Hood Canal Coordinating Council

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

Hood Canal Regional PIC Program

Guidance Group Meeting

Jul 31, 2024; 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Zoom

Meeting Summary

Attendees
Leslie Banigan – Kitsap Public Health District
Ian Tracy – Mason County
Tobbi Stewart – Kitsap Public Health District
Scott Chernoff – WA Dept. of Health
Glenn Gately – Jefferson Conservation District
Seth Book – Skokomish Tribe
Mike Dawson – Jefferson County

Meeting Objectives:

- Share updates on PIC activities around Hood Canal
- Discuss Hood Canal LIO OSS Action Plan and funding consideration
- Discuss future HCRPIC Program funding and potential grant proposal

Partner Updates:

Re-cap of activities since our last meeting

- Overview of shellfish upgrades/downgrades, or changes in progress
- Status update: Ongoing work in Priority Areas
- Emerging issues
- Highlights & lessons learned
- Coordination/training needs
- Funding opportunities

Kitsap Public Health District

LB transferring HC work to Tobbi
Seabeck hotpsots

- 10 dye tests
- Failure at Seabeck Conf Center. High count Jul 19. Otter activity.
    - Working on tanks, have LOSS, want to get intstalled by Oct, but may not happen on time. Elapsed time meters not working. Working with DOH LOSS to make them fix meters. Don't want to limit occupancy, may need to conserve water.

Holly hotspots

- Old properties
    - OSS in a bulkhead
    - OSS in front yard

Lots of Open hotspots
Lowfall

- Investigating sources

Went to HCEC board meetings, asked lots of questions
Referred shoreline property to shore friendly
KPHD currently hiring for WQ manager
Lots of AirBnB complaints from neighbors. People living in garages, over capacity houses in lots of areas.

Jefferson Co.

Irondale

- Hotspots resurfaced after being improved for a few years
    - Rec shellfish restriction
    - Not many OSS in drainage, some work done, one repair, has not cleared up problem

Little Goose Creek hotspot

- Starting another round of OSS surveys

Revising mailers with updated information
Possible small improvements to seasonal downgrade to Duckabush. Hoping after DOH review, the closure season could be shortened
Dosewallips - Talking to DOH about Dose. Major OSS correcting completed. Hoping restricted area can be reclassified soon
Lots of little hotspots in Toandos area
Concerned about availability of good quality lab analysis – one viable option to keep within holding times. Looking at setting up lab at county. May have space identified to do ecoli and enterro samples with IDEX machines. Would be good for county to have in house capacity as backup. Talking with others about combining efforts with other counties/agencies (ie PUD, City) to develop capacity.

Statistics analysis advancement – still interested in pursing that with this group
Waiting on review of QAPP for 9 months (simple QAPP, similar to past ones) – have delayed centennial grant project by a year. Huge impact. Don't want to pursue centennial grant unless that changes. New staff at ECY, capacity changes?

Mason Co.

- Position opening (JJ leaving) will be refilled
    - Vlad will fill in in HC for now, responding to complaints, doing ambient monitoring
    - Skok tribe has GIS training accessible, can share resources with county
- Ambient monitoring map (developed by JJ) shows sampling results, trends. Other staff don't have GIS skills to maintain. Doing staff training right now to hopefully keep the map going. (linked on website)
    - Huge benefit to our program
    - Skokomish tribe really likes map for public transparency, reporting
    - MCD staff person (Justin) has masters in GIS, can help county.
- AirBnBs & short term rentals not huge number of complaints in recent months, but is a hot topic in county. Regulation in development to require increased OSS maintenance, occupancy limits, figuring out how burdensome the regulation should be, required permit, etc. Last year had many overflows on AirBnBs. Very hard to get owners to comply.
    - LHCWC very interested in this issue – want annual inspection like any commercial business
    - 1200 AirBnBs in Mason Co
- Bracket sampling Union River; elevated hits; not unusual this time of year

    - Finch Crk high hit in May; was investigated, never found source, no more high hits
- Funding: water district fee now funds ~1.6 FTE (originally was designed for 2); will approach commissioners after election to propose increased parcel fee to fund 2 FTE.
    - HCCC can support
    - Skok may provide public comment in support
    - MCD interested in Mason Co Clean Water Partners funding app
    - DOH can help assemble data to support request

Skokomish Tribe

- DOH beach program not coordinating with ECY and tribes about closures and tribal harvesting
- Annas Bay upgrade happening
    - HCRPIC focused on area over the years, Mason Co got sustainable funding, technical coordination among HCRPIC group, working with ECY upstream on TMDLs. Need to keep the coordination going. Boom bust cycle is not efficient use of public funds. Need to keep sustainable funding going.
- Hunter Farms enforcement by ECY ongoing, administrative orders issued.
    - MCD will not use cost share funds on properties with admin order issued; also not eligible if they go against tech assistance recommendations

Mason Conservation District

- SCC Shellfish protection program to mitigate ag impacts with BMPs
    - Mason Co WQ is top priority
    - Focused on HC 6 & 9
        - 9: Two cost share projects, $150,000 reimbursements
            - One in estuary, educational facility with public access, project implemented in phases over 3-4 years; turn into BMP park with signage
        - 6: Direct discharge into 303(d) stream. Should be completed before winter.
        - Nutrient mgmt. plans in Skok valley
    - Desired outcomes (w/SS CW partners):
        - Consistent funding for education with K12 schools on shellfish
        - Guided shellfish digs for public, hoping to make annual, working with DFW at Potlatch in the spring. Open for collab with county.
    - Generating next round of cost share projects

Jefferson Conservation District

- Fencing project at Donovan Crk
- DO monitoring - Chimacum
    - Very low DO in canary grass

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

- Updating envir code, allow tribe to regulate projects that go on within U&A so NR issues environmental permits instead of planning dept
- PG Mill Site upland clean up happening, excavating soil & capping, then restoration into recreational space
- Oil spills at Bangor continuing
    - Clean up in progress, still a little bit of a sheen
    - Haven't determined damage to shellfish bed that tribe seeded last Nov, or financial

impact
    - DOH will be sampling to monitor
    - NR damage assessment?
    - Navy will likely pay some kind of settlement to tribe, not yet negotiated

DOH

- Jean Frost left DOH, contact Scott Chernoff, Scott Berbells instead
- Annas Bay
    - Upgrade going forward very soon
    - 245 acres western side upgraded to approved, 199, 200, 323
        - Due to good WQ work by all partners over long time. Tribe put in tribal reclassification request, gathered lots of data, put in new sample site on tribal shellfish parcel,
    - Conditionally approved area will be closed when river exceed 15ft May-Dec; 17ft Jan-Apr
    - HC marina on eastern side of growing area upgrade of conditional area; marina evaluation showed improvement
- HC 6
    - Upgrade in Tahuya coming soon. Prohibited to restricted.
- Possibility of upgrades in Dosewallips, Duckabush, being looked into now, not yet decided.

LIO Action Planning for OSS Management

- Reviewed Hood Canal OSS Action Plan items
- Discussed funding considerations
- Resources:
    - Overview of LIO Targets and Action Plans
    - Connections between new DOH OSS data requirements and LIO Targets

- SB: like geolocating idea, have lots of good tools
- MD: also thinking about geolocating, useful information for future SLR and current shoreline issues; could be done in all counties and have long term benefits
- SB: R statistical tools available, would be good to include a proposal to how to do it to increase capacity and quality of all of our work

HCRPIC Future Funding Needs

- Ph. 5 grant proposal components
- Skok: don't want funds, could do R training, development of materials.
    - Update StoryMap
    - Mason Co: old wq records no longer on website,
- MCD: coordination funding needed, education & outreach funds for K12 programs, working with tribe on estuary
- MD: interested in another phase. Statistical workshops; rapid PCR detection, CEC, reginal coordination & staff development. GIS support for Mason Co (Nick checking on that)
- KPHD: Managerless at moment, hard to make decision now. Will advocate for continued tech support for other partners. Need tech upgrades, want to be more efficient. More portable conductivity tools.