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meeting notes

**Meadowdale Beach Park and Estuary Restoration – Monitoring Group Meeting**

**September 10, 2024 | 2:00pm – 3:30pm | Virtual**

**ATTENDEES**

Snohomish County SWM: Elisa Dawson, Joycelyn Blue, Adam Jackson

Tulalip Tribes: Todd Zackey, Heidi Stewart

Edmonds Stream Team: Joe Scordino

Blue Coast: Jessica Cote

ESA: Paul Schlenger, Colleen Kroe

**AGENDA**

* Welcome and Introductions
* Website Updates – “draft” available at: <https://www.snocomrc.org/projects/meadowdale-beach-and-estuary-restoration/>. Recommendations welcomed.
* Monitoring Planning
	+ Updates by all on work completed, work planned, monitoring needs
	+ Gradient Vegetation/Soil Salinity Monitoring
	+ Update Monitoring Log (available at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/18alPPSm4JxCSs92kE6pucfnDVUCJNmF8>)
* Sediment Particle Tracking – Discussed being ready for October storm event
* Vegetation Fencing or Signage Update
* Next Meeting Scheduling
	+ December

**NOTES**

* Website Updates
	+ Paul shared screen to show the updated website and invite comments.
	+ Joe commented that it would be useful for the website to include a request for public assistance in sitings of salmon carcasses. He is conducting weekly surveys but could miss some salmon carcasses that could be seen midweek. He noted that the public often asks how they could help. He recommended adding a note and his contact information. He would like to receive a text with a photo. Elisa commented that since he is comfortable with that, then she is too.
* Monitoring Planning
	+ Updates were provided and documented in the monitoring log. See link above.
	+ Vegetation gradient sampling and soil salinity sampling was a topic of discussion. Colleen describing the vegetation gradient sampling approach from monitoring plan. Monitoring includes up to 6 quadrats per transect to document plant species and count. Allows for the identification of volunteer plant establishment and year over year change. The monitoring plan does not include collecting vegetation gradient data or soil salinity in year 2. Elisa said it could be done in year 2 if the group thinks it is helpful. Adam recommended doing the monitoring because it will inform other projects as well.
* Sediment Particle Tracking
	+ Todd provided an update. Shooting to be ready by November. Working to get Blue Coast under contract.
	+ The sampling will be event based. They plan to deploy PIT tagged sediments one to two weeks ahead of target storm event. This will allow some self-sorting. Soon after the event, they will go monitor new locations of sediment. Post-storm recovery is likely to require digging.
* Vegetation Fencing or Signage Update
	+ Adam had to leave the meeting but provided an update in a follow-up email.
		- He has had a couple conversations with Snohomish County Parks regarding vegetation management. They are resistant to posting signs regarding the planting because they expect signs to be ignored by the public. Adam encouraged them to try signs because they are a low stakes effort to at least try as something is better than nothing.
		- Similar perspective heard from Parks on fencing. They are not interested in trying fencing. There is continual concern about vandalism and damage from tidal debris. Adam believes there could be a fencing option that delineates the planting area but allows for tidal debris to flow under at extreme high tides. However, a fence would be another maintenance feature that Parks would have to take on which would be a challenge.
		- He noted that Rachel with Parks is exploring hiring WCC part time crews to assist with vegetation management associated with the project. This could potentially include work to delineate or sign the beach plantings. Adam indicated that they also discussed using SWM’s crew, but the crew is not available due to other project obligations and couldn’t provide support on a consistent basis for project maintenance.
	+ Joe recommended keep out signs in the upper estuary to encourage people to not damage the restoration. Elisa noted that Parks has not been supportive of adding signs there.
* Next Meeting
	+ Scheduled for Wednesday December 11, 2024, from 2pm-330pm.