**Puyallup-White River LIO Quarterly Meeting: Community Health and Climate Change**

**September 11, 10:00am-12:00pm**

**Virtual Zoom Meeting**

## Welcome, Purpose, & Agenda Review

Kristen Durance, LIO Coordinator, kicked off the meeting with a quick round of online networking and an overview of the agenda.

I. The Power of Partnerships: Improving Air Quality in the Puyallup River Watershed

**Cindy Haverkamp, Climate and Health Coordinator, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department/PWR LIO Chair. View Cindy’s presentation** [here](https://puyallupwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/The-Power-of-Partnerships-Presentation_PWR_LIO_FINAL-2.pdf).

Cindy discussed the impact of wildfire smoke from extreme heat events on health and ecosystems in Pierce County. To address this, the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department partnered with organizations including the Pierce Conservation District, the National Environmental Health Association, the Puget Sound Asthma Coalition, and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response. Through these partnerships, the Health Department distributed 72 box fan filters in 2023, provided widespread education and outreach, and monitored air quality at schools using [PurpleAir Sensors](https://map.purpleair.com/air-quality-standards-us-epa-aqi?opt=%2F1%2Flp%2Fa10%2Fp604800%2FcC0#10.24/47.379/-122.9451).

Additionally, the Health Department engaged in an urban heat mapping campaign that trained 80 community members, and volunteer drivers with sensors collected data on 16 routes. This information will inform plans for urban forestry and tree planting locations. The work was made possible through multiple grants, including the EPA Government to Government Environmental Justice Grant Program, a three-year grant that aims to (1) Build relationships and decrease risk of wildfire smoke exposure through outreach and education; (2) Co-create community-adaptive solutions through a countywide wildfire summit; and (3) Implement solutions developed in year two and evaluate data.

II. Reaching Out to Overburdened Communities to Reduce Air Pollution **Amy Warren, Air Resource Specialist, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. View Amy’s presentation** [here](https://puyallupwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/PWRLIO_PSCAA-Overview_Amy_09112024.pdf)**.**

Amy shared the roles of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) which are to use forecasting tools to anticipate smoke events and provide messaging to King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties in a timely manner to amplify current air quality status. Forecasts can be found on the [Puget Sound Clean Air Agency’s](https://pscleanair.gov/) website, [social media](https://www.facebook.com/pscleanair/), and email. Amy highlighted the [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant](https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants) (CPRG) administered by the EPA. [King County was successfully awarded $50 million](https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/king-county-washington#summary) for their regional application to decarbonize the built environment. Members can stay informed on CPRG updates by signing up for [email updates.](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/S11zUdx/CPRG)

The PSCAA is engaging communities and stakeholders in developing the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) development. To provide community input and receive updates, community members can fill out the [survey](https://waclimatepartnership.org/en/) or [sign up to receive email updates](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/S11zUdx/CPRG) on workshops, progress, open houses, and more. The PSCAA also provides grant support services to benefit [overburdened communities](https://pscleanair.gov/382/Overburdened-Communities) to ensure air pollution reduction projects are reaching those that are most impacted. A current opportunity that closes on October 24th, 2024, is the [Department of Ecology’s Improving Air Quality in Overburdened Communities grant](https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/payments-contracts-grants/grants-loans/find-a-grant-or-loan/overburdened-communities-grants) which is awarding up to $700 million per award. To receive grant support, contact the [PSCAA](http://www.pscleanair.gov/GrantSupport).

III. Pierce County’s Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update

**Tiffany Odell, Planning Supervisor, Pierce County Parks. View Tiffany’s presentation** [here](https://puyallupwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Tiffany_2024-09-11-White-River-LIO-PROS-Presentation-1.pdf)**.**

Tiffany provided information on the [2020-2030 Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan](https://www.piercecountywa.gov/1488/Park-Recreation-Open-Space-Plan) which implements the Parks and Recreation policies and provides strategic and long-range planning for the department. This plan is critical in ensuring the parks program is being expanded as the County is currently not providing enough parks or trails and is unable to effectively accommodate population growth in the County. The plan is currently being updated and goes through updates every six years. Additionally, the department is actively looking to expand this to a 20-year plan.

IV. Conservation Futures Program

**Chris Chaput, Conservation Futures Coordinator, Pierce County Parks. View Chris’s presentation** [here](http://C://Users/HaleyMorris/OneDrive%20-%20Ross%20Strategic/2024.09.11_LIO%20Meeting_CF-Presentation_Chris.pdf)**.**

Chris introduced members to Pierce County’s [Conservation Futures Program](https://www.piercecountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/118463/CF-Pamphlet-2022), a land preservation program which utilizes grant funds to purchase property throughout all of Pierce County. The Conservation Futures Tax Levy (CFT) is a dedicated portion of property tax authorized by state law to conserve open space lands. The statewide tool was created due to growth and spread of urban development, so this grant ensures that land is being allocated to open space.

The application cycle runs every two years, and the next cycle begins in 2025. However, projects that are under immediate threat count as an exception project and can be submitted off-cycle. For the grant process, applicants propose an open space project and then identify conservation priorities and a stewardship plan to enable feasible public access. Land conservation types include maintaining biodiversity, marine and freshwater, parks and trails, and resource lands. Program application and guidelines can be found [here](https://www.piercecountywa.gov/1477/Conservation-Futures-Program#:~:text=The%20Conservation%20Futures%20program%20preserves%20open%20space%2C%20wetlands%2C,Pierce%20County%20experiences%20growth%20in%20population%20and%20development.).

V. Carbon Credit Pilot Project Overview: South Prairie Creek Preserve - **Heather Green, Habitat Improvement Program Director, Pierce Conservation District. View heather’s presentation** [here](https://puyallupwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Conservation-Futures_Presentation_Chris-Chaput-1.pdf)**.**

Heather detailed the importance of riparian habitat and the benefits of carbon crediting in offering a unique method to fund riparian restoration projects. This is important as stewarding riparian planting projects can be difficult as funding cycles are short and the capacity to manage projects is often limited. Pierce Conservation District (PCD) took on two carbon crediting projects at South Prairie Creek Preserve and Peck Property to receive funding from carbon emitters while sequestering carbon through tree plantings. PCD is enrolled through [City Forest Credit](https://www.cityforestcredits.org/carbon-credits/) (CFC) registry which allows them to request credits from CFC when the planting is complete. Plantings are verified by a third party and credits are issued based on projected CO2 storage at twenty-five years. The credits are then sold by the operator or carbon broker. While this project is a long-term time commitment of twenty-five years, this program does allow organizations to quantify the environmental benefits of restoration plantings.

VI. Impacts of Sea Level Rise and Flooding in Pierce County

**Nick Bond, Office of the Washington State Climatologist. View Nick’s presentation** [here](https://puyallupwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Bond_Puyallup_LIO-1.pdf)**.**

Nick Bond shared the impacts of climate change on sea level rise and flooding, particularly in the PWR LIO region geography. Sea level rise is exaggerated in sinking land areas like Puget Sound, worsening climate effects. Nick demonstrated the newly released Washington Sea Grant [Sea Level Rise Data Visualization tool](https://cig.uw.edu/projects/interactive-sea-level-rise-data-visualizations/) that is used to project sea level rise events. He also shared a modeling database published by USGS, the [Puget Sound Coastal Storm Modeling System (PS-CoSMoS](https://www.usgs.gov/centers/pcmsc/science/ps-cosmos-puget-sound-coastal-storm-modeling-system)) which also produces sea level rise projections in the Puget Sound. This tool will be updated with unincorporated Pierce County data at the end of 2024 and will be available in early 2025. These models are also helpful in evaluating impacts of flooding which are of greater intensity than they were in the past.

## Next Meeting

The PWR LIO will meet again on December 11th from 10:00am-12:00pm.

## List of Participants

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| ***Name*** | ***Agency*** |
| Amy Warren | Puget Sound Clean Air Agency |
| Ashley D. Mocorro Powell | University of Washington |
| Celine Smith-Jolibois | Puyallup Tribe of Indians |
| Char Naylor | Puyallup Tribe of Indians |
| Chris Chaput | Pierce County |
| Cindy Callahan | Tacoma Pierce County Health Department |
| Cindy Haverkamp | Tacoma Pierce County Health Department |
| Delaney Morris | City of Tacoma |
| Elizabeth McManus | Ross Strategic |
| Glenn Johnson | Pierce Conservation District |
| Heather Green | Pierce Conservation District |
| Julie Ann Koehlinger | Department of Natural Resources |
| Krystal Kyer | Pierce County |
| Lisa Spurrier | Pierce County |
| Marlie Sloan | Pierce County |
| Meghan Whidden | Tacoma Pierce County Health Department |
| Melissa Buckingham | Pierce Conservation District |
| Nick Bond | Office of the Washington State Climatologist |
| Rikki McGee |  |
| Robby Wright | City of Sumner/PRWC Board |
| Tiffany Odell | Pierce County Parks |
| Tim Obrien | EPCA |
| Tom Kantz | Pierce County |
| Haley Morris | PWR LIO Assistant Coordinator |
| Kristen Durance | PWR LIO Coordinator |