

Scatter Creek Aquifer – Septic System Management Project

Purpose: To make sure water in the Scatter Creek Aquifer is safe to drink now and in the future.

Citizen's Committee notes: January 9, 2013, 6:15-8:15 pm *Approved 2/6/13.*

Rochester Middle School; 9937 Highway 12 SW, Rochester, WA 98579

Attending: Roger Max, Tom Budsberg, Karen Deal, Sandra Adix, Lowell Deguise, Bruce Morgan, Donna Smith (alternate), Chanele Shaw, Marlene Hampton, Maureen Pretell, Art Starry (staff), Scott Schimelfenig. **Speaker:** Nadine Romero (staff). **Facilitator:** Jane Mountjoy-Venning (staff). **Note taker:** Jane Mountjoy-Venning. **Guests:** Amanda Neice (alternate), Rene Healey, Karen Johnson, and Heather Saunders (staff attending as member of public). **Excused:** Gene Weaver.

Introductions: sign in sheet-guests and members

Agenda review and approval

Approve December notes:

- Notes were approved with the addition of Rene Healey and Susan Healey as guests.

Other housekeeping:

- February meeting will be back at the Rochester School District board room and will feature two speakers from the state Department of Health on drinking water standards, nitrates, and other drinking water contaminants.

Report on any community input, questions, etc.: None this time.

Intro to Scatter Creek geology, hydrogeology basics, and a bit on groundwater modeling:

Nadine Romero, Hydrogeologist, gave a presentation about Scatter Creek hydrogeology and groundwater modeling. The presentation slides and outline are posted on the website.

Major points in presentation:

- Overview of the bedrock geology and the 'infilling' of the valley from glacial outburst floods.
- Watershed boundaries are based largely on physiography (top of hill altitudes).
- Eastern and western ground water numerical model boundaries are based on hydrogeologic science and water quality datasets (current and older) that are available.
- Mini-groundwater models were observed to show "cells" (cubes) with water in them connecting to each other and how ground water flows from cube to cube. In the groundwater model Nadine constructs, each cube will be represented mathematically.
- Anyone can go into GeoData (www.geodata.org) and determine the area of the watershed or the area of their property, etc.
- When modeling, it is important to mimic the natural environment, testing the model against real data from the study area to assure accuracy.

Major points from the discussion:

- There is concern that eastern boundary of the model does not include the full aquifer, including the Tenino sewage treatment plant. There is also a concern that some in the public perceive that the study does not seem valid because of this.
- Nadine pointed out that while the Tenino sewage treatment plant is not in the actual numerical model, it will be analyzed for any available water quality and hydraulic data to enter into the model at the boundary itself as it is directly upgradient of the study area and numerical model. Research for datasets in this area will be included to 'start' the model and evaluated.
- It was clarified that the boundary shown on the map is the boundary of the aquifer study area. It is not the boundary of the entire Scatter Creek aquifer.

Public Comment: A citizen spoke due to concern about a dumpsite near 163rd and Case Road, particularly what might be leaching into the groundwater. Jane took the information and shared it with Gerald Tousely, 867-2589, head of the county hazardous waste program for further investigation.

Wrap up

- Review any tasks/commitments & timeframe
- Review notes, capture any missing points