

**Hood Canal Regional Pollution Identification and Correction
NEP Phase 2 Grant
Guidance Group Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2015**

Leslie Banigan, Kitsap Public Health (Kitsap Health)
Seth Book, Skokomish Tribe
Mike Dawson, Jefferson Public Health (Jefferson Health)
Glenn Gately, Jefferson Conservation District (Jefferson CD)
Amy Georgeson, Washington State Department of Health (WSDOH)
Haley Harguth, Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC)
Paul McCollum, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (PGST)
Debbie Riley, Mason County Public Health (Mason Health)
Kelly Stroh, Kitsap Conservation District (Kitsap CD)
Cindy Waite, Mason Health
Stuart Whitford, Kitsap Health

Haley and Leslie welcomed the team.

The quarterly guidance meetings are designed to provide coordination between Hood Canal Action Area partners and to provide opportunities to share resources and brainstorm. The meetings will begin with the health and natural resource sub-group to allow the jurisdictions to report their progress.

Kitsap Health

Leslie reported for Kitsap Health. They developed a pilot rotating shoreline survey program between 2010 and 2014 with the following results:

- Shoreline survey of 79 miles (27 in Hood Canal)
- 558 parcel surveys (93 in Hood Canal)
- Identified and corrected 56 OSS failures (8 in Hood Canal)
- Increased harvestable shellfish growing areas: upgraded 30.1 acres in Colvos Passage; 1.2 acres in Holly (Hood Canal)
- Developed cloud-based water quality database
- Conducted preliminary emerging contaminants research

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

Paul reported that the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (PGST) submitted an addendum to their EPA-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan for their NEP grant project. They would like each county to provide three general hotspot locations for enhanced monitoring and will select three shellfish areas of concern for enhanced monitoring:

- Developing a 24 hour monitoring system with a pump that can take six samples over a 24 hour period (example - 6pm, 8pm, 10pm, 8am, 10am, and noon). The idea is to

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determine how bacteria sample results vary depending on sample time over a 24-48 hour period.

- Separate stainless sampler with one timer and valve.
- Nearshore fluorometer towing

They have been researching needed equipment for conducting diurnal water sampling and optical brightener and Tryptophan tows in Hood Canal fecal problem areas. They have a single auto sampler.

Kitsap has referred three fecal problem areas to PGST: the mouths of Kinman, Lofall, and Vinland Creek in north Kitsap. Kinman is located just north of Kitsap Memorial Park and has responded to past PIC work with improved water quality. The creek is once again experiencing increased fecal concentrations. Kitsap Health is launching a “directed” PIC project in the area, focusing on homes within 200 feet of the stream. Kitsap has conducted PIC work in Lofall Creek since 2004 and three OSS failures were found and corrected. All residences in the drainage have been dye tested – some three times. A joint site visit was conducted with USDA Wildlife Services program staff and it was determined that the area has a raccoon infestation. The headwaters is an artesian well overflow and includes a large pond in the upper mainstem and a large marsh in a tributary. The watershed includes approximately 30 residences. Vinland Creek is an older residential development of approximately 75 residences just north of Bangor base. The neighborhood slopes to Hood Canal and has a perennial stream system and significant storm water flows. A PIC project was completed in the area in 2008 which resulted in reduced FC concentrations. Follow-up work was conducted in late 2014 in response to increased FC levels.

In February, PGST partnered with Kitsap Health to conduct a shoreline survey of 1.8 miles of Port Gamble shoreline. One sample exceeded the E.coli threshold and two confirmation samples will be collected.

Mason Health

Cindy reported for Mason Health. They are working closely with Amy of WSDOH, as she conducts her sanitary survey of Hood Canal 6. Amy has referred 3-5 parcels to Mason for investigation. This process has already resulted in identifying a crushed line that caused a north shore tank to surface and the failure was corrected within nine days!

Cindy reported that Mason is partnering with WSU Extension-Mason on a social marketing study funded by Puget Sound Partnership. They recently mailed maintenance reminders to Hoodspout and Union. They also mailed 12,000 reminders under another grant. Mason is planning an “operation and maintenance blitz” during the last two weeks of June with banners, pump discounts, school reader boards. This is an optimal time to remind seasonal residents.

Mason Health has truthed all of their 26,000 OSS records for date, type of system, and whether the drainfield is within 100’ of the shoreline.

Mason plans to start shoreline survey in Hoodsport during the third week of March. They are also beginning to assess their first seepage pit by sampling the nearby shoreline for salinity, fecal coliform, ammonia-nitrogen, nitrate+nitrite-nitrogen, and ortho-phosphorous.

Jefferson Health

Mike reported for Jefferson Health. Jefferson will be conducting PIC work in Chimacum and Port Ludlow through a Washington State Department of Ecology Centennial Clean Water Fund grant that is scheduled to begin October 2015.

They are wrapping up their Northeast Jefferson shoreline project, half of which is within the Hood Canal Action Area. They have lots of Hood Canal sites to investigate. Mike has been looking at past data to determine where they need to target PIC implementation work:

- Irondale: One OSS failures was repaired in the area but E.coli remains high. There is very little OSS operation and maintenance in this area. This area is a high priority for Jefferson as Irondale park has been remediated and restored and the southern half of the public beach is closed due to poor water quality.
- Oak Bay: Located just north of Port Ludlow, Jefferson found 16 high hits and propose adding the southern portion of Oak Bay to their priority work areas.
- Paradise Bay: This area gets a lot of summer use. Jefferson recently sampled in response to public complaint. One OSS failure was repaired in the area a few years ago. Jefferson recommends that this area be expanded south the Hood Canal bridge. Seven Sisters, one of the most popular shellfish beaches in the area, experiences seasonal closures. There are 8-10 cabins on Hood Head with no water. There may be another site with illegal construction.
- Duckabush: Jefferson is not sure about the status here after recent flooding. There are not a lot of flows along the Duckabush shoreline based on recent survey work. Six year ago, Jefferson worked just north of Duckabush along the shoreline near Robinson Road. There is a community system just northwest of there that may have more connections than permitted. They have prepared the ground work by getting to each property and documenting. One site is in the repair process. This area is a priority for follow-up.
- Quilcene: Jefferson is conducting stream monitoring through the Hood Canal Clean Streams project. They've got 175 volunteers conducting lots of riparian restoration in the Tarboo Creek and Leland Creek area.
- Dosewallips: Jefferson's focus during their last grant was north of Dosewallips in the Seal Rock area. They have not conducted much sampling in Dosewallips. There are not a lot of flows, but there is significant development in Brinnon. The state park is getting new sewer service.
- Pleasant Harbor/Black Point: This area features basalt rock outcropping, shallow soils, with a fair number of residences. Jefferson worked in the area about six years ago and found a couple of high counts in the north part of Black Rock. PIC work here would require boat access and Jefferson has a limited number of trained pilots. Seth suggested that the Skokomish tribe may be able to help out.

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Jefferson is working on their water quality database and their homeowner inspection training program. They need to be able to track OSS failure repairs better. Mason noted that their maintenance reports require information about how an OSS failure was referred, so that the database can track this.

The Team agreed to extend the Paradise Bay priority segment to the Hood Canal Bridge and adding the southern portion of Oak Bay. Amy noted that they scaled back the Paradise Bay segment to fit the initial shoreline mile estimate.

Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Status

Leslie submitted the QAPP to our National Estuary Program QAPP officer on December 18, 2014. She submitted a revised version on January 26, 2015 that incorporated an updated work area list based on 2014 water quality data. The QAPP was approved on 2-23-15.

Leslie reviewed the following elements of the revised QAPP on screen with the team:

- Measurement quality objectives
- Priority work area maps and list
- Samples will be held at 4 degrees Celsius
- Nutrient containers and holding times

Parcel Survey Form

Leslie presented the parcel survey form from the HCRPIC Guidance Document. Mike Dawson submitted Jefferson Public Health's survey form.

WSDOH has suggested that the survey form include: whether the drainfield is within 100' of surface water, whether there is an as-built record for the OSS (and construction date), and whether the site appears to be built on filled intertidal.

Nutrient Study Status

Leslie updated the group on the pilot nutrient study status. HCRPIC is working with Andy James of University of Washington to design nutrient studies that further knowledge about bacterial and nutrient sources to Hood Canal. Mason Public Health plans to assess seepage pits within 150' of the shoreline to determine bacterial and nutrient contributions to Hood Canal. These will be assessed during the wet season (January-March) and again during the dry season (August-September). Jefferson Public Health may assess seepage pits, and will conduct before and after fecal source correction studies for selected OSS repairs and animal waste best management practice implementation.

Education and Outreach - Social Marketing

Education and Outreach for this grant will build on a Puget Sound Partnership-funded social marketing project in Hoodsport, Burley Lagoon, Rocky Bay, and Vaughn Bay. Washington State University Extension are working in partnership with Washington Conservation Commission through May 2015 to conduct marketing research with residential and livestock owners in Burley Lagoon, Minter Bay, Rocky Bay, and Vaughn Bay to determine:

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- motivations and barriers to fix failing OSS, collecting and adequately disposing pet and livestock waste,
- effective incentives for behavior change, and
- the preferred messenger.

They are conducting an outreach project in Hoodspport, Burley Lagoon, Rocky Bay, and Vaughn Bay based on their research and will provide research, results, and recommendations in their final report. HCRPIC will implement priority recommendations or regional needs. This is an exciting example of several organizations partnering to better develop and adapt strategies, and measure behavior change results.

Septic Tank Inspection/Pump Vouchers

The Skokomish Tribe proposed using the \$10,000 Skokomish implementation budget to offer vouchers to inspect/pump septic tanks and to install risers. The group thought that \$200 for inspection/pumping and \$200 for riser installation should be offered to property owners based on maintenance need and parcel priority. Leslie will propose this to our grant officer.

Administration

The next Guidance Group meeting was scheduled for June 11th at the HCCC office from 1 – 3:30. We'll have cheese (Jarlsberg & Cheddar), crackers, and fruit to snack on and Leslie will make brownies!

It has been determined that the HCRPIC Guidance Group is not a formal committee of the HCCC board and not subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council Board meeting is May 20th in Bremerton at the Baymont Inn and Suites, 5640 Kitsap Way from 1 until 4. HCRPIC partners are encouraged to take this opportunity to provide a short “highlight of activities” and Leslie will provide an update of implementation progress.

In closing, Leslie noted that this HCRPIC implementation meeting is an historic occasion. We've got all the elements to support success: funding, strong leadership, grant administration (contracts, reporting, QAPP), and motivated and experienced partners. Everything is in place for the HCRPIC partners to shine.