



Hood Canal Coordinating Council

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

Hood Canal Regional PIC Program Guidance Group Special Meeting Summary

May 11, 2021; 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Via Zoom

Meeting Objectives

- Decide where to reallocate “Task 3.4 Sustainable Funding” HCRPIC grant funds

Attendees

Leslie Banigan, Kitsap Public Health District
Evan Bauder, Mason Co. Conservation District
Seth Book, Skokomish Indian Tribe
Scott Chernoff, Washington Dept. of Health
Mike Dawson, Jefferson Co. Public Health
Haley Harguth, HCCC
Andy Hokit, HCSEG

Paul McCollum, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Alex Paysse, Mason Co. Public Health
Alena Reynolds, Washington Dept. of Ecology
Julian Sammons, Skokomish Indian Tribe
Ian Tracy, Mason Co. Public Health
Nate White, Hood Canal Coordinating Council

Background

HCCC staff provided background on a proposal to amend the HCRPIC Phase 4 grant [Scope of Work](#) (SOW) and budget to increase support for HCRPIC partners' existing Phase 4 work

Task 3.4 in the HCRPIC Phase 4 SOW includes:

- Strategic planning efforts to develop and implement a plan to provide long-term sustainable funding for HCRPIC partners' PIC efforts
- Hiring an outreach consultant to support the development of a sustainable funding outreach campaign, outreach products, and presentations to decision-makers on water quality protection, program successes and sustainable funding.

During recent HCRPIC Guidance Group meetings, HCRPIC partners indicated that they are currently sufficiently funded, and have not identified an immediate need for this work. Additionally, conversations between HCCC staff and partners revealed a need for increased sampling funds to meet Phase 4 deliverables, and increased coordination funds.

There are also recent positive funding developments that reduce the immediate need for a sustainable funding strategy:

- Mason County's newly proposed clean water district fee that will create a local funding source for their water quality program. The fee was approved by the Mason Co. Board of Commissioners with a unanimous vote on May 11.
- HCCC will be awarding funds to Mason Co. through the Hood Canal Shellfish Initiative (HCSI) for the purchase of new PIC sampling equipment
- The WA State Legislature recently passed a Foundational Public Health Services bill which directs additional funds to local public health programs

Amendment proposal ([link](#))

HCCC proposes making the following revisions to the current HCRPIC Phase 4 grant SOW and budget to provide additional financial support for HCRPIC partners existing PIC work. This reallocation is not approved yet; HCCC wants to get the Guidance Group's feedback/input first, then they will process a grant amendment with DOH to make these changes. Once the amendment with DOH is finalized, individual amendments with partners receiving reallocated funds will need to be processed before these additional funds can be spent. Partners can continue their previously planned Phase 4 PIC work in the meantime.

Remove Task 3.4 (Sustainable Funding) and reallocate funds toward HCRPIC partners' existing PIC work

- This will free up ~\$15,000 to be reallocated towards other, more needed tasks
- Add \$7,000 to Mason Co's Task 3.2: PIC
- Add \$2,500 to Mason Co's Task 3.1: Coordination
- Add \$2,900 to Kitsap Co's Task 3.1: Coordination
- Add \$2,500 to Jefferson Co's Task 3.1: Coordination

Miscellaneous grant housekeeping

- Transfer HCSI funds awarded to Mason Co. to support PIC equipment purchases (\$7,362)
- Repurpose \$2,600 Task 2.7 Broader Communications funds intended for international travel to the 2020 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference in Vancouver, B.C. (which was cancelled and will be virtual in 2022) to instead be applied to outreach product support for conferences and other presentations (e.g. an ArcGIS StoryMap that highlights HCRPIC successes).
- Add \$640 to Task 1.2: QAPP to account for overspending
- Minor adjustments to HCCC staff hours across various tasks to balance budget

Discuss amendment proposal

Below is a summary of the Guidance Group's discussion of HCCC's reallocation proposal:

- Sustainable funding is important. We often don't have capacity to check on funding opportunities. OK with reallocating Task 3.4 funds, but it would be helpful to get regular funding opportunity updates from HCCC from Puget Sound Partnership, etc. so we can be abreast of options
 - o HCCC can do this
- Can Mason Co. explain why they need extra funding?
 - o We have more areas to sample than we have funds for. These HCRPIC reallocated funds would go toward 75 more samples, for dry and wet season sampling. There is also a downgrade in the works on the east side of Annas Bay (areas 198, 314), so extra sampling will go toward monitoring these areas. The downgrade will take time to process, but we want to be ready to respond.
- Can money be spent on dye tests? Yes, Task 3.2 covers dye tests
- We approached HCCC about reallocating some of the Task 3.4 funds toward Microbial Source Tracking (MST). They explained that this would require amending the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) to cover expanded analysis, and that this process would probably take too long to be useful for Phase 4 of the PIC grant. Additionally, they explained that we are currently overspent for the QAPP task. Ideas for alternative sampling methods (such as MST, eDNA, enterococcus, e. coli, etc.) are being collected for a potential Phase 5 PIC grant. This works for us.

- I'm newer to this group. Sustainable funding seems like an important topic; why is there agreement to move away from it?
 - o We'll all keep working on it, it's not going away. We'll continue to focus on it going forward. There just seems to be no immediate need for working on this right now.
 - o It's more of a question of timing; economic conditions caused by COVID have made it difficult to add new fees/taxes
 - o There is a bigger need for current work to get fully funded. The Phase 4 grant is smaller than previous grants. It's main focus is PIC work; there is no funding for odds and ends, so it's important to fully fund the PIC work so it gets done
 - o We're making progress on this issue (e.g. Mason Co's clean water district fee), so we can show our funders that we're responding to their direction to figure this out

Wrap-up & Next Steps

- Next Guidance Group meeting: June 2, 2021, 10:00-1:00
- eDNA update (from Anne Baxter, WA Dept. of Ecology)
 - o WDFW lab in Olympia can do qPCR eDNA analysis for HCRPIC partners
 - Can do filtered or non-filtered samples (filtered recommended),
 - Comment: non-filtered samples are easier for those without filtering capability. Works best for locations closer to Olympia WDFW lab
 - \$63 = extract DNA, one assay (e.g. identify DNA from humans, cow, etc.)
 - \$73 = extract DNA, multiple assays
 - "Good deals"
 - Goal: create a multiplex of assays for analysis by HCRPIC partners
 - o PSP Monitoring call for projects = potential funding?
 - Apply for grant?
 - Money would be used for WDFW to do eDNA analysis for HCRPIC partners