



**DRAYTON HARBOR SHELLFISH PROTECTION DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MEETING SUMMARY

Date: May 19, 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 April Meeting Summary
3.	4:10	Blaine Harbor Water Quality Report 2003 – Julie Hirsch, Hirsch Consulting
4.	4:55	Rewrite of Status Plan Objectives 1-3 – Discussion
5.	5:45	Seagrass Cottage Proposal Update
6.	5:55	New Business
7.	6:00	Next Meeting Agenda

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Geoff Menzies
Bob Williams
Bjorn Hruttfjord
Charlie Hawkins
Alan Birdsall
Bonnie Onyon
Jan Hansen

Others

Mark Henderson – Ecology
Ken Carrasco – WSU Extension
Kati Johnson – Whatcom County Water Resources

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED

- 5/19/04 Agenda
- 4/21/04 Issue For Approval meeting summary
- Department of Health Sanitary Survey of Drayton Harbor May 2004
- State Board of Health On-Site Sewage Systems Summary of Proposed Rule Revisions
- Article about Drayton Harbor from Bellingham Herald, Opinion section, May 18, 2004

MEETING CONTENTS

1. Public Comment Period
There was no public comment.
2. Review Agenda and Previous Meeting Summary

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A few changes were made to the 5/19 agenda. Julie Hirsch will be at the June meeting instead of May. An update on the Open House was added. The April meeting summary was approved as Final.

- *Action:* Kati Johnson will distribute the 4/21/04 Meeting Summary as final.

3. Blaine Harbor Water Quality Report

Julie Hirsch will come to the June meeting to give a presentation on this topic.

4. Rewrite of Status Plan Objectives 1-3

A redline version of the Executive Summary and Objectives 1-3 were emailed or mailed to AC members on 5/11/04. This version incorporated comments from the AC at the 4/21/04 meeting. Members discussed the rewrite and offered their comments and will email or mail comments to Geoff. Geoff reminded the group that the intended audience of the document is the County Council. The document will cover accomplishments from 2000 to 2004.

Throughout the document

- If a task has been accomplished, describe it as “accomplished” instead of “deleted”.
- For smoother reading, change the format to combine the Accomplishments Since 2000 with the DHSPDAC Recommendations and Comments.

Executive summary

The executive summary is an almost complete rewrite from the May 2000 Status Plan. Members felt the executive summary was well written and had only a few grammatical comments.

- 3rd paragraph: possibly change “*June* 2004 Sanitary Survey of Drayton Harbor” to “*May* 2004 Sanitary Survey of Drayton Harbor”. Geoff will verify with DOH the title of the document.
- 5th paragraph: delete “in some cases”.
- Last paragraph: change “*sustained* water quality” to “*sustainment of* water quality”.

Objective 1

- Opening paragraph: delete “Blaine Wastewater Treatment Plant”. Members felt the mention of the City of Blaine would imply the inclusion of the wastewater treatment plant.

Task 2

- Note that the task was “accomplished” instead of “deleted”.

Task 3

- Note that the task was “accomplished” instead of “deleted”.

Task 4

No comments.

Task 5

- Move the sentence that begins “Without a dedicated and ongoing source of funding...” to the beginning of the paragraph. Members also suggested including this sentence in the Executive Summary, if the point is not already made there.

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- As a second sentence, cite the Snohomish County Lower Stillaguamish Clean Water District as an example.

Objective 2

Members discussed the list of agencies and whether two lists—one for who sponsored water quality monitoring programs and one for who conducted them—would be better understood. Another option suggested was to list the sponsoring agencies at the beginning and note the conducting agencies below, under the appropriate task.

Members suggested the following changes to the list of agencies:

- Add City of Blaine (stormwater)
- Add Marine Resources Committee (stormwater)
- Add ReSources Pledge Program
- Delete Hirsch Consulting Services—add it as a conducting agency under tasks
- Under the Port bullet, add “stormwater”
- Under Puget Sound Restoration Fund bullet, add “with grants from...”
- Under Northwest Indian College bullet, add “under grants from the EPA”

Task 1

Members discussed whether to keep trying to get a TMDL project done for Drayton Harbor. Members agreed that a TMDL would provide a lot of data and would be very beneficial. Members also agreed that a formal request to Ecology (Steve Hood, director of TMDL studies) would be a good idea. It would be useful to have such a request in writing.

- *Action:* Mark Henderson will contact Steve Hood at Ecology to ask him what would need to be included in a formal request for a TMDL study of Drayton Harbor.

Task 2

- Restructure formatting to show who the leads are.
- Include reference to the 2003 Landau report that states that birds are a major contributor to fecal coliform levels in Drayton Harbor.

- *Action:* Alan Birdsall will email the 2003 Landau report to Geoff Menzies.

Task 2.1

Members discussed whether to reconvene the data subcommittee. A data subcommittee could gather existing data and reports and make recommendations to the AC to help determine the next steps to take.

Task 2.2

No comments.

- *Action:* After Julie Hirsch’s presentation at the June meeting, the AC will ask her for some information on Bacterial Source Tracking.

Task 3

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- The AC agreed that a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) would still be necessary. This is covered under Task 2, so this task is deleted.

Task 4

- Delete "New tasks added to closure response strategy"
- Renumber this task to be "task 3".
- Include DH watershed studies since 1973 under accomplishments.

Task 5

- This item was addressed under task 2. The task was deleted.

The AC did not address Objective 3 due to time. Geoff will make further revisions based on the AC feedback and distribute another version.

- *Action:* Geoff will make revisions to the Executive Summary and Objectives 1 and 2 based on the comments from the AC. He will distribute another version of the document.

5. Seagrass Cottage

This topic was not discussed.

6. New Business

Advisory Committee members

One member wondered if there is a limit to how long one can remain on the advisory committee. Some members were unsure; some thought three years. Geoff noted that the by-laws would answer this question. Geoff also noted that he is talking with Bill Goff about his future on the AC. The AC agreed to readdress these issues in June.

Living Near the Shoreline Workshop

Ken Carasco noted that he is working to set up a workshop in Birch Bay for community members to learn about living near the shoreline. The workshop would include discussion on topics including geology, near shore life and stewardship. Ken hopes to have the workshop some time this summer. Funding for the workshop is from the Puget Sound Action Team, UW Sea Grant, and WSU. Ken would like to expand the workshop to include Drayton Harbor.

Alternative Futures Planning

On 5/19/04, Geoff met with members from Ecology, County Planning, Council members and others to discuss alternative futures planning for Birch Bay and Drayton Harbor. The proposal is for Drayton Harbor and Birch Bay, (but designed to provide a statewide model) to sustain aquatic resources at a watershed scale through innovative planning measures. Three different build-out scenarios, identified by the community and technical watershed process modelers, are evaluated for their impact to indicators of environmental quality; presumably that would be meeting water quality standards that support safe shellfish harvest in both watersheds.

Geoff noted that the meeting discussion identified the challenge in trying to fit this program in with County Planning updates to their Critical Areas Ordinance and Shoreline

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Management Plan. This program builds on previous work by Ecology's Wetland Restoration team, which partnered with PSRF to identify key wetlands for restoration in both the Dakota and California Creek watersheds. This landscape-based analysis/approach is already being incorporated into the County's Shoreline Management Plan as well.

The proposal includes a watershed academy put together by Ecology that would provide education to local community members regarding basic watershed processes. The proposal would make connections between County planning and resource protection in a new, exciting way. To fit into the current County Planning staff schedule, the program could begin next summer. Funding has not yet been secured. Geoff noted that Birch Bay is very interested in being able to accommodate growth and, at the same time, protect its natural resources.

DOH Sanitary Survey of Drayton Harbor May 2004

The Department of Health (DOH) May 2004 Sanitary Survey of Drayton Harbor was distributed. If there are no objections, this is the final report on reclassification of Drayton Harbor (DH). The report notes that as of June 14, 2004, portions of DH would be upgraded to a Conditional Classification (see page 27 of the Report for a map). Areas included in the upgrade include station 4 (location of the Community Oyster Farm) and station 12 (tribal and recreational harvest area).

A Conditionally Approved classification means that if there is one-half an inch of rain or more in a 24-hour period, DOH will close the beds to harvesting for the following five days. The City of Blaine will measure the precipitation and communicate the amounts to DOH. Drayton Harbor continues to have high fecal coliform levels following large rain events.

Geoff directed members to page ten of the Report. The three bulleted items were met on the ground and led to the reclassification. The upgrade occurred in part because of a series of studies (shoreline survey, dye tests, etc.), the Port's inventory of all boats in the marina, and improvements in manure handling at dairy farms. This upgrade, while certainly a huge and long-anticipated accomplishment, does not mean it is time to relax efforts to improve water quality in DH. There are still issues to address in DH. The underlying water quality is good, but there remain problems associated with wet weather.

One member suggested that a thank you letter be written to DOH from the AC. Other members agreed this would be a good idea.

- *Action:* Jan Hansen will write a thank you letter from the AC to the DOH, addressed to Don Lennartson.

On-Site Sewage System rules

The State Board of Health is currently updating the On-Site Sewage Systems (OSS) rules. Geoff distributed a document outlining the existing rule, proposed rule revisions, and expected benefits. The County is likely to adopt the proposed rule changes. The rule changes would effect the AC recommendations in the revised DH Status Plan. The OSS rule revisions would likely not be completed until the end of the year. The revised DH Status

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Plan, hopefully completed by late summer, would note that the OSS rules are under revision.

Open House Update

Large posters for the open house were distributed to AC members to put up around the area. Charlie will put up posters in Blaine. Bob will put up posters at the Resort and in Birch Bay. Alan will put up posters in Port locations. Mark will put up posters at Ecology. Ken will put up posters in Custer. Geoff will also put up posters.

Alan Birdsall requested to be emailed the large poster.

- *Action:* Geoff will email Alan the smaller poster. Kati Johnson will email Alan the larger poster.

In the News

There were two articles recently in the Bellingham Herald about Drayton Harbor water quality. One was an Opinion piece from the May 18, 2004 edition that addressed the proposed DOH upgrade and commended the community for its hard work. The other piece was from the May 14, 2004 edition that discussed the proposed DOH upgrade and included a picture and quotes from Geoff.

Copies of the Opinion piece were distributed at the meeting. Both articles can be found online at www.bellinghamherald.com

7. Next Meeting Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2004. The following agenda items were noted:

- Blaine Harbor Water Quality Report 2003 – Julie Hirsch
- Advisory Committee member time limit; fill 9th position.

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