



## PIERCE COUNTY

### Conservation Futures & Open Space Citizens' Advisory Board

July 13, 2023  
CAB Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Thomas Ginsburg, Chair, at 6:08 p.m. virtually via Zoom webinar. A quorum was present.

#### ROLL CALL:

CAB Members Present: Kadie Anderson, Sarah Chun, Thomas Ginsburg, Lyndsay Gordon, Ryan Hebert, Brett Larabee, Ethan Newton, Susan Paganelli, Carol Paschal, Tony Paulson, Patty Villa

Staff Present: Kimberly Freeman, Chris Chaput, Cheryl Saltzman, Aaron Yang, Michelle Jenkins

MFA Consultant: Claire Moerder

CAB Members Absent: Jerome O'Leary (excused), Heather Shadko, (excused)

#### MEETING MINUTES:

*Motion:* To adopt the July 6, 2023 meeting notes as written. The motion was moved (Chun), seconded (Paschal) and passed unanimously.

#### Introductions and brief review of Equity Index mapping overlay options

##### 2023 CF Application Project Presentations – Presentations made using PowerPoint

- A. Clover Creek Presentation, Leanne Weiss, Forterra and Paul Ritter, Tacoma Sportsmen's Club Conservation Land Foundation, presented information about the Clover Creek property.

Questions/Comments

Lyndsay: Is the Dept. of Ecology grant secured or applied for?

Leanne: The funding has been committed. We don't have a grant agreement, but we were awarded funding in the budget for the biennium, we just have to get the agreement going.

Ryan: Is there any public access outside of the gun ranges and archery range? Is there any public access that isn't fee based?

Paul: Yes. The public will have access to the land in general, without paying a fee. There will be no fee. They will have to check-in under our protocols at the front office so that we know who is on the property. It's free parking. We will have three sections, basically, a shooting section, an archery section, which they can walk through, they just have to follow designated paths so that all the people are walking in one direction, and then we'll have the natural or conservation area, and that will be supplemented with some trails, walking areas, and sitting areas, downrange. The club itself is a private club, but I call it a public-private club, because most of the things at the club are available to the public. They can come in and use the restaurant or cafeteria when it's open, they can come in and shoot shotguns and pistols and rifles on the public range, but they can also shoot skeet, trap, five stand, sporting clays, which are all moving clay targets for shotguns, and they pay the same fee that everyone else pays.

If they're shooting skeet, trap or five stand they pay an extra dollar for a round of skeet or trap which is 25 rounds. A lot of the facilities there are available to the public. They have an education building, and anybody that signs up for hunter education or any conservation classes can come there for free. We have a meeting hall. We do a lot of public things, we give a baseball field, the club gives a baseball field, they build it and maintain it and don't charge a penny to the community. They do an Easter egg hunt, a trunk or treat at Halloween, and Santa at Christmas, and these are all available to the whole community and there's no charge. They run fishing derbies and all kinds of things, and there's a lot of community involvement with that club that is open to the public.

Leanne: The club is open to the public and to shoot on these ranges there is a fee, but many of the other activities that the public can benefit from, such as picnic areas and softball field are free, and camper with a daily use fee.

Tony: The skeet and all those are on the private property, correct?

Paul: Yes, they are on the Tacoma Sportsmen's Club side.

Tony: When you say downrange, does that mean in the direction opposite where people are shooting? Or beyond the backstops?

Paul: Okay, maybe I said that poorly, but when you travel down the dirt road to go to the public range, you park, get out of your car and shoot downrange from there. There's just bunkers and backstops down there.

Tony: Most of the shooting if you come down that road is to the right and you are shooting to the west?

Leanne: No, you are shooting to the east. The archery coarse and potential trails that the foundation would like to develop would be on the western side of the property in the forested area.

Tony: So the 4 is?

Leanne: The 4 is where the long-range rifle shooters would stand and then they would shoot through that range to the east. Just to clarify that that longer-range is open less frequently. Most of the shooting is occurring at location 2, and when 4 is open, 2 is shut down.

Paul: Yes, they shoot right over the top of it. The terrain is built up and there's a clear view of the target area.

Tony: You're saying if someone wants to come into the conservation area, they need to sign in at the office and they would go someplace that it would be safe.

Leanne and Tony confirmed that it would be out of the zone of shooting.

Tony: I think I heard you say that the public is now allowed to use the rifle range at a cost, is that correct?

Paul: Yes, that's correct. When the agreement was cut between Tacoma Water and the Sportsmen club itself, it was open to be a public range. It has always been a public range. If we lose the land, the range goes away.

Tony: In your estimation under current operations which I assume would continue no matter who owns the land, what percentage of the people that use the ranges are non-members of the club?

Paul: The vast majority. There is a member range that is on Tacoma property. In fact, there are two rifle ranges that are on Tacoma Sportsmen's property. They own two, as well as two pistol ranges. That's for the members. The public can't use that even if you want to pay a fee, but in my opinion, the public range is a nicer range.

Tony: This really clarifies my understand of the club.

Brett: Could you describe your relationship with the City of Frederickson and the surrounding municipalities and what is the current state of your relationship with the surrounding entities? Do they want this property to be here?

Paul: The City of Frederickson and the whole County are really very cooperative and understanding what Tacoma Sportsmen's Club is about. As far as the foundation, we have an itty bitty tiny community presence at this time. We're newly formed for the acquisition. Once we acquire it, we're actually going to be a background player and Tacoma Sportsmen is going to lease the land and it's going to be run as described. The real relationship here, in my opinion, is with the gun club itself and the community. We're just an administrative player that allows that to continue.

Leanne: Just to clarify what Paul said, the foundation is a non-profit board, they are going to manage and maintain and ensure that the property is conserved in accordance with all of the conservation goals. The club will lease the range land and the club has an excellent relationship with the surrounding community.

Paul: There's a lot of infrastructure that no one's talked about, the port-a-potties, what it would cost to run an office to keep track of who's on the land, but it's already covered because Tacoma Sportsmen already does it.

- B. **Probst at Swan Creek**, Alisa O'Hanolon-Regala, Tacoma Metro Parks, presented information about the Probst at Swan Creek property.

Questions/Comments

Lyndsay: In the application it said that public access would be provided within two years, and I was

curious what the full plan was from that as far as also if you are going to demo structures and what the goal was for the area that's getting demoed, and what the parking situation is in the area?

Alisa: Right now, it's accessible by foot. In that map of the current trail system, in the next couple of years, the idea would be to connect that trail system onto that property, I can't tell you in how many yards that is, but it's not too much farther to be able to connect onto that property so that someone could make a full loop onto the Pipeline Trail.

Thomas: What was the parking situation like in the neighborhood?

Alisa: The parking is residential. The two entrances to the park down at 64<sup>th</sup> and at 56<sup>th</sup> both have parking. The idea is that you could access from the Pipeline Trail on foot onto the property and connect to the trail system, or you could park on either 56<sup>th</sup> or 64<sup>th</sup> and be able to access through the trail system that would include going through that property.

Tony: From my understanding the only improvement for those two parcels would be to extend the two trails, the one at the top and the one at the bottom?

Alisa: At this time, yes. We aren't intending to use the structures. The master plan adopted in 2012 that the community really helped design and direct is that they do want this to be a park that contributes to the natural habitat, that has natural hiking, walking trails, and they do want some active recreation areas but those are already designated, and this part of the park is to be a wooded, part of it is a restored Douglas fir forest. The history of Swan Creek Park is that it was all logged away, so there have been efforts to restore the forest. The community's desire is to maintain this in as much a natural state as we can.

Carol: Is this the property that changed their primary and secondary priority?

Alisa: No, our first priority has always been the passive recreation, and our second has always been the habitat.

Susan: I have a question about matching. There's a 70% match, and no other additional funds other than the public funds from the park, right?

Alisa: We'll be applying for an RCO grant for 50% of the cost. We've been approved a waiver of retroactivity, so they are expecting us to apply this round that opens in 2024. That would be 50% and then MetroParks and the property owner will be contributing 20% of the cost. The Conservation Futures would be 30% of the full cost.

Ryan: There is no tertiary provided?

Alisa: That is correct, no tertiary.

- C. **North Creek Salmon Heritage Site Phase IV**, Ali Querin and Erik Steffens, Great Peninsula Conservancy, and Jennifer Haro, Parks Manager presented information about the North Creek Salmon Heritage Site Phase IV.

Questions/Comments

Susan: When we heard about this before, we heard about the new culvert that was supposed to go through on Donkey Creek, and I see today you said that the plans are for future years, but that's a big part of the salmon habitat because the salmon can't really get up through that obstructive culvert. Can you give us any more information at all on the plans and the timeline for that, because that makes a difference on the critical salmon habitat part of this.

Jennifer: It is in design right now, so we are expecting to have it funded and construction within about two years. Some salmon do get through that culvert, too, but it is partial blockage.

#### **D. Board Questions**

Questions/Comments

Some scoring sheets have issues with scores changing from page to page. If you are using the fill-in PDF, after the agriculture resource land, beginning with public access, the box for the score, when you input that, it automatically inputs the same score for the rest of the boxes, so please just leave those blank, and put your scores in the notes section.

Carol: I have a binder, and paper copies. Do I just fax those?

Chris: You can scan and email them.

Thomas: On Probst, the secondary value on the scoring form says streams, it should be fish and wildlife.

#### **E. Other Business**

**MEETING CONTINUED:** To time/date certain, July 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Chair continued meeting at 8:19 p.m.