
- Develop or improve trails and park roads to reduce impacts to water quality
- Provide low impact public access opportunities
- Provide watershed stewardship information to recreational users

Recreation

DRAFT Performance Measures

- Length of user built trails decommissioned
- Length of forest roads maintained in accordance with Forest Practices Act requirements
- Number of pet waste stations maintained
- Number of individuals using parks/trails in watershed
- Number of interpretive/informational exhibits installed

Aquatic Invasive Species

- Prevent AIS from entering the lake
 - Watercraft Inspection Program
 - Provide information about and engage community in AIS prevention activities
- Detect AIS early and monitor
 - Detect new introductions and monitor established AIS
 - Develop voluntary AIS monitoring program
- Develop AIS Rapid Response Plan



Aquatic Invasive Species

DRAFT Performance Measures

- Number of new introductions
- Number of watercraft inspected
- Number of watercraft decontaminated
- Number of people who completed online AIS Awareness Course
- Number of additional visitors educated at check stations



Utilities & Transportation

- Manage water supply systems to minimize water quality and quantity impacts
- Reduce water quality problems from sewer and septic systems
- Promote alternative transportation opportunities
- Design & develop transportation systems to protect water quality
- Examine opportunities to improve bike & pedestrian mobility
- Work with WTA to preserve & promote bus use

Utilities & Transportation

DRAFT Performance Measures

- Miles of bike and pedestrian facilities constructed and/or improved
- Proportion of watershed residents who are aware of water conservation concerns
- Proportion of watershed residents who used alternative methods of transportation in the past year
- Estimated gallons of water conserved in City and District service areas
- Number of watershed homeowners certified in on-site sewer system inspection
- Number of sewer overflows
- Number of corrective or preventative sewer maintenance actions
- Number of on-site sewer system failures
- Number of corrective or preventative on-site sewer maintenance actions
- Number of new sewer connections

Education & Engagement

- *Produce a new Lake Whatcom stewardship guide*
 - Goal is to send out in early 2020
- *Repeat survey of watershed resident stewardship*
 - Complete by late 2023
 - Use results to inform outreach focus
- *Provide private stormwater facility maintenance outreach and assistance*
- Outreach support for all LWMP program areas
 - Stormwater retrofit projects, including HIP
 - Land use and stormwater regulations
 - *Hazardous materials collection event*
 - AIS awareness and engagement

Education & Engagement

DRAFT Performance Measures

- Number of households sent informational materials (new and existing households)
- Number of unique visitors to Lake Whatcom Management Program website
- Level of watershed resident knowledge of and participation in key stewardship practices as measured by:
 - Number of key metrics that increased in value since 2018 watershed survey
 - Average increase in key metric values since previous watershed survey

Administration

- Implement the Lake Whatcom Management Program
 - Meeting Coordination – WAB, LWPG, ICT, Joint Councils
 - Public Information – Meeting Notification, website, updates to Councils/Commissions, Public Presentations
 - Work Plans and Reports – Includes performance measure tracking & *TMDL Implementation Plan update*
 - Secure Funding
 - Interface with Regulatory Agencies
 - Contracting

Performance Measures

- Annual Progress Reports
- Work Plans
- Program budgets

Questions?