

Watershed Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday January 27, 7pm

Zoomlandia

Cheryl and Jim Coon, John Williams, Christian Berg, Stella Collier, Brian Copp, Christine Perkins, Deb Rudnick

Discussion

- summary of the 2021 salmon monitoring season
 - Deb reviewed the data from the just-completed 2021 monitoring season, which can be viewed here: <https://www.sustainablebainbridge.org/2020-bainbridge-island-salmon-monitoring-results/>. Good returns to lower Springbrook and Manzanita Creeks and lots of juvenile/cutthroat in upper Springbrook; we are not sure why we are not seeing returns to Murden Creek for the past few years. No obvious impassible culverts; there is beaver activity, but they have been active in this watershed for many years, and beaver can be compatible with salmon activity.
- update on Springbrook Creek watershed work
 - Deb reminded folks of all the work done by BIWC, the City, the Land Trust and other partners on the [Springbrook Creek Watershed Assessment](#) to identify opportunities for restoration and protection in the watershed.
 - The land trust is reconvening partners and they and the City in partnership with the Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group are pursuing funding opportunities for some of the priority actions identified in the assessment, particularly the replacement of the lower Springbrook weir and culvert system with a bridge.
- update from COBI on the [Watershed Assessment of Manzanita](#) (WAM!)
 - Christian discussed proposed areas of the watershed that are currently being evaluated for stormwater recharge and filtration projects. He shared a Story Map which is not yet publicly available but will be soon. Meanwhile folks can check out information for this project at the link above.
- discussing a new joint land trust/watershed council effort on Backyard Habitats

- Deb and Gina King at the land trust have been discussing with National Wildlife Federation the possibility of the land trust and the watershed council functioning as joint community points of contact for the [Backyard Habitat Program](#). The Wildlife Shelter used to play this role, but several years ago they stopped serving in this role and there has been no local community partner recently.
- There are over 200 households and businesses on Bainbridge that have this certification, but it has been some time since many of them have probably been engaged with the program- we aren't sure of their status and current ownership.
- BIWC and Land Trust will mostly function to facilitate folks getting connected to the program, but there could be a role to play in updating the list of current participants or confirming their status, and we'd be looking for folks to **help volunteer for this effort, so please reach out if this might be of interest!**
- Other issues:
 - John Williams, founder and editor of Salish Magazine, discussed the upcoming summer issue of the magazine that Deb is guest editing on Invasive Species, and discussed his interest in Phenology as a theme or area of exploration for the magazine. Folks discussed resources such as the National Phenology Network and connecting with IslandWood staff, Mary Meier (now ED of Parks Foundation) who have expertise in this area.
 - Stella mentioned upcoming work on the City's Island-wide stormwater planning efforts- more to come!
 - Cheryl and Jim talked about their work with Friends of Little Manzanita Bay, and their interest in sharing watershed-related information with their group. Deb will connect them with Stella to cross-connect on stormwater issues relevant to their watershed.

NEXT MEETING: March TBD. Possible guest speaker, Joth Davis, on kelp farming.