



# Hood Canal Coordinating Council

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

## Hood Canal Regional PIC Program

### Guidance Group Meeting

Nov 17, 2023, 2-4 pm

Via Zoom

#### Meeting Objectives:

- Share updates on PIC activities around Hood Canal
- Review HCRPIC Ph. 4 grant outcomes
- Discuss future direction of HCRPIC Program

### Meeting Summary (DRAFT)

#### Attendees

Haley Harguth, HCCC  
Leslie Banigan, Kitsap Public Health District  
Jacquelyn Stenman, Jefferson County  
JJ Stepan, Mason County Health  
Mike Dawson, Jefferson County Health  
Molly Paige, ECY nonpoint WQ specialist  
Vlad Nekrutenko, Mason County Health  
Scott Chernoff, DOH  
Alena Reynolds, Skokomish Tribe  
Seth Book, Skokomish Tribe  
Josh Carter, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe  
Andy Hokit, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group  
Nick Schneider, Mason Conservation District

#### Partner Updates

##### KPHD

- Conducted shoreline survey in Hood Canal 2 growing area. Confirmed five shoreline hotspots in Seabeck. Dye tested ten properties and found one source. Working with DOH LOSS program on corrections
- Busy with surveys, investigations, repairs
- Found a number of animal waste sources
- RV complaints, no discharges yet found, monitoring closely
- Kitsap resumed in person Septic Sense workshops again. The October 3, 2023 workshop went well and had forty attendees
- Investigating two hotspots in Holly, along with a few other sites in Hood Canal

##### Jefferson

- Staff changes: understaffed at moment, will be advertising positions soon
- Conducted Shoreline surveys, wet and dry, throughout the county
  - o Wet season did not find much
  - o Dry season found lots of new hotspots - new and returns of old sites

- Duckabush River area (Conditional closure) - no shoreline hotspots, but high stream samples in the past few months. This is concerning because we are out of the conditional closure period
- Pt. Whitney - no hotspots found
- Oak Bay/Little Goose Creek - good in wet season, high in dry season. Trying to get dye test on one property. Oak Bay station 53 improved after 2021 septic repair, occasional warm season issues, might mostly be wildlife (otters)
- Paradise Bay station 42 has been up and down, back up now; very low in wet season, very high in June; property sold and had required time of sale inspection with no deficiencies, hoping to survey area again soon to find source, contact new homeowners; otters present, lots of old OSS in area
- Mats Mats station 121 - resolved with repair some time ago and hotspot closed
- Dosewallips shoreline OSS failure, restaurant on shore, has approved repair permit, installation to happen after Thanksgiving; temporary measures and frequent pumping have prevented discharges.
- Time of sale inspections - staff comb through real estate listings to contact owners. They also talk to real estate agents to find out about activity in high priority areas.

### Mason County

- Staff turnover - JJ and Vlad are two new WQ staff working with Ian Tracy
- Established a clean water district, developed program and implemented county-wide ambient monitoring program for 33 creeks & rivers (20 on Hood Canal)
- Annas Bay – conducted two shoreline surveys in recent years. March 2023 survey found no hotspots and October 2023 survey found a few hotspots near Union); ongoing work to investigate sources
- Program has been focusing on south sound and other parts of Mason County outside of Hood Canal
- Investigated approximately 50 properties with deficient OSS reports. They are working with property owners to get repairs made and have repaired about 15 in the past year
- Two new downgrades: Liliwaup Bay - conditional area; mouth of Tahuya - prohibited area; developing closure response plans for both
- Annas Bay – water quality is improving in both shoreline and marine areas. Optimistic about future upgrade because no shoreline hotspots were found during the March 2023 shoreline survey and no high counts in Skokomish River ambient monitoring. Monitoring around edges of Annas Bay, only identified hotspots in Union (not in Annas Bay). A few properties in the area are overdue for maintenance and one is unoccupied. They did not find any high bacteria at the bulkhead and DOH results in area are showing improvement; Skokomish tribal staff and Mason Health will meet to discuss in more detail to coordinate fieldwork
- Clean water district funding has been very beneficial – allowing county-wide collaboration and providing ambient fresh water monitoring data
- Seth Book, Skokomish Tribe noted that HCRPIC should take some credit for the development of Mason County clean water district fee over more than a decade of HCRPIC collaboration.
- Haley, HCCC asked about the status of clean water district programming
  - o investigate known deficient OSS, developing relationships with residents, and bridging the gap between code enforcement and parcel surveys. They had a backlog of deficient properties since 2016, but are now up to date on those near to surface water. They conduct investigative work sporadically; dye test in Belfair - DF not technically a failure, but had drainpipe going through it contaminating minor stream going to Lynch Cove
  - o Mason is currently focusing on downgrades in South Sound

Here are links to their Clean Water District annual report and ambient fresh water monitoring map:

- [CWD annual report out](#)

- [Ambient results map](#)

#### Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group

- The volunteer ambient monitoring pilot was very successful in developing priority ambient fresh-water monitoring data, allowing a smooth transition for Mason Health to fund, and further develop the program, through their clean water district funding
- HCSEG is using their accredited Laboratory mostly for educational purposes through two grant programs
- Andy Hokit is busy with habitat projects
- They are going through permitting for Theler Wetlands project; considering drainage at site from upper parking lots, looked at HCCC stormwater priority retrofit sites and found Theler Center on list, ranked in middle for bioretention site, not yet funded. Andy is trying to find information on Mason County plans

#### Skokomish Tribe

- Lots of staff changes, happening everywhere, impacts to capacity and efficiency with so much work to do
- Two-year tribal assessment report due soon-for program funding to monitor reservation waters
  - o sampling
  - o uploading data to WQX
- Submitted complaints to ECY and Mason County for Skokomish valley concerns
- Coordinating monitoring with Mason, especially Annas Bay
- Incorporating new practices using R to increase efficiency; incorporate total suspended solids in system as well; establishing workflows - have new staff member Alena Reynolds give presentation in future to share innovations
  - o Jefferson is interested; have a few resources from USGS (Dennis) about R;
  - o Potential idea for next grant?
  - o Haley will email Alena to schedule meeting focused on R – based on lots of interest among group
- Future grant: 6PPD-Q work intersection?
- Jon Wolf left tribe; Looking for WQ planner - job online soon, SB will share

#### PGST

- Working on updating WQ standards, including 6PPD regs
  - o Waiting on ECY to build on their 6PPD regulations
- Working on application to get treatment by state for non-point program
- No monitoring projects going on, no TMDLs at the moment
- Paul retired, Roma Call is new director, Jason is the new shellfish manager; hiring for finfish manager

#### Mason Conservation District (MCD)

- Lapse in HC funding, received shellfish SIL funds
  - o Drafting conservation plans, BMPs, water quality and livestock education and outreach
- Working in Tahuya, to address backlog of technical assistance
- Six - nine cost share projects in downgraded areas - agricultural BMPs (funded through state); winter confinement areas, rain gardens, gutters, exclusion fencing, robust plantings; 11-12 projects in progress
- 25 acres of CREP going in next planting season in Skok valley

- 20 acres signed up for CREP
- 20-acre buffer on one project
- Engineer interested in stormwater work, wants to work at HCSEG parking lot
- Talked with Skokomish Tribe and Mason Health at Clean Water District (CWK) meetings. Want to work on horse in creeks issue, willing to go knock on doors and have funding to do that now
  - o Skokomish is interested in coordinating, maybe better through CWD. Their goal is more coordination over time.

## DOH

- Downgrades:
  - o HC 5 Liliwaup (14 acres approved to conditional Nov -Apr open, station 186 failed)
  - o HC 6: 30 acres near Tahuya station 216, 217 approved to prohibited; 30 acres unclassified north of 217; boat can't be brought up to shore to sample
  - o HC 9: Prohibited area will be changed to Unclassified pending review of pollution sources
- Annual reports coming soon
  - o Lots of areas getting better through dry season
  - o Reviewing conditions and classifications
- Seabeck: Emergency closure due to OSS discharge
- HC 5 emergency closure (lifts in 2 weeks): OSS failed
- Annas Bay: sampled yesterday
  - o 195-197 remain elevated
  - o 195: over limit in past two years, but came back down to avoid downgrades
  - o Still doing sanitary survey, being drafted and reviewed now
- HC 6 316: slightly elevated, not threatened yet
- Annual reports coming after the end of year: Upgrades possible? Closures required? cursory review of all growing areas

## ECY

- Two warning letters sent out in Skokomish valley for water quality issues that indirectly impact Annas Bay
- Hiring supervisor
- Working on watershed evaluations in area, learning sites of concern, nonpoint issues

## Phase 4 Grant Outcomes

- Draft data [linked here](#)
- Try to get draft out to group for review before end date, revisions still possible after grant ends

## HCPRPIC Program Future

- The group is interested in maintaining Guidance Group coordination regardless of funding
- Phase V grant ideas
  - o Rebates
  - o Agricultural waste assessment, BMPs
  - o Small stormwater projects?
  - o No PIC field work
- MCD is interested in funding for tech assistance conservation plans for agricultural projects. Want to develop projects for BMPs to reduce ag pollution inputs
- KPHD is interested in stormwater and low impact development projects

- build on past WSU research - SW landowner assistance needed
  - Jefferson Health: WSU developed new stormwater resources for rural landowners
- MCD interested in SW projects: de-pavement, rain gardens, connect to Shore Friendly program
- Concerns about less reliable lab services, Jefferson is contemplating starting own lab, or looking for collaborations with other partners
- Coordination - solving barriers, place for technical discussions outside of projects; coordination with conservation district riparian work; moving from monitoring to database enhancement & develop tools to upgrade/innovate processes to increase efficiencies; still lots of utility with group; still like the rebates
- Mason really appreciated rebates to get people to do maintenance; really missing that in the CWD funding; want more funding for rebates in future
- Reach out to City of Port Townsend, population over 10,000 requires managing municipal stormwater now, lots of staff change
- Implementation funding for livestock waste and SW on private property
  - use as match for Washington Conservation Commission (WCC) funding, or RCO funding
  - Need National Estuary Program funding first, then go to WCC for match - multiple funding sources not ideal for admin/reporting
- Focus on small SW projects on private property
- Jefferson: OSS cost-share program has been very effective to get repairs done where Craft3 isn't sufficient, lots of work to administer, but was really successful, funds utilized very fast
  - Contracted with Craft3 to do income verification
- Follow-up with counties to see if interest in cost-share concept, create a Hood Canal-wide program?
  - Could host discussion at a HCCC board meeting with Environmental Health Directors, have Jefferson Health present on program

### **Wrap-up & Next Steps**

- Schedule next Guidance Group for mid/late January 2024