

**Hood Canal Regional Pollution Identification and Correction
NEP Phase 2 Grant
Guidance Group Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2015**

Hood Canal Coordinating Council meeting room
17791 Fjord DR NE, Suite 124, Poulsbo, WA 98370

The next guidance group meeting will be on March 7th from 10 until 1 at the Hood Canal Coordinating Council office in Poulsbo.

Jefferson Health and Mason Health will provide the Hood Canal Coordinating Council a report of all activity conducted under the HCRPIC implementation grant with hotspot and failure status and parcel survey dates by the end of December 2015.

Mike (Jefferson Health) will provide a graph of the autosampler results for distribution with the next guidance group meeting agenda.

Present hotspot investigation information to the guidance group to close a hotspot. The implementation quality assurance project plan contains a flowchart showing the procedure for Fecal Pollution Hotspot Closure (Figure 4, page 18).

Leslie will check to see whether Jefferson can sample for entero bacteria in marine waters downgradient of sub-surface fresh water drainages. The WSDOH swimming beach QAPP has the entero details.

Mason Health will select a site for autosampler testing.

Jefferson, Kitsap, and Mason need to select potential sites for Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe DNA testing project.

Mason will send a list of potential Hoodsport business partners to Leslie.

Attendees

Leslie Banigan, Kitsap Public Health (Kitsap Health)
Erika Bates, Washington State University Extension, Mason
Seth Book, Skokomish Tribe
Matt Brincka, Washington State University Extension, Kitsap
Mike Dawson, Jefferson Public Health
Anne Fowler, Kitsap Health
Glenn Gately, Jefferson Conservation District
Bob Simmons, Washington State University Extension, Olympic Region
Debbie Riley, Mason County Public Health (Mason Health)
Jean Snyder, Washington State Department of Health
Cindy Waite, Mason Health

Hood Canal Regional Highlights

Mason County hosted a very successful and well-attended PIC workshop on November 12, 2015 in Shelton. These workshops are hosted several times each year by jurisdictions with PIC programs. They provide opportunities to share strategies, tools, and successes.

Mason Health featured the Hood Canal Regional PIC project:

- 2015 education and outreach work conducted in Hoodsport under a Puget Sound Partnership grant.
- The Hood Canal regional project counties and tribes have built a strong partnership. Scientists from the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and the Skokomish Tribe are working to help us find new techniques in areas where PIC work has not been effective

Introductions

Leslie welcomed the group and introduced Anne Fowler, who will be helping staff the guidance group meetings. The group introduced themselves.

Leslie reminded the group of the historic nature of this regional implementation phase. Our project is followed closely statewide and nationally and this can be a great opportunity to highlight local accomplishments.

She provided an overview of the regional implementation project status: our quality assurance project plan was approved in February 2015; we submitted three FEATs reports (October 2014, April 2015, October 2015); and conducted

four guidance group meetings (November 23, 2014, March 3, June 11, and September 29, 2015).

Leslie offered her assistance to the partners to brainstorm strategies and potential solutions as needed.

Leslie is carefully reviewing the 2014-2015 Shoreline Survey of the Hood Canal 6 Shellfish Growing Area. There is a wealth of specific recommendations in the report that can be used to inform our implementation work.

Quarterly Reports

Leslie summarized the implementation grant commitments – Mason and Jefferson Health each committed to investigate 40 shoreline hotspots, conduct 125 parcel inspections related to the hotspots, and correct all fecal coliform sources identified during the project.

Leslie clarified that sites that Washington State Department of Health refers to Mason or Jefferson can be considered “confirmed hotspots”

Wet season 2014-2015:

Kitsap Health:

12 miles of shoreline surveyed in Hood Canal 4 and Hood Canal 5

No confirmed hotspots

No hotspots needing confirmation

Jefferson Health:

Four confirmed shoreline hotspots, 28 parcel surveys, five OSS failures (three in Irondale, two in Hood Canal 1), and four OSS violations (two unpermitted installations, one uncovered tank, and one over capacity)

Mason Health:

1 miles of shoreline surveyed in Hood Canal 6 – Hoodspout

Dry season work conducted May through September 2015:

Kitsap Health

12 miles of shoreline surveyed in Hood Canal 4 and Hood Canal 5

One confirmed hotspot located in front of Holly Community Club (this flow dried up and the investigation is pending flow resumption.)

Mason Health

1 mile of shoreline surveyed in Hood Canal 6 – Hoodsport

Implementation Project Status (through September 2015 reports)

Leslie has put together a running total of implementation activity for Jefferson Health and Mason Health based on the reports they have submitted.

Jefferson

Jefferson reports six hotspots (Irondale Creek and Little Goose Creek, and WSDOH referrals OB053, HC0755, Brinnon, Pleasant Harbor, and Duckabush).

Since January 2015, Jefferson has conducted eleven parcel surveys (three in Irondale, five in Oak Bay, one in Paradise Bay, and two in Duckabush). They identified two OSS failures (one in Irondale and one in Paradise Bay) and four violations (one uncovered tank, two installed without permit, one over-capacity).

Mason

Mason Health started conducting work before the implementation grant was contracted in August 2014 in response to a Hoodsport harvest request from the Skokomish Tribe to WSDOH.

Since August 2014, Mason reports fourteen hotspots (two in Hoodsport, one in Hamma Hamma, six in North Shore, three in Potlatch, and two in South Shore). They have conducted eleven parcel surveys (three in Hoodsport, two in Hamma Hamma, two in North Shore, three in Potlatch, and one in South Shore). They have identified three OSS failures (two in Hamma Hamma and one in Northshore). One removed toilets from bathrooms in the old processing plant, one repair is in progress, and one replaced a crushed pipe.

Jefferson Health Report

Jefferson's reporting has been challenging because they typically report on a quarterly basis and we are asking for them to report by weather season. For the sake of timely reporting and ease of reporting, Leslie suggested that Jefferson could report from October through March and April through September.

Mike will submit an updated implementation report for activity conducted under the HCRPIC implementation grant to date by the end of December 2015.

Jefferson has conducted the following shoreline surveys:

- 3.5 miles in the Irondale area
- 1.5 miles in Oak Bay
- 1.2 miles in Paradise Bay
- 2.5 miles in Brinnon
- 1.5 miles in Duckabush

The weather was extremely dry during the 2015 summer season and Paradise Bay drainages dried up before confirmations could be collected.

Jefferson has six shoreline hotspots, they have completed 24 parcel surveys in the hotspot drainages (recently completed three parcel surveys in Irondale, five in Oak Bay/Little Goose Creek, two in Paradise Bay, one in Brinnon, and one in Duckabush. They have found seven OSS failures (dry season 2015: one greywater repair in Irondale, one pump repair at Brinnon State Park) and five OSS violations.

Jefferson plans to work in the Hood Head area during the next dry weather season.

They have not started work in Pleasant Harbor because they are looking for a boat that is needed for shoreline work in this area. They plan to conduct their wet weather shoreline work in March 2016.

Mike wondered whether they could sample for entero bacteria in marine waters downgradient of sub-surface fresh water drainages.

Jefferson Health worked with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe to conduct a field test of an autosampler in Irondale Creek. The bacterial levels stayed high but were higher at night. An optical brightener probe and a triptopham probe were deployed in conjunction with the autosampler test. The E.coli results did not show any relationship with the optical brightener results but the triptopham trend was similar to the E.coli trend.

Mike will provide the group with a graph of the autosampler work to compare with the results that Kitsap gets from January autosampling in Lofall for the next guidance group meeting.

Mason Health Report

Cindy will submit an updated implementation report of all activity conducted under the HCRPIC implementation grant to date by the end of December 2015.

Cindy reported that Mason Health has conducted shoreline surveys of .95 miles of Hoodsport shoreline during wet and dry seasons. They have repaired 22 OSS, 17 of which were on the shoreline. Two of these replaced cesspools (one North Shore and one South Shore). In September there were many tank replacements, probably as a result of the septic tank maintenance blitz Mason conducted in June 2015. They get a lot of great information from maintenance inspections – a recent inspection showed the Hoodsport Ice Cream store OSS is failing.

Skokomish Tribe Report

Seth reported that the Skokomish Tribe has expanded their water quality laboratory to make space for a GC/MS (Gas Chromatograph/Mass spectrophotometer) and HPLC (High Pressure Liquid Chromatograph). After method development these instruments will be able to analyze samples for Pesticides, Herbicides, Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds and other constituents of interest. The lab is Washington State Department of Ecology accredited to analyze surface water samples for Total Phosphorus and Nitrite and Ammonia.

Procedure brainstorming

Cindy asked about how to proceed with hotspots where no more work is scheduled.

Leslie noted that the implementation quality assurance project plan contains a flowchart showing the procedure for Fecal Pollution Hotspot Closure (Figure 4, page 18. This details the process for presenting the hotspot activity to the guidance group for closure.

The group discussed how OSS are sized by bedrooms and how to handle RV's hooked into OSS. Cindy currently sends educational information about the risks of overusing OSS. Mike is considering enforcing sites with unpermitted recreational vehicles.

The group thought it would be a good idea to start keeping a list of locations where shellfish beds are closed based on potential failures or contamination but samples are clean. These are sites that may not respond to typical PIC methods. Some of these sites are closed because they are assumed to be undersized. These could be assessed with water meters but land-owners are reluctant.

Pilot Nutrient Studies

Leslie has been working with Andy James, UW, on the pilot nutrient studies. The draft Mason County Evaluation of Nutrient and Bacteria Loading from Seepage Pits was sent to the group with the agenda. The Jefferson pilot nutrient study will be drafted next.

Mason County Evaluation of Nutrient and Bacteria Loading from Seepage Pits

- Objective: Utilize focused field sampling and water quality analysis to evaluate whether seepage pits located on near-shore parcels are a significant source of nitrogen or bacteria loading to Hood Canal.
- 30 parcels with seepage pits
- Past shoreline sampling results suggest that there is considerable variation at a given site, and there are seasonal variations.
- Propose: repeated sampling with two sets (Jan-March and July – Sept.to account for seasonal differences) of three sampling events per set.
- Multiple sampling locations will be selected to increase probability of detection of seepage pit signal.
- Sample locations will be selected for those associated with full-time occupancy.

There is an option to utilize a UW student intern to match with Mason staff. Mason staff would deliver the bacteria samples to Thurston Water Lab and the UW staff would deliver the nutrient samples to UW, manage the data, and produce a final report. This would cost an additional \$5,000 - \$7,000 that could be transferred from the PIC task to the nutrient study task. Mason Health and the rest of the guidance group thought this would be a good option.

Mason County plans to conduct the seepage pit assessment during the July – September 2016 low tides, when more residences are occupied.

The focus of this study is to determine whether known seepage pits are a public health concern.

Jefferson seepage pits are 500 feet or more from the shoreline. They will be working in the Irondale and Chimacum area to determine baseline nutrients.

Hoodsport Social Marketing Project

- 2016 1st quarter – Audience research in Hoodsport and Northshore
- 2016 2nd quarter – follow up outreach to Model Stewardship grant participants
- 2016 3rd quarter – conduct new outreach with priority on seasonal residents

The group discussed the public notification methods. The Model Stewardship grant site visit participants received three mailings. This notification method worked well for site visit preparation but tended to attract those who are already interested or have favorable opinions. The door to door method tends to give a more representative range of public opinion.

The Hood Canal regional team needs to keep track of success stories so that we can share them with Hood Canal residents and legislators.

The group brainstormed incentives for audience research and for those inviting site visits: coffee cards, local business, gambling coupon. Mason will brainstorm potential business partners and send a list of potential partners to Leslie.

Cindy will coordinate the Hoodsport tank inspection rebates with the Hoodsport education and outreach.

Next Meeting

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