

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND WATERSHED COUNCIL
MINUTES of the NOVEMBER 9 MEETING

Attending: Rose Defawe, Diane Landry, Cheryl Bosley, Jeanne Huber, Wayne Daley, Chiara Dangelo, Deb Rudnick

Discussion:

New book! BIWC member author! Rose Defawe introduced us to her new book, Choosoo Crosses the Road, which is about an earthworm's struggle to find a pollution-free, safe home. It's great for kids 7 and up, or younger for parents to read to them. You can learn more about the book at www.choosocrossestheroad.com, and Eagle Harbor Books is carrying some copies as well.

Update on salmon monitoring: our teams have reported no fish yet, likely due to the lack of rain and consequent low water levels in the stream. There is one possible redd sighting on Springridge, and there have been sightings of salmon in the bays and along Agate Pass, so we know they're ready to come in- cross fingers for some good rising water levels! Briefly discussed the possibility of early returners from our salmon supplementation at Cooper Creek- next spring will be the final year of that program.

The discussion about returning salmon lead to a more general discussion about local fisheries practices. We wonder whether there are limits on gillnets such as those that are being placed in the mouth to Fletcher Bay and may substantially cut down on returning spawners. The group discussed the possibility of talking to someone at the Tribe about visiting our group to talk generally about the tribe's local efforts, so we can learn more about their hatchery processes and efforts.

Discussion of Ordway rain garden potential project and HS rain garden maintenance: We had a great brainstorming session about the Ordway Rain garden. Deb and another Ordway PTO member met with the school's principal, who is supportive of the project. Our next step is to get

an ok from the school district before we can move forward, and if ok'd, Cheryl and her colleagues at WSU extension will be able to help with next steps including a percolation test. 20 inches deep, 10" in diameter- how deal with the open hole for the 24-hour period required for the perc test.

Brainstorming ideas about how to engage and involve the students and community were discussed, including:

- have a group of students at Ordway build their own rain garden models, and/or art project and help them do the brochure for a rain garden, or create a newsletter to take home to parents (*Chiara to take a lead role on exploring these opportunities*)
- Involving Earth Service Corps in planting (*Chiara*)
- possibly work with 4th graders to test the water quality running off the area before and after installation, to look at differences in quality and quantity of runoff
- have students help dig and plant for the installation
- have a rain barrel sale to raise funds
- YMCA- Chiara has applied for a grant to get \$500 that could go toward the rain garden.
- Look into 12,000 rain gardens – Puget Sound foundation- as a source of funding (*Deb to follow up*)
- Rotary as an option for funding
- Boys and Girls club, Kids Club, Big Kids club- could be involved with hands-on activities and maintenance.

High School rain gardens: the group discussed how the HS rain gardens are a great example of different types of rain gardens on the school property. *Chiara said she would look into drumming up support for weeding the HS rain gardens as part of her senior service project.*

Creation of a BI-specific rain garden page for our website: Chiara has drafted some text to start a new rain garden page, Deb will work on getting this uploaded. *If anyone has pictures of local rain gardens, please send these to Deb so she can use them for the*

website. The website will be an opportunity to provide more information about resources for rain gardens and local examples.

Cheryl is hearing of some more rain garden installations we could follow up on – Wood Ave, Moji Lane, and well-established rain gardens include the Glecklers' on New Sweden- we have early pics from the installation, could update these with new pictures.

Downtown Rain gardens: we had a discussion about the fact that there does not seem to be much awareness about the purpose of the planting areas as rain gardens downtown. No one was sure if the city had plans for any signage that would help raise this awareness. *Deb to check with the City; if not, Jeanne to follow up with a contact who does interpretive signs, pending City discussion.*

Sustainable Bainbridge: we talked a bit about how to better interface with Sustainable Bainbridge. Wayne asked about whether they help procure volunteers for our events- yes, we use their emailers and newsletters to solicit help. Wayne asked about whether we can improve/expand water quality monitoring efforts. Deb replied the city has a couple of stations on the island with good long-term data. Wayne is interested in the stream invertebrate data from the city, a discussion ensued about the extent of invertebrate data. *Deb has a disc with some of this data from the city and will get it to Wayne.* From this idea, the group discussed the possibility of a Sustainable First Monday topic on Life in our streams, which could include our salmon data, the City's invertebrate and water quality data, and discussion of the importance of shallow aquifer recharge. We also talked about the possibility of a SFM focused on rain gardens. *Deb will take this idea back to Lisa Macchio, our liaison to SB.*

NEXT MEETING: Wed, January 11, 2012