



# Hood Canal Coordinating Council

Jefferson, Kitsap & Mason Counties; Port Gamble S'Klallam & Skokomish Tribes

## Hood Canal Regional PIC Program

### Guidance Group Meeting Summary

May 1, 2020; 10:00am-1:00pm

**Via Webex**

#### **Attendees:**

Haley Harguth, Hood Canal Coordinating Council  
Alena Reynolds, WA Dept. of Ecology (new non-point pollution specialist)  
Alex Paysee, Mason County Public Health  
Amanda Christopherson, Jefferson County Public Health  
Glenn Gately, Jefferson Conservation District  
Ian Tracy, Mason County Public Health  
Jacqueline Stenman, Jefferson County Public Health  
Jen Doughty, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group  
Julian Sammons, Skokomish Tribe  
Jean Frost, WA Dept. of Health  
Kendall Carman, Mason Conservation District  
Lara Gaasland-Tatro, Jefferson County Public Health  
Leslie Banigan, Kitsap Public Health District  
Sam Phillips, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe  
Seth Book, Skokomish Tribe  
Sheila Marcoe, WA Dept. of Ecology (new acting supervisor of watershed resources unit)  
Tim Wiessman, Jefferson County Public Health  
Mike Dawson, Jefferson County Public Health  
Scott Turnoff, WA Dept. of Health (new water quality restoration program lead)  
John Bolender, Mason Conservation District

#### Meeting Objectives:

- Kick off HCRPIC Phase 4!
- Finalize administrative tasks to get work underway
- Set workplan priorities

#### Partner Updates

##### **Kitsap County**

Priority list includes Lofall Creek, Gamble Creek, Port Gamble Bay.

Developing a clean water Kitsap septic tank service voucher program, a rebate vouchers for priority areas

A lot of work with deficient pump reports and complaints, but we have not done any field work much field work, due to COVID limitations. Need to get safety procedures up to date, revised with current knowledge.

### **Mason County**

Upgrades in Big Bend, Alderbrook

Continuing to work on failures found in Ph. 3. Many are corrected, or waiting on final repairs. Over half are corrected and done.

### **Jefferson County**

Centennial funded projects in HC area. Central HC project covers Duckabush and Brinnon, extended through June. Some survey & investigation work scaled back due to COVID. Doing some water quality monitoring.

Northern HC Project – underway (Jacqueline)

Mats Mats project – underway (Laura)

Starting foundational monitoring project to cover entire eastern county. Working on QAPP now. Will enable continues work in Duckabush area, and others.

### **Skokomish Tribe**

Working on monitoring plans and our semi-annual reports for EPA our BIA projects

Working on writing other grants to keep our HAB program funded. Will probably shut that down in September if further funds are not received.

Focused on Anna's Bay more now. Coordinating with Mason Co on Annas Bay and Jefferson Co on Duckabush. Focusing on areas of previous high hits to prevent impacts to shellfish. Really want to see county focus efforts on Annas Bay SPD Response Plan.

### **Dept of Health**

Wrapped up annual reporting cycle, all of the annual reports and early warning system reports are available on DOH website. This year was the lowest number of threatened areas since 2013 and we have two failing stations in Dyes Inlet, Chico Bay and then in Henderson Bay, Mentor Bay that we are working on reclassifications right now. Anna's Bay may be the only growing area in hood canal that had threatened Marine water stations.

Continuing shoreline survey work and marine water sampling. Doing Port Townsend growing area shoreline survey right now. Recently completed Port Gamble shoreline survey. Lab capacity issues right now due to COVID.

Using county onsite inspection records online as a resource to get basic evaluation information for the growing areas right now when we can't get out on site to do surveys. Intend to keep those areas open for now and will go back to evaluate in the next cycle.

## Ecology

New staff, tracking what is going on with shellfish protection district meetings, water quality partner meetings.

## Phase 4 Workplan

- Grant objectives, components, timeline ([HCCC/DOH contract linked here](#))
  - Timeline:
    - o Work begins once Workplan is finalized. Fieldwork begins once QAPP is approved.
    - o Current grant end date: Dec 31, 2021\*
    - o Grant will be extended with addition of new funds. Likely new end date: Dec 31, 2022.
    - o Will begin work on non-field work related tasks: outreach, vouchers, strategic planning
  - Objectives:
    - o These were determined using past grants as benchmarks, with DOH input and approval.
    - o They are aspirational – some things are out of our control (like the # of hotspots or failures)
      - Mostly focused in Mason County, because the funding and the grant field work is currently focused in Mason County. If we do decide to expand that with additional funds expand the geographic reach of those funds we would come up with objectives and deliverables for the other areas as well.
- Reporting procedures:
  - o We have tried to simplify reporting a bit from previous phases; but we still need to be gathering data to show results and demonstrate effectiveness
  - o Overview (in workplan)
  - o HCRPIC Data Reports
    - PIC fieldwork data – using cumulative data report spreadsheet
    - Shoreline Survey Locations Log – to enable mapping
    - OSS Rebate program data – Asking for various types of data to better tell the story of this programs effectiveness
    - Water sampling data
      - KPHD's Water quality database – uploaded annually to state WQX system
      - Discuss training needs later
  - o Monthly Progress Reports- new form, simplified; Due monthly, required for invoice processing
  - o Quarterly Verbal Progress Report- HCRPIC members to report summary of progress, work accomplished, sampling results, ongoing investigations and OSS maintenance rebates, success stories.
  - o Closing out hotspots – information in Ph 4 work plan document
- COVID-19 implications:
  - o Contract modifications- reviewed sample language
  - o What constraints are you facing in your jurisdiction?
    - Physical distancing requirements, lab closures affecting sampling
    - Group expressed concerns about increased stress on septics while people are

working from home, focused outreach needed on flushing wipes, etc.

## COVID-19 Field Work Guidance for HCRPIC Activities

Multiple jurisdictions are working on some form of field guidance adapting to COVID-19 safety concerns and physical distancing guidelines to prepare to resume PIC activities. Group suggested forming a sub-group to share resources and develop shared HCRPIC guidelines, so as not to duplicate efforts and learn from each other, and identify any anticipated hurdles to successful completion of HCRPIC scope of work activities and deliverables. Best to communicate these concerns as soon as possible to funders.

Sub-group volunteers: Leslie, Seth, Ian Tracy, Mike Dawson

Haley will follow up to schedule a sub-group meeting.

## Program Budget

- Budget: How to allocate additional NEP funds
  - o \$100,000 new NEP funds from LIO (FY19) – SIAT indicated that they want to see funds prioritized in Mason Co.
  - o How should the funds be allocated?
    - Majority to Mason Co PIC fieldwork? Will need some additional coordination and admin funds. Other uses?
      - Split between additional rebates and PIC work
      - Need to make sure money can be spent in a timely manner
      - Can funds go to Ecology work in Mason County? Yes, but preference would be to go to local jurisdictions. Would need direction from HCCC Board.
      - Duckabush sampling would continue even if majority of funding goes to Mason County. Discussed opportunities to coordinate with HCSEG/others regarding water quality implications of Duckabush estuary restoration causeway project.
      - Funding for sustainable funding, social marketing? Funding for water quality reporting. Additional coordination funds.
      - Rebates are extremely valuable to getting work done and gaining access to properties, building relationships with community.
  - o On FY20 NTA Funding Shortlist
    - How would we want to see additional funding utilized? Fill funding gaps to become fully operational throughout HC; other ideas discussed (above) including additional rebates.

## Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Update

- Leslie discussed next steps for a QAPP addendum. She is working on changes to be reviewed by Dept of Health technical staff and NEP Quality Coordinator.
  - o In QAPP mention coordination efforts with the Tribe/tribal sites, coordination of Anna's Bay
  - o Add in information about flexibility for labs, need flexibility during Covid.
  - o Seth Book mentioned the water quality assessment for ecology and the standards used. Might be worth having Ecology discuss this process with this group.
    - Ecology - as we continue to work in different areas where we are doing investigatory monitoring, if we've looked at fecal in the past, we will continue to look at that

investigatory only, but if we're doing watershed assessments where we're trying to move up the watershed and look at overall health, then yes we would do E.coli. In those areas where the TMDL's were set for fecal, we'll continue to sample for fecal up in freshwater as well.

- Dept of Health- If you're trying to reopen closed parcels based on drainages or to confirm on-sites have been repaired, we would like to you to use fecal coliform. We believe FDA is going to require us to use fecal coliform. May have to use fecal coliform from a FDA approved lab to make reopenings in the future. Need to be prepared for this.
- Leslie would like to hear updates from Jefferson County about how some of their new methods are working.
- Would it be useful in post corrective monitoring to monitor for fecal coliform even from a non FDA approved lab? Yes.
- Leslie will reach out directly to people if she needs more information for the QAPP addendum.

## Phase 4 Priority Areas

Priority areas are based on current water quality conditions and our ongoing work and input from all of our partners on focus areas. It can be areas that we know are currently downgraded or facing downgrades, areas where we know there are problems. Group discussed the following:

### **Mason County**

Priority to finish work that wasn't completed or was in progress under phase three in various hotspots

- Mike's Beach Resort: Closed parcel
- Summertide Resort & Marine: Closed parcel
- Hoodsport: Closed Shellfish Growing Area. No discharge currently, most failures corrected, one outstanding (At Port: reduced flow, added port-a-potties, pumping frequently; working on drainfield relocation property acquisition (from County))
- Hotspot H007
- Hotspot I042
- I055
- 8821 E SR106: work ongoing (maybe fixed)
- Northshore closed parcels: Follow-up investigations
- Hotspot T089
- Hotspot T113
- Hotspot T114
- Hotspot U075
- Annas Bay Shellfish Protection District: not much shoreline sampling ingoing, planned for Potlatch area, Union. Rest of time focused on Skokomish River valley, work with tribe, use sampling data to pinpoint parcels for survey. Want to assess all parcels in valley eventually.

### **Skokomish Tribe**

Big hits in marine waters (350FC/100ml). One site in previous SPD (Site 197 in marine water) close to being closed. Picking up past shoreline sampling sites, some are likely septic, wildlife, ag. Sites are known. In past, corrections led to good water quality. Will focus on east shoreline of Annas Bay. Will coordinate with Mason Co. Millions of dollars invested in Annas Bay shoreline, now in danger of being closed.

DOH: No upcoming shoreline surveys in lower HC.

### **HCSEG Freshwater Monitoring**

Phase 3 sites on 303(d) list to provide data for delisting. Stay with those sites for Ph. 4. Revisit list once new ECY water quality assessment comes out in Fall. Add flexibility in QAPP (“other priority sites identified later”).

Sites do not cover Annas Bay/Skokomish River valley, Tribe has been backfilling that work. Use same sites used in Phase 3 to provide consistency.

Finch Creek sampling site should be moved to downstream of development (~6+houses).

Lilliwaup site: access difficult, need very low tides (and is still challenging), difficult for volunteers, safety concerns. Remove from list. Had correction completed, may not be a discharge concern. But Lilliwaup still an important area, could look at public beach access to north. Marine water station has been on and off DOH threatened list over past 6-10 years. Re-consider site location, go up higher? Try entero sampling instead? Visual monitoring of Feces along Hwy 101, above public access beach. Public use of beach has been a problem. HCSEG will explore options and propose approach at next meeting.

Select 2 freshwater monitoring sites that had higher hits, or continue with more? Could add flexibility in QAPP to add additional sites. Group decided to continue with list from last year, not add more sites.

### **Jefferson County**

Jefferson Co does ambient monitoring in Duckabush area, focused on downgrade. Shoreline and stream monitoring sites:

Duckabush area:

- DU 099 (Petit Jean Creek): candidate for closing, if make it through dry season with good results
- Pie-0.3 (Pierce Creek): Failed only part 2 of FC standard (189FC/100ml). Still higher than WQ standard for shellfish harvest.

Oak Bay:

Little Goose Creek: Closed parcels, recent wet season results low. If make it through dry season, could be candidate for closing. Had major septic repair.

Paradise Bay PB042

Mats Mats Bay MM121

Jeff. Co switched to Ecoli for all Water Quality sampling, not doing very many fecal coliform.

Jeff Co. has grants currently covering all Hood Canal shoreline. Foundational grant (centennial) has prioritized shorelines. Will send to Haley. Will report on these hotspots, and others that come in.

## **Kitsap County**

Lofall Creek: One of dirtiest creek in County, shellfish closure at mouth

Gamble Creek: identified by DOH in sanitary survey. Has problem areas.

Port Gamble Bay

Deficient pump reports & complaints

HC 1 Shoreline hotspots from past surveys

UH163- hotspot

UH171

UH208

Kinman Creek (\*if time)

Vinland Creek (\*if time)

\*DOH can help with shoreline sampling to give county direction. KPHD does shoreline sampling at mouth of creeks 1x month. DOH and KPHD will coordinate on precise locations needing survey.

Haley will clean up Workplan and send back out to everyone to review.

Topics that we didn't get to today that we can discuss at a future meeting:

- rebate program and our guidelines/approach
- strategic planning for sustainable funding
- communications
- training and training needs (fieldwork procedures adapting to Covid, data training/recording, etc)

Haley proposed holding a shorter meeting within the next 3 months to focus on these topics.

Leslie – as far as communication piece, what about coordinating with a college student project, or a photographer from HCSEG to help with that? Vouchers are a great opportunity to feature the public who have had a good experience using the vouchers.

Next steps: Leslie to send out draft QAPP, Haley to send out draft Workplan, Haley to send out doodle for next meeting.

Meeting ended 1pm.

