

## 2016 MOU Update/Renewal

### *Four Creeks Stewardship Memo of Understanding*

## Cemetery Pond and Tributary 0291A

### Water sampling and habitat monitoring

CARE is participating in FCUAC's Water Sampling & Habitat Monitoring service, with sampling/monitoring begun Fall 2016 on tributary 0291A in the MOU area.

The FCUAC service has funded three kits including the one being used by stream steward volunteers in the MOU area.

- A. Implement water sampling and habitat monitoring in the MOU area
1. CARE will sample & monitor at the culvert behind the Coalfield Park ballfields
  2. County will make Cemetery Pond one of their sample sites
    - i. Outlet of Cemetery Pond?
    - ii. Perform more comprehensive testing than the volunteer stewardship efforts
    - iii. Consider training volunteers to learn more comprehensive sampling techniques
  3. Decide where data is displayed (e.g. KC web?, KCD web?) and used
  4. FCUAC will manage the Water Sampling & Habitat Monitoring service
- B. Continue renewal and protection of Cemetery Pond
1. Property/easement acquisition plan
  2. Advise on further debris removal
  3. Deal with possible continued dumping
  4. Implement routine maintenance stewardship
    - i. Fund, if needed, weed maintenance (similar to reed canary grass removal in May Creek)
    - ii. Jointly decide on the scope and actions involved
      - a) Decide on alternatives (e.g. community weed maintenance day and/or smaller group of volunteers periodically providing weed maintenance on a more ad hoc basis)
      - b) Arrange a class (demonstration) about weed composting on site.

CARE's participation in the FCUAC **Water Sampling & Habitat Monitoring** service makes the quality of that service relevant to the MOU. Service improvements that benefit stewarding in the MOU area are included for discussion at the end of this MOU attachment.

### Data and information

- A. Increase detailed understanding of Tributary 0291A and Cemetery Pond
1. Assure all GIS data is current and complete
  2. Profile of water flows by month
  3. Detail GIS update for wetland and buffer boundaries, along with any other important features (e.g. easements, ROW). Align to authoritative documents (e.g. surveys).

### Discussion Item – DNRP property interest

What are the impacts to DNRP interests from code compliance issues on, adjacent to, or otherwise impact land or water directly regulated or managed by DNRP?

Examples:

- How many instances are there, what are the code violation file numbers.
- What amount of money is owed to King County from liens, judgement, code violation fees, etc. issued within the last 4 years
- Residents would like to participate in understanding and analyzing the data
- (e.g. release the data to residents to analyze). *[Not yet consensus on whether to request all the data. The driver is to prioritize DNRP's property interest in the MOU area (e.g. Cemetery Pond wetland and habitat) because of the location of the used car dealership. This focus is part of the next phase of wetland recovery and stewardship (the first being the clean out, invasive plant removal, native plant replacement)].*

The section on DNRP property interests is intended to start addressing risks to the wetlands and buffers from use, including neighboring properties (e.g. the used car dealership). This is an area for discussion.

## Coalfield Park and local trails

- A. Recreation utilization and possible additional use of Coalfield Park and local trails.
1. Understanding the utilization of Coalfield Park and surrounding area including Renton parks.
  2. Undeveloped portion of Coalfield Park:
    - i. What's Parks vision?
    - ii. Is there any maintenance/restoration appropriate now?
  3. Trail plan in and around MOU area
    - i. Should something be done with Cedar-Sammamish trail site near fire station on 156th Ave SE?

Residents have requested the county explain their recreation and trail plan in and around the MOU area, however, no action has occurred to date. One scope is the existing/planned connections to the MOU area. The larger context includes connections to trails in May Valley to the northeast, and the Cedar Grove Rd area to the south. Given the extensive trail system in Cougar, Squak, and Tiger Mtns, the overall context can be seen as a ring that includes Taylor Mtn.

### Discussion Item – No action has occurred to date

- A. Are residents asking the wrong questions?

## 164<sup>th</sup> Ave SE

Although King County Roads is not part of the current MOU, the stewardship efforts include Adopt-a-Road for 164<sup>th</sup> Ave SE between SE 128<sup>th</sup> St and SR 900.

- A. Provide no-less than annual litter control

## FCUAC Stream/Habitat Stewards Service

### Discussion Item – FCUAC Stream/Habitat Stewards Service

In 2015, FCUAC, in cooperation with CARE/SWAN, created a stream and habitat steward service modeled after the King Conservation District's Stream Stewards program. Among other things, FCUAC provides funds to create kits used by volunteers who commit to monthly sampling and observations at various stream sites.

CARE/SWAN participates in the service, routinely monitoring stream and habitat on Tributary 291A in the MOU area.

The FCUAC service extends beyond the MOU area so is outside the scope of the MOU. However, the service is now a part of the activity within the MOU area so the quality of the service can affect the quality of the MOU.

How do we address the relationship between the FCUAC Stream/Habitat Stewardship service and its use by CARE in the MOU area?

#### A. KCD role

The stream and habitat monitoring is modeled from KCD's Stream Stewards program. We've been able to get PDFs of their stream steward manual, but still unsuccessful in get the originals (e.g. to replace their logo, adjust content to our volunteers' feedback).

What, if any role, should KCD be asked to perform for similar efforts outside their formal work plan, like this one?

#### B. General support

The water sampling and habitat monitoring service is provided by Four Creeks UAC, and therefore, extends beyond the MOU area along May Creek tributary 0291A. Additional sample sites include Issaquah Creek, May Creek, and McDonald Creek.

FCUAC, CARE and SWAN are interested in planning the implementation of the service with the county which would include education for volunteers, data sampling, and information display.