



**DRAYTON HARBOR SHELLFISH PROTECTION DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary**

Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2007
Time: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Place: Marine Drive Harbormaster Conference Room – Blaine

Agenda

1.	4:00	Review Agenda and Past Meeting Summary
2.	4:05	Advisory Committee Chair
3.	4:10	TMDL Update - Erika Stroebel, Whatcom County Public Works
3.	4:30	Water Quality Update - Erika Stroebel and Geoff Menzies, Chair
4.	4:40	Recovery Plan Update and List of Prioritized Projects – Erika Stroebel and Geoff Menzies
5.	5:55	New Business / Next Agenda / Meeting Date

MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members: Jan Hansen, Kathy Cullen, Bob Williams, Bjorn Hrutfiord, and Geoff Menzies

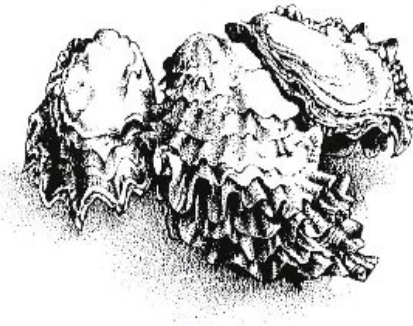
Others: John Wolpers (WC Health), Don Hrutfiord, Carl Weimer (County Council), Sandy Petersen (City of Blaine), Erika Stroebel (WC Public Works)

Members Absent: Pam Taft (Port of Bellingham), Charlie Hawkins

MEETING CONTENTS:

1. Review Agenda and Past Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the agenda and past meeting summary. The meeting summary for November 2006 was approved. Jan Hansen asked that an agenda item be added for discussing improvements to Semiahmoo Park. Bjorn Hrutfiord asked for an item be added for discussion of a microorganism source identification option. Geoff added an update item for the partnership to conduct a microbial source tracking project.



The committee discussed the current vacancies on the advisory committee. Committee members will encourage individuals that have an interest in the committee to submit an application to the County Council.

2. Advisory Committee Chair

The committee discussed the committee Chair position. The committee members asked Geoff Menzies to act as Chair in 2007. The language in the committee's bylaws will need to be reviewed and, if needed, updated in regards to a Chair serving beyond three consecutive years. The committee also nominated and approved Charlie Hawkins as the Vice-Chair.

3. TMDL Update

Erika provided the committee with a brief update on the Drayton Harbor TMDL study. Debby Sargeant, transferred back from her position with the State Department of Health to the State Department of Ecology. Debby will be taking the lead on the development of the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for the Drayton TMDL. Debby has requested a meeting with a small group that has been involved in monitoring projects in the watershed to help compile background information and identify data gaps. The committee is interested in having a presentation from Debby at a future meeting and determining how they can provide input to the process.

4. Water Quality Update

Erika provided committee members with a draft water quality status handout. The map indicating status of each of the marine stations will need to be updated prior to finalizing the fact sheet. The handout includes a table describing geometric means and 90th percentiles for each of the stations under two conditions- with all sampling days and with rain events excluded. In the data set with rain events excluded, the stations within the Conditional Approval area continue to meet water quality standards. Stations 8 and 15 continue to exceed standards. Stations 11, 313, 314, and 315 have too few samples without rainfall events to adequately characterize the geometric mean and 90th percentile. In the data set with all sampling events covering the same time period, the same stations are meeting the water quality standards, however they are meeting the standards by a narrow margin. Water quality geometric means and 90th percentiles appear to be improving in comparison to results seen at the end of 2005. Erika emphasized that this table was provided for informational purposes and that State Department of Health's calculations are used to review the shellfish classification status.

A question was raised about whether Blaine's new detention tank was in place yet. The system is not in place at this point but other mechanisms were used to avoid having any overflows during the recent large rainfall events.



5. Recovery Plan Update and List of Prioritized Projects

Geoff reviewed the recovery plan update and list of priority projects with the committee. The committee discussed the primary recommendation of a secure funding source. This has been a recommendation of the committee for years and continues to be recognized by the committee as a need. The priorities also emphasize a need for follow-up to high bacteria counts found through monitoring as well as watershed tours during rain events to identify problem areas and work with landowners to remedy the problems. The committee further discussed how quickly results from monitoring are received and what an appropriate threshold for follow up action would be. The committee discussed expanding the county's capacity to follow up on water quality spikes and wet-weather events. The committee approved the updates to the plan and the list of priorities that had been identified for 2007.

6. New Business/ Next Agenda/ Meeting Date

The pilot microbial source tracking project was discussed. This project is intended to be a pilot to determine how effective this tool is at helping to identify priority areas and sources within these areas. There was some question as to whether resources should be put towards monitoring and source tracking tools or directly towards implementation of projects that address known potential sources (e.g. septic system surveys). The other value of source tracking projects is providing information to landowners about known sources of bacteria in their particular drainage area. This can help increase individuals' awareness about how their actions can contribute as well as help resolve water quality problems.

John Wolpers provided an update on the Health Department's on-site sewage system (OSS) program and current staff levels. There are five individuals working in the OSS program. One works in Lake Whatcom watershed under an interlocal agreement with City of Bellingham and one works with subdivisions at Planning and Development Services. The three remaining work with designers and installers out in the field and respond to complaints as they come in. Their work doesn't currently include conducting OSS surveys in priority locations. Funding for implementation of the operation and maintenance program will provide for three more staff over the next two years. One position is a coordinator position and two staff will be doing follow up in priority areas (e.g. notification of need to conduct O&M, etc.). Whatcom County OSS O&M regulations will be in place in April 2007. However, the management plan will still be under development. The plan has to mesh with the regulations, be approved by the County Council, and approved by the state. The program will be implemented countywide, however in phases starting in priority sensitive areas.

The committee discussed Whatcom County Park's plan to pave the parking lot at Semiahmoo Park. The committee was concerned about adding impervious surface to the spit. Jan Hansen will draft a letter from the Advisory Committee requesting Parks to consider pervious surface options.



Bjorn discussed an opportunity that has arisen to help further evaluate sources of bacteria in water samples. One of Bjorn's previous students is working in an US Army Laboratory in Maryland. He is working on identifying viruses and bacteria and is willing to run samples for the committee at no cost.