



Moses Lake Watershed Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 2024 - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

In-person/Teleconference
CBCD Office
903 W. 3rd Ave, Moses Lake, WA 98837

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89932531034?pwd=jnRcHCJyVFV0Ojhq3q0MeFAbXPWE0m.1>

Meeting ID: 899 3253 1034

Passcode: 003856

AGENDA

10:00 am - Welcome & Introductions (All)

10:05 am - Update on The Phosphorus Mitigation Project by Ryan Van Goethem

10:30 am - Council Member Reports/Updates (10min/organization) (All)

- a. Grant County Health District
- b. Moses Lake Irrigation & Rehabilitation District
- c. Columbia Basin Conservation District
- d. WA State Department of Ecology
- e. US Bureau of Reclamation
- f. Grant County Tourism
- g. Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
- h. City of Moses Lake
- i. Citizen Representative

Next Meeting December 17th, 2024
10:00 AM to Noon
CBCD Office 903 W. 3rd Ave, Moses Lake, WA 98837
moseslakewatershed.org

"Improving, protecting, and preserving the water quality in Moses Lake and our greater watershed for present and future generations"



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Meeting Minutes

Call to order - 10:00 a.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Attendance: Sam Castro, Jim Coleman, Harold Crose, Elisia Dalluge, Anna Maletzke, Joel Metcalfe, Brad Mitchell, Kristina Ribellia, Ron Sawyer, Stephanie Shopbell, Ryan Van Goethem, Gene Welch, Beth Yonko, Lynne Lynch

Update on The Phosphorus Mitigation Project - Ryan Van Goethem

R. Van Goethem from EutroPHIX provided an update on the Phosphorus Mitigation Project at Rocky Ford Creek. He reported that phosphorus levels in the inflow at Rocky Ford Creek have decreased by 45%. Additionally, there has been a 20% reduction in phosphorus levels in the surface water and a 20-40% reduction in the bottom water. R. Van Goethem advised that additional work in the lake will show stronger improvements over time.

In 2024, there has been a noticeable decline in harmful algal blooms (HABs) across the lake. Recreational advisories, which typically occur earlier in the year, were postponed until September thanks to the reduction in HABs. This marks a significant improvement in the lake's overall health and usability.

EutroPHIX is preparing a draft report summarizing these findings, which is expected to be completed by late December or early January. The organization is also collaborating with the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District (MLIRD) and the Columbia Basin Conservation District (CBCD) to create a plan for utilizing the remaining totes of EutroSORB WC.



Council Member Reports/Updates - (All)

Moses Lake Irrigation & Rehabilitation District - Sam Castro

S. Castro reported that the Grant County LEAD summit last week was a success and thanked everyone for their participation and contributions. S. Castro is working with partner agencies including the city of Moses Lake and council members to discuss future common goals and objectives. MLIRD is working on a short-term and long-term plan for the irrigation district. There will be a workshop with the board of directors in January to establish priorities and discuss these plans.

Grant County Health District - Stephanie Shopbell

All advisories were lowered on Moses Lake last week. The bloom at the north dam outlet towards the south end of the lake has cleared. The toxin sample results showed the bloom to be below the threshold. In January, the Grant County Health District (GCHD) will be working with CBCD to migrate the Grant County Healthy Lakes Blue-Green Algae tracker to GCHD for this second round. Work is being done to organize a pizza party to thank all the volunteers who have assisted with reporting data for the algae tracker.

Columbia Basin Conservation District - Ron Sawyer

H. Crose and R. Sawyer are working on the ranking system for the Westshore Drive Septic to Sewer project. Certified letters have been sent to landowners informing them about the opportunity to hook up to the city sewer, and there are already 10 people expressing interest in the project. The target is to have between 10-20 participants. The ranking system is being developed to ensure the project is implemented efficiently and maximizes the number of septic systems replaced.

Work is underway to complete the Aquatic Vegetation Survey in collaboration with Aquatechnex. Terry McNabb, the owner of Aquatechnex, is assisting in finalizing the survey and will be meeting with CBCD later this week.

CBCD has identified a contractor for the Algae Control Grant, who will handle the reporting. The contractor will be synthesizing previous work and exploring ways to improve efficiency in the future. They will also be gathering suggestions on areas to focus on going forward, with the aim of enhancing the overall effectiveness of algae control efforts.



The Peninsula Park Heritage Garden demonstration site is underway in Moses Lake. Thanks to the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District, the City of Moses Lake, the Washington State Department of Ecology, Grant County Health District, and all other partners assisting with this project.

WA State Department of Ecology - Joel Metcalfe

Work is being done to explore options for the fencing project on DNR land. Further updates will be provided as the project progresses.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation - Ron Sawyer on behalf of Jennifer Heaverlo

Plans for the Crab Creek Pothole Supplemental Feed Route will be gradual. In the first year, the goal is to reach close to 25 CFS below the Adrian Sink area followed by a controlled increase each year. A five-year draft test plan has been created with the goal of reaching full implementation of flows of 100 CFS year-round with flows up to 500 CFS in the spring. By the fifth year, an initial flow release is targeted for the spring of 2025. This schedule is tentative. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is working with the contractor to complete the cultural survey and address additional mitigation efforts before proceeding with water releases.

Grant County Tourism - Lynne Lynch

The City of Moses Lake is preparing the ice rink for the upcoming season, with an estimated opening date of November 22nd. Grant County Tourism is focusing on community outreach efforts related to the ice rink's operation and the start of the ice fishing season.

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife - Ron Sawyer on behalf of Ty Swartout

No new updates from the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. Ty Swartout is collaborating with an individual on a potential carp harvesting project in the lake. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available.

City of Moses Lake - Brad Mitchell

The City of Moses Lake has been actively sweeping roadways and has removed an estimated 400-500 tons of debris this year, helping to prevent debris from entering the lake.



Additionally, the City received a letter from the Department of Commerce confirming its achievement of GMA compliance. This compliance allows the City to proceed with the Ecology grant, which will fund an examination of stormwater rates and support the completion of the comprehensive plan. This progress is expected to open up additional funding opportunities in the future.

A consultant is conducting a traffic analysis and evaluating road connectivity in Moses Lake. One proposed concept involves expanding the shoreline along the road behind Broadway, starting at SR 17 and Marina Drive. The plan includes the addition of a bike and walking path, as well as creating a waterfront street to enhance access and usability. These ideas aim to revitalize the downtown area, attract more development, and increase density in downtown Moses Lake. At this stage, the proposals are conceptual and under consideration by the city.

Citizen Representative - None

No new updates.

Meeting Adjourned - 10:41 a.m.

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