



# Hood Canal Coordinating Council

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

## Hood Canal Regional PIC Program

### Guidance Group Meeting 2 – Meeting Notes

Jul 9, 2020; 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Via Zoom

#### Attendees

Haley Harguth, HCCC

Leslie Banigan, KPHD

Anne Baxter, ECY water quality specialist, nonpoint

Alena Reynolds, ECY non-point pollution specialist S. Sound shellfish growing areas

Alex Paysse, Mason Co

Glenn Gately, Jefferson Conservation District

Ian Tracy, Mason Co

Jacqueline Stenman, Jefferson Co PH, Central HC

Jen Doughty, HCSEG

Jen Thurman-Williams, Mason CD

Julian Sammons, Skokomish Tribe

Mike Dawson, Jefferson Co

Paul McCollum, PGST

Scott Chernoff, DOH, WQ restoration program lead

Seth Book, Skokomish Tribe

Tim Weissman, Jefferson Co PH, Central HC

Lara Gaasland-Tatro, Jefferson Co PH

Meeting Objective: Finalize Phase 4 Workplan

#### Partner Updates: Quick re-cap of activities since our last meeting, including:

- Overview of shellfish upgrades/downgrades, or changes in progress
- Ongoing work in Priority Areas
- Emerging issues
- Coordination/training needs

#### KPHD

- working in shoreline hotspot areas found last wet season
  - o Edgewater Park by jumpoff joe creek – 2 homes, setting up dye test for end of month
  - o Otter issues in two locations – preparing closure in one area; other area very wet, investigating 2 more properties on either side
  - o Port Gamble Bay complaints
  - o Holly hotspot no flow – nothing else confirmed
- Next shoreline survey of 4&5 next year

#### Mason Co

- o Some sampling at Finch Creek – results: 10 on mainstem, poop pipe: 70.
  - o Poop pipe lower than historic results. DOH reclassification of Hoodspout growing area, make sure they are up to date on recent data. Mason Co working with DOH to provide data.

- Sampling at Weaver Creek in relation to Skok monitoring results, sanitary survey on one property, no overt issues, homeowner reported issues only when system is underwater (flooding). Sampled upstream 2 sites, near salmon hatchery, results very low; owner agreed to O&M on OSS.
  - Skok will continue monitoring this site, TMDL site directly downstream. Property has some cattle, dogs
- HWY 106 property referred by Skok, sent letter, no response yet.
- Attempted contact of Mike's Beach Resort, no response; attempted in-person contact, told he wasn't present

#### Jefferson Co

- Central HC project finished (Duck/Dose); doing final reporting now. Some improvements there, one hotspot to be closed. Continuing to sample area (Duck, Dose, Pierce Crk), working on QAPP for foundational grant
- Continuing to work on N.HC. Started dry season shoreline sampling. No results yet.
  - Paradise Bay (PB042) sampling in May, results high 247 (not as high as before), but under hotspot threshold. Ramping up PIC work again now. Researching properties, sent mailers to those with gates and no-trespassing signs.
- Duck River & Pierce Crk high hits: follow up monitoring results low. Still looking to survey in Pierce creek area, recent decommissioning of OSS along stream. Hotspot D099 dry season follow up monitoring to close out hotspot
- Little Goose Creek in Oak Bay dry season follow-up monitoring
- Increase in approved area in Quilcene (NE part of bay), draft report being reviewed right now. DOH reviewing request now.

#### DOH

- Working on QAPP addendum for Hoodspport area shoreline survey report, expect (but no guarantees) for much of the area to go to approved status. One repair pending at Port bathrooms (controlled system right now - long term fix still incomplete, need to confirm that this is captured in the report, not waiting on this repair to be completed, the pollution problem is currently contained, Scott C. to confirm that this is accurately captured in the report).
  - Skok and HCRPIC working on this area for many years. Need to get this done so we can move on to work in Annas Bay. Hoodspport Port bathroom problem is low priority/contained. Most of work has been around Finch Creek. Skok will need to review the final report.
- Shoreline surveys planned in Jeff Co area? What are details of work to be done? Will share list (<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Shellfish/GrowingAreas>). Work this year will include: Jeff: PT, Kilisut Harbor. Link to FTP site for preliminary water data – all data for marine waters, field sheets and lab results

#### ECY

- Hunter Farms Co. – own land in Skok valley, number of complaints for cattle access to 10 acre creek and Weaver creek over year. Response in coordination w/CD. Starting to focus on that problem, a letter was sent recently. Delicate situation, navigating cautiously. Coordinating w/Skok Tribe as well. Looking to schedule site visit, develop relationship with landowner.
  - Issues on reservation with Hunter Cattle. 106 bridge, right bank access. Skok not able to monitor as much as past. Fencing issues. Might float area to monitor soon. Offered to include ECY staff on float (may not be able to due to COVID). Can see cow feces underwater in intertidal area. River is reservation land, upland is not. Directly upstream of shellfish growing area.

- Skok: encourage ECY to sample this slough area, not accessible by foot. High priority site. Skok samples at 106 and 22-300 ft downstream in mouth of slough. In mainstem, still significant pollution increase, only Hunter ag use in stretch (other side of river is tribe's wetland).
- Applications for non-point/restoration projects grant, due mid-Sept for feedback/questions
  - Mostly non-point issues in area for TMDL, tribe not going for state non-point funds, CD could, to then pass-through to residents for BMPs.
    - Possible to segment sample the farms? Difficult b/c they're smaller, surrounded by private property owners. Can segment main stem of river to sample creek mouths. Tribe will continue to monitor. Overall, Skok River is pretty clean, except when flooding. KPHD has been successful in bracket sampling small rivers, helps to build relationships with landowners.

#### Mason CD

- Will share information w/staff. Hunter is a difficult relationship.
  - Skok: look at Google maps, follow slough up, can see 30 heads of cattle in stream. At Hunter Farms u-pick area.

#### Skokomish

- Great having Alena (ECY) and Ian (Mason Co) to share information on off-res WQ work. Will continue to provide info
- Add Anne to ECY discussion. Get all jurisdictions staff together to coordinate (Skok, Mason PH, ECY). Seth will schedule meeting.
- Seth part of PSP shellfish effectiveness/restoration steering group. Want local health jurisdictions, tribes

#### Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

- Autosampler available to loan
- eDNA sampling possible in troubling hotspots
  - Jeff Co: interested in using eDNA to compare with MST results. Donovan Creek good site.
  - Kitsap interested as well in 2 hotspots
  - Skok
  - HLH: set up call ASAP

#### Jefferson CD

- Focusing on Chimacum Creek drainage BMPs

#### HCSEG

- No updates, catching up on work done previously

Lab capacity issues no longer a hurdle.

#### Phase 4 Grant Status

- \$100,000 budget amendment submitted to DOH for processing
- QAPP submitted to ECY for review
- Priority Areas, Field Guide submitted to DOH for review

#### Phase 4 Workplan

[Draft Ph. 4 Workplan document linked here](#)

- Reporting procedures ([Data Report spreadsheet linked here](#), [progress report template](#))

[linked here](#))

- Be aware of WQ data uploading deadlines, at end of year each year
  
- Training needs
  - HCSEG: reporting training
    - Gauging workload to assess if citizen volunteers needed
    - A couple citizen volunteers on standby
  - Jefferson: statistical data analysis training (KPHD did this before);
    - BACI analysis studies: determining hotspot closures (KPHD has some resources on previous use in HC); how to interpret in-between results, confidence in determining improvements
    - Getting equipped to use R (KPHD used to have internal expert)
    - KPHD runs internal analysis programs, set up by someone else, don't use a lot of statistical analysis
  - Mason: hiring WQ staff soon (by Aug), would like training w/Leslie on shoreline survey work
  
- OSS Maintenance Rebate Program guidelines
  - Not just a short-term one-off tool; Long term goal: trying to encourage homeowners to implement a regular maintenance routine
  - Need to collect more information about vouchers in order to assess and communicate effectiveness
  - Skok happy that this program is ongoing, have invested their regional funds in past to encourage this effort; prioritize funds to sites without records, gets access to sites, help people solve monetary hurdles to complete voluntary work. Change discussion from fear of government intrusion/enforcement, to helping solve septic problems with homeowner. Offer funds to subsidize low-income landowners to do self-monitoring. Benefits everybody to get WQ problems dealt with. Allows people to keep their old cabins on HC. How to be equitable with incentives; some people do not need these rebates, target right people, shows that we are trying to do the right thing, help those that need help.
  - Highlight this program to show how government can help, that this component is vital to PIC programs
  - Jeff: primary carrot to homeowners, really important. Additional reporting no problem. Difficulty that we have an ongoing rebate program for years that is different than HCRPIC guidelines. Criteria updated this year, similar to last phase. Both gravity and pump systems. Has to be first inspection. O&M team then handles inspection reminders from that point. Want to increase dollar amount, to make it a real incentive.
  - Mason: Need clear guidelines, in order to turn people down if needed. Very difficult to determine economic hardship. Important tool for Mason Co in requiring maintenance, to have this resource, has been successful in past.
  - Criteria
    - Economic hardship? Impossible to do equitably? Too much effort to do for each applicant.
    - Need to enable flexibility in use of rebates
    - Guidance Group determine eligibility on case-by-case basis? Too burdensome? Could do with web survey tools?
  - Tiered eligibility?
    - Ex.:
      - Tier 1: Max \$: Pollution issues in drainage; Need immediate repair
      - Tier 2: Less \$: No known records, no past rebate

- Tier 3: Least \$: In priority area, received past rebate
  - Needs more discussion
    - Sub-group: Leslie, Alex, Mike (and/or Linda) – HLH to schedule ASAP
  
- Sustainable funding strategic planning: How can the HCRPIC Program help local jurisdictions establish and maintain sustainable funding for water quality (PIC) programs?
  - Get Mason up to level of other jurisdictions
    - Mason staff focusing on this now, Loretta Swanson ideas? (different than current approach)
    - Current approach: 7 SPDs implemented/codified over time, overlap/abut each other cover good portion of county. Admin of SPDs required to maintain/report, citizen committees, very time consuming without resources. Proposing combining SPDs into Clean Water District to reduce admin redundancies. 1 citizen committee to oversee work.
      - CWD would enable implementing SPD fee (a la Jeff Co (\$20 fee))
      - Commissioners supportive of combining SPDs into CWD, more reluctant about funding – different opinions on how to fund it, amount of fee, or how to do it. One idea: \$5 fee across entire county, doesn't total enough. How to get them on same page to move forward with something. Been talked about for decades, and supported, but question of how to fund it, can't come to agreement. HCRPIC could help to provide data/reports.
      - Would Hoodspout celebration be helpful to encourage support?
        - Tribe reluctant to publicize opening of shellfish resource
        - Would it send message that good work is being done despite minimal funding?

### **Next Steps**

- Schedule next meeting: HLH to send Doodle.