



# Hood Canal Coordinating Council

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

## Hood Canal Regional PIC Program Guidance Group Meeting Summary

June 2, 2021; 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Via Zoom

### Meeting Objectives

- Share updates on PIC activities

### Attendees

Barbara Adkins, Mason Conservation District  
Leslie Banigan, Kitsap Public Health District  
Evan Bauder, Mason Conservation District  
Anne Baxter, Washington State Dept. of Ecology  
Seth Book, Skokomish Indian Tribe  
Scott Chernoff, WA Dept. of Health  
Mike Dawson, Jefferson Co. Public Health

Andy Hokit, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group  
Joe Holtrop, Jefferson Conservation District  
Paul McCollum, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe  
Julian Sammons, Skokomish Indian Tribe  
Ian Tracy, Mason Co. Public Health  
Nate White, Hood Canal Coordinating Council

### Phase 4 Grant Status

HCCC staff provided background on a [grant amendment proposal](#) that was approved by the Guidance Group at a special meeting to amend the HCRPIC Phase 4 grant Scope of Work and budget to increase support for HCRPIC partners' existing Phase 4 work. More details can be found in the [meeting summary](#).

HCCC sent the grant amendment to the Washington Department of Health (DOH) for approval. HCCC will update the Guidance Group on the status of the amendment going forward. Once the amendment is approved, HCCC will initiate subcontract amendments with HCRPIC partners receiving reallocated funds.

### HCRPIC Data Reporting

#### Data Reports

- HCCC staff reminded the group to submit Data Reports for PIC work completed between 2/18/21 and 5/26/21. This data is crucial for grant reporting to show the success of the HCRPIC program.

#### Progress reports

- HCCC staff also reminded the group to submit progress reports with invoices by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month (ex. May monthly reports due June 15). **Progress reports are needed to pay invoices.** Invoices will not be paid until progress reports are received/reviewed by HCCC staff.
- HCCC edited the progress report template to clarify the septic rebate reporting section. We want to report on actual money spent on septic rebates, so the language now specifies the number of rebates redeemed (vs. the number of rebates "distributed"). We also now specify the time periods that rebates were given out, adding a table for the number and amount of rebates redeemed each month, and a table for the number and amount of rebates redeemed cumulatively for Phase 4.
- **Save a copy of the updated Progress Report template linked above and use it going forward.**

#### Septic rebate documentation

- HCCC staff reviewed proper documentation requirements for septic rebates. These requirements are for auditing purposes and match best accounting practices. Reimbursements lacking proper documentation will be denied by HCCC.
- Proper documentation entails:
  - o Receipts showing work done
  - o Internal forms showing a rebate was given (who, when, amount of \$)
  - o Documentation for each rebate given (ex. if two rebates are redeemed, we need two receipts showing the work and two internal forms showing a rebate was given)
  - o Here is an [example](#) of proper documentation

#### Reopened parcels check in

- There is a question of whether the HoodSport growing area reclassification of 66 acres from Prohibited to Approved counts towards the “Reopen 30 closed parcels in Mason County due to elevated bacteria in drainages or due to failing onsite septic systems” objective in the Phase 4 HCRPIC scope of work.
- After the meeting, Scott Chernoff from the WA Department of Health talked with his colleagues about this and sent this clarification:
  - o The 66 acres upgraded in HoodSport counts for acres upgraded. This is a big deal, not just for water quality and celebrating the successes of the program, but it also satisfies another one of the major objectives specified in the scope of work, which is to “Upgrade 50 acres from Prohibited to Approved” in HoodSport area of Hood Canal 6. This big success absolutely counts towards this objective.
  - o However, it does not count towards the reopen 30 closed parcels objective, as this objective is for closed parcels that are in Approved areas or areas classified to allow harvest.
  - o Scott encouraged anyone with further questions or concerns to reach out to him or Jean Frost with the Department of Health.

#### Comments:

- Unfair that the HoodSport upgrade doesn’t count toward reopened parcels
- Grey area because HoodSport started as prohibited in 1970s, then went to open due to HCRPIC work. Was it ever “closed”?
- Definitions of closures, upgrades vary. If a septic was fixed, house was posted: that should count
- May be a difference in metric definitions: parcels vs acreage. DOH will talk to grant folks to clarify
- To not recognize hard work, investment of HoodSport reopening is not fair
- Difference in utility of shellfish closures: shellfish area upgrades vs. county work to show PIC success to reopen parcels (which doesn’t translate to upgrading shellfish acreage but is still important)
- DOH narrowing deliverables just to reopening closed parcels discounts our PIC work: we want full credit for wherever PIC work occurs upgrades (ex. parcels fixed upriver affect shellfish growing areas)
- Look at Phase 3 maps to see hotspots opened

## Partner Updates

- Quick re-cap of activities since our last meeting, including:
  - o Overview of shellfish upgrades/downgrades, or changes in progress
  - o Reopened parcels
  - o Ongoing work in Priority Areas
  - o Emerging issues
  - o Coordination/training needs
  - o Share success stories

- Photos (no property identifiers)

Mason Co.

- Received sampling results from Potlatch State Park to Potlatch Point: high hit (290) on a beach seep by a boat drag on a property on Skokomish reservation, across from PUD 1, only septic repair on record is a dry well, no connection from public sewer, most other samples fairly clean
  - Are dry wells OK?
    - They're OK if they haven't failed: sewage has to flow into a tank first/has to have primary treatment first
- High Hotspot (1000s) at Main street and Hwy 106 from culvert, traced to property, found break in line due to tree root, waiting for confirmation in Online RME to make sure repair happened, dry now so can't do confirmation sampling
- Recent work has focused on South Sound, new hire coming on June 14, will refocus on HCRPIC then
- New Mason Co Clean Water District Fee
  - Funding online April 2022, based on parcel fee, parcel fee due January 2022, funding available in April 2022
  - A new Shellfish Protection District Advisory Committee will determine how funds will be used, county commissioners are seeking a diversity of voices
  - Initial work will be surface monitoring at 30 sites in county: 15 fixed sites at high priority sites/problem sites, and 15 other sites randomly selected and rotated. This will give good data for long term trend analysis
  - Hiring two fulltime staff to do water quality. This will reduce survey/shoreline time: currently sampled/surveyed every 10 years by DOH; new staff will cut this in half to 5 years. New staff will also mine Online RME data to pursue failures/deficiencies, overdue maintenance: done on an ad hoc basis now when capacity is available
- Closed parcel: Summertide Resort
  - Deficiency reports, current owners in process of potentially selling the property, may be opportunity for new property owners to address septic issues, new owners might not keep property as a resort, working with owners to do O&M, will continue sampling
- Closed parcel: Mike's Beach resort
  - Sampled along shoreline in wet season, no high hits, will do dry season sampling too. Owner scoops septic tank scum off himself, needs professional maintenance
- Mason Co. has reopened parcels since Phase 4: however these parcels are not listed as closed any more so it's hard to know if they count toward the 30 parcel target
- HCSEG high hit (400s) near Belfair, Mason is bracketing properties for potential sampling, there are a lot of upstream sites that the source could be coming from

Jefferson Co.

- Wrapped up wet season sampling in March, dry season sampling starting in June, bacteria levels have gone down in last few months (at hotspots and streams)
- Mats Mats 121: dry or low bacteria (illegal ADU decommissioned here)
- Paradise 42: no detection, another round of surveying (no results yet)
- Pierce Ck: low numbers, but more seasonal (summer) land use
- Candidates for reopening
  - Little Goose Creek: Low results, no other failures or concerns found
  - Oak Bay 209 (closed on DOH map, but not included in Phase 4 workplan): bacteria low, but incomplete septic repair (received violation letter)
  - Oak Bay 53: hotspot off and on, cracked septic tank, install start notification, hopefully install completed soon, composting toilet removed, occasional vacation use
- Slow on property surveys (COVID protocols: have to give notification first before showing up; will probably change soon)

- Distributed rebate info, none redeemed yet, will hopefully increase with more property surveys, O&M program, septic classes
- Major changes to county code enforcement process: appeals now go to hearing examiner, thinking of creating a septic code enforcement position, coordinating with new non-septic code enforcement position to develop an amnesty process: 6 months of amnesty if sign a voluntary compliance agreement to avoid fines; as a result only enforcing on discharges (haven't had any recently)

#### Kitsap Co.

- 7 surveys in Hood Canal: 5 no problems, 1 concern (excess water use), 1 failing
- Lofall dock: two systems permitted, one has a cracked tank lid leading to high hits once, low hits another time: will sample again to confirm, looking for evidence at bulkhead
- Big Beef Creek: two complaints: a squatter and a horse boarding facility. BMPs are now being installed at the horse boarding facility in the dry season
- Baltic Creek: agricultural complaint, pigs, chickens, low samples of e.coli
- Scenic Beach State Park: smell complaint
- To date: 51 surveys in Phase 4, 4 failures (gravity, pressure, broken lid, pending upland repair)
- Working on mailing vouchers

#### Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group

- Sampling 12 sites in lower Hood Canal, Dewatto to Liliwaup
- Just completed 9<sup>th</sup> sampling event, 107 samples; aiming for 6 more sampling events through Fall
- Successfully trained 5 new volunteers, includes students (COVID reductions helping bring more volunteers in)
- Keeping an eye on Union River, low numbers except one high hit (a little upriver of usual sampling spot)

#### Jefferson Conservation District (JCD)

- Joe started new position in the middle of March, straddling old Clallam Co. job and new job
- New Conservation Planner started in April

#### Mason Conservation District (MCD)

- Evan started position in mid-April, backfilling old position
- Hired new senior Conservation Manager May 1
- Will rehire new fulltime Farm Planner position, who will work on general livestock management BMPs, attend HCRPIC meetings, and work in Annas Bay, Oakland Bay, lower Hood Canal, Pickering Passage, and Totten and Skookum Inlets
- Also hiring an engineering position

#### Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

- No updates, will continue working on eDNA

#### Skokomish Indian Tribe

- Annas Bay being downgraded, 167 acres, stations 198, 314 (eastern shoreline) indicating high pollution, issue is cattle in riparian buffers, late summer/early fall precipitation is enough to cause surface runoff to cause nonpoint pollution spikes, most cattle moved out of pasture during wet season, but some stay
- Ecology has to follow process for closure
- Continue working on eDNA

#### Ecology

- Photos for complaints help
- Working to make Microbial Source Tracking (MST) available to HCRPIC group. \$65/sample, start

with a site in Oakland Bay to validate qPCR: good test (barn next to house: which source is the pollution coming from?)

WA Department of Health

- Current schedule for Annas Bay closure out for external review, due June 24, admin orders then go out, not finalized until early/mid-August 2021

## Wrap-up & Next Steps

- Please fill out this [Doodle Poll](#) to schedule the next HCRPIC Guidance Group meeting