



**DRAYTON HARBOR SHELLFISH PROTECTION DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MEETING SUMMARY

Date: April 21, 2004
Time: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Place: Marine Drive Harbormaster Meeting Room – Blaine

AGENDA

1.	4:00	Public Comment Period
2.	4:05	Review Agenda and March Meeting Summary
3.	4:10	May 2000 Status Report Plan: Key elements that need to be implemented in order to achieve “Approved” status – Discussion
4.	5:50	New Business
5.	5:55	Next Meeting’s Agenda

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Geoff Menzies
Bob Williams
Kathy Cullen
Charlie Hawkins
Alan Birdsall
Bonnie Onyon

Others

Steven Banham – City of Blaine Public Works
Mark Henderson – Ecology
Ken Carrasco – WSU Extension
Kati Johnson – Whatcom County Water Resources

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED

- 04/21/04 Agenda
- 3/17/04 Issue For Approval meeting summary

MEETING CONTENTS

1. Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

2. Review Agenda and Previous Meeting Summary

The Agenda was approved as written. The 3/17/04 Meeting Summary was approved after two corrections in item 3:

- Add “The Port of Bellingham is a partner of and funding source for MRC activities in the Blaine Harbor Marina” at the end of the first paragraph;
- In the second paragraph, replace “Drayton Harbor” with “Blaine Harbor”.



**DRAYTON HARBOR SHELLFISH PROTECTION DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- *Action:* Kati Johnson will distribute the 3/17/04 Meeting Summary as final after two corrections.

3. May 2000 Status Report Plan

There were not enough committee members present at the 3/17/04 meeting for quorum so this topic was postponed to the 4/21/04 meeting. The goal, over the next few months, is to update the May 2000 Status Report Plan, which was adopted by the County Council. Refer to the May 2000 Status Report Plan for the following discussion.

At the 2/18/04 DH meeting, Geoff distributed a summary of the statuses of the implementation recommendations in the May 2000 Plan. Some members requested a copy of this document, as Geoff referred to it during the 4/21 meeting.

- *Action:* Geoff Menzies will distribute to the AC the February 2004 statuses of the implementation recommendations in the May 2000 Plan.

The AC went through the May 2000 Plan by objective and task to identify accomplishments, priority needs, and general updates.

✓ = Accomplished

* = Priority

Objective 1: Coordinated Water Quality Program

Status	Task #	Discussion
	1.	Another member needs to be added to the committee. Bill Goff, committee member, has been unable to attend meetings.
✓	2.	Invite knowledgeable people from other agencies to attend AC meetings.
✓	3.	Encourage outside agencies to participate in AC meetings instead of them meeting separately.
	4.	Mark Henderson, Ecology, regularly updates Geoff on funding sources. There is a long list of grants already secured. A dedicated source of funding is still needed.
*	5.	A dedicated source of funding is still needed for implementation of projects. Shellfish protection district legislation is enabling legislation that allows for a dedicated source of funding. Broad community support would be helpful. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AC agreed that a funding source should be countywide, or at least initially, watershed-wide. The AC also agreed that the funding should be ongoing and not cease with an upgrade to "Approved".

Objective 2: Identify Pollution Sources and Monitor Water Quality

Status	Task #	Discussion
	1.	Geoff will work with Mark to rephrase this task. A new 303(d) list (EPA-



**DRAYTON HARBOR SHELLFISH PROTECTION DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

		designated impaired water bodies) is expected soon. Drayton Harbor was not on the last list. A TMDL is “an estimate of the pollutant concentrations resulting from the pollutant loadings from all sources to a waterbody”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AC agreed that other projects, such as a microbial tracking study, could be done before getting on the 303(d) list.
*	2.	Julie Hirsch wrote <i>Coordinated Water Quality Monitoring Framework</i> in January 2000. A dedicated funding source is needed for further monitoring. The Port of Bellingham is supplementing funding for sampling through 2004. Extra DOH marine sampling in Drayton Harbor (with County funds) will end May 2004. Northwest Indian College (NWIC) monthly sampling and annual reports, funded by EPA through March 2005. NWIC monthly data for Dakota and California Creeks are available online. <p>One member wondered why the Lummi Nation was not involved in water quality monitoring in Drayton Harbor since they have shellfish beds there. Another member suggested that since Lummi is a sovereign nation, they might not want to work with a local level government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AC agreed that there needs to be a dedicated funding source for an ongoing water quality monitoring program. They also agreed to invite Michael Cochrane, NWIC to attend AC meetings. <i>Action:</i> Geoff will email to everyone the Julie Hirsch document.
	3.	A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was developed but not finalized.
✓	4.	In February 2004, Whatcom County Water Resources completed an abstract bibliography of all DH accomplishments from 1991-2003.
*	5.	A dedicated source of funding is needed for long-term water quality monitoring but has not yet been obtained.
*	6.	The AC unanimously agreed to add a task for a microbial source tracking study in DH.

Objective 3: On Site Septic Systems (OSS)

Status	Task #	Discussion
✓	1.	Enforcement of existing OSS regulations has improved dramatically.
*	2.	The current Operation and Maintenance system is complaint-driven. The State OSS regulations are currently being changed and updated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AC agreed that a more pro-active approach to OSS Operation and Maintenance is needed.
	3.	One member thought the low-interest County loan program for OSS repairs did not exist anymore. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Action:</i> Mark Henderson will verify that the low-interest loan program for OSS repairs no longer exists.
	4.	Whatcom County does not place a higher priority on complaints in DH.
	5.	Special Concern designation is no longer a viable option for DH. This task was deleted.
*	6.	The AC unanimously agreed that this task needs to be implemented. The AC recommended OSS inspections be conducted with every real estate



**DRAYTON HARBOR SHELLFISH PROTECTION DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

		transaction. It was noted that Pierce County currently has a similar program in place. Some local banks require an OSS inspection, but it is currently not a Whatcom County requirement.
--	--	--

- *Action:* Geoff Menzies will rewrite Objectives 1 through 3 based on AC discussion, and distribute to the AC for input. Geoff will include a brief explanation when a task is deleted.

One member wondered if an updated, prioritized May 2000 Plan with budget information would be completed in time for the County's budget process.

- *Action:* Geoff Menzies will find out the deadline for submitting to the County an updated, prioritized May 2000 Plan with budget information.

5. New Business

Microbial Source Tracking

Bob Williams passed along information from Bjorn Hrutfiord about microbial source tracking. DNA studies of fecal coliform can identify the source of the pollutant (e.g., duck, goose, etc.) The bacterial source tracking technique used in a 1998 report by Herrera yielded a 75% unidentifiable result. That is, only 25% of the samples could be matched to a specific source. With technological improvements in recent years, genetic fingerprinting studies produce much more refined results.

Though overall fecal levels in Drayton Harbor have been declining, there are still wet weather problems. Knowing the sources of the pollution would make it possible to get to the bottom of high fecal coliform levels in DH more efficiently. In Drayton Harbor, it is assumed that marine waters are impacted by numerous sources of fecal coliform bacteria as has been described in DOH Sanitary Surveys (1995, 1999, pending 2004), but we have not been able to identify the proportion of the fecal coliform that originates from specific sources.

Pump Out Holding Tank Video

Ken Carasco noted that he is working with the Port on a short, informative pump out video. The video is likely to have recognizable landmarks in both Squalicum Harbor and Blaine Harbor. The Port recently purchased some new pump outs. The Port's goal is to get all of the pump outs to function properly and standardize them so they all work the same. It is hoped that this video could further educate the public on the importance of proper use of the pump outs.

The video would likely be completed before this fall and distributed at LFS and West Coast Marine and possibly other locations. Ken had a meeting with the Port on 4/22 to further discuss the project.

MRC Update

Alan Birdsall provided a brief update of the two MRC/Port pilot projects at the marina. The nine spiders are in and should be installed on the breakwater at the entrance of the marina



**DRAYTON HARBOR SHELLFISH PROTECTION DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

by the end of April. The exact locations of the spiders need to be where staff could easily access them to monitor their effectiveness and maintain them. A major concern remains about where the birds would go once driven off the breakwater. They could go to rocks that are near some shellfish beds, which would not be good for the water quality there. For this reason, the pilot project is small and only nine spiders will be installed at this time.

The stormwater planters, to capture rainwater draining from the webhouse roof, should be installed by the end of April. The yellow barrels are 31" in diameter and are smaller than the large surface area that studies have shown would be necessary to adequately filter runoff. There is not enough space by the webhouse to put very large planters, so the barrels are tall, increasing the filtering surface area while using limited space. Alan noted that treatment of runoff with these barrels, no matter how small, would still be a positive action.

6. Next Meeting Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2004. An agenda was not discussed.