



**DRAYTON HARBOR SHELLFISH PROTECTION DISTRICT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 2008 MEETING SUMMARY**

Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2008  
Time: 4:00-6:00 p.m.  
Place: Marine Drive Harbormaster Conference Room – Blaine

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**Agenda**

1.	4:00	Review Agenda and Previous Meeting Summary
2.	4:05	Water Quality Update
3.	4:15	DOH Annual Report
4.	4:45	2008 Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordinated Program</li><li>• Monitoring</li><li>• OSS</li><li>• Agriculture</li><li>• Stormwater</li><li>• Outreach</li></ul>
5.	5:45	New Business
6.	5:55	Next Agenda

**Future 2008 Meetings**

Date	Time	Location
3/19/08	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Marine Drive Harbormaster Conference Room, Blaine
5/21/08	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Marine Drive Harbormaster Conference Room, Blaine
7/16/08	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Marine Drive Harbormaster Conference Room, Blaine
9/17/08	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Marine Drive Harbormaster Conference Room, Blaine
11/19/08	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Marine Drive Harbormaster Conference Room, Blaine

For notetaking purposes, the meetings may be digitally recorded.

Committee Members Present: Darrel Clark, Jan Hansen, Kathy Cullen, Bjorn Hrutfiord, Bob William, and Geoff Menzies

Others: John Wolpers (WC Health), Joshua Fleischmann (WC PDS), Carl Weimer (WC Council), Remy Stratton and Erika Stroebel (WC Public Works), Jason Pentzer (WS Agriculture), Charlie Hawkins (Blaine City Council), Pam Taft (Port of Bellingham), Jackie Goodsir (Farmer), and Don Hrutfiord (Farmer)

1.	4:00	Review Agenda and Previous Meeting Summary
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The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. with introductions. Main focus of the meeting was on 2008 activities. John Wolpers attended that evening to provide an update on OSS. Geoff Menzies also asked for a discussion on the Microbial Source Tracking study with EPA to do additional sampling (limited to California Creek drainage). He also asked for a discussion on the recent dairy field spill.

Last meeting summary approved with no changes.

2.	4:05	Water Quality Update
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Erika provided two handouts noting Water Quality status as of 2007 and 2008. She reviewed the progress, noting that in October 2007 most stations were meeting water quality standards when the last 30 samples for all ambient data (including rain event data) were analyzed. This winter, however, there have been extremely elevated levels of bacteria observed at the marine stations, affecting the estimated 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. These stations are still meeting the standards under the conditional approval criteria with rainfall events of greater than 0.75 inches/24hours excluded from the dataset.

A discussion followed including sampling collection, rainfall events, and evaluation of data.

3.	4:15	DOH Annual Report
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Erika reviewed the Annual Report to Washington State Department of Health (DOH). This year's report was organized by the objectives outlined in the shellfish recovery plan and included plan recommendations and ongoing elements. Erika walked the committee through the information. She will also send it out via e-mail and asks for comments by next Wednesday (2/20/08) before being sent out to DOH. Geoff requested a final draft be circulated before sending out.

Erika noted progress of on-going projects and plan recommendations in 2007. To assist with next year's annual report, the 2008 work plan has specific milestones that will be tracked and reported quarterly and at the end of the year. There was discussion of redistribution vs. increasing of flood taxes. The County is currently working under a two-year approved budget, with \$85,000 allotted from flood tax and the general fund to support marine resources projects. Geoff asked Erika for information on CWRIP (Comprehensive Water Resources Integration Plan) to the group to show the ranking of Drayton Harbor in the process. The plan does also include funding mechanisms which are being discussed as the second phase of the project.

"Appendix A- Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District Recovery Plan-2007 Update", "Appendix B- Follow Up Actions to Elevated Bacteria Counts", and "Appendix C- Drayton Harbor Water Quality Monitoring Summary" were distributed. Discussion followed regarding high counts and actions to address these.

Public Works (PW) has recently sent out an RFP for nearshore work. PDS and PW's goal is to provide quarterly reports to the committee of activities by both departments

Object Three of Appendix A focused on On-site Septic (OSS) was discussed including ongoing elements that overlap with plan recommendations. Other areas of discussion were implementing O&M (operations and maintenance) with real estate transactions, and recent data of systems (two failing and the other in the process of repair). The County Health Department's goal is to adapt their systems to problems as they occur.

John Wolpers from Health noted that there was a public hearing last Tuesday night regarding adoption of the OSS Management plan. There are still some issues to be “flushed” out and an ordinance is involved. The one issue that’s undecided is whether or not to allow homeowners to do their own evaluation. Another issue is the recommended frequency of inspections and politicians being properly informed. There was discussion about the deadline and the potential loss of funding if the plan is not in place. Suggested changes are being looked at to make the plan work better. The draft play may be available on the website, or John could send it to Erika to distribute to the committee.

Regarding statistics: Of 580 inspection reports, there were 33 failures (6%--not sure if total or partial, old or newer—not broken out). For repairs, it boils down to cost. If people want to do it, doing a class would be a good thing for them. A question was asked if there been a focus on systems for which we have no records and scrutinizing drainfields within 200 feet of a water body. Also, there are educational components working in parallel with the City of Bellingham.

Objectives Four and Five both dealt with the City of Blaine (stormwater sources, activities, and grant). Whatcom County entered into an interlocal with Blaine—they will be lead, and we will assist with monitoring (citizen voluntary). Reference was made to Appendix C which shows summary of water quality data from 2006-07. Also addressed in this draft are stormwater outfalls at Harborview and Drayton Harbor Road. More volunteers are sought for monitoring, so please let Erika know of other interested people. Among other topics under this objective were sewage sources, and Blaine’s upgrades to their wastewater treatment plants, and a detention tank under Marine Drive. (Charlie: Going out for bids). There will be some additions.

Objective Six covered “Agriculture” and activities by the Conservation District and PDS as ongoing elements. Nutrient management plans are involved and an overview of Jason’s (WA State Agriculture) activities over the last year. Still need to add milestones. Geoff requested the related interlocal agreement to be sent to the committee.

**Action Item: Erika send committee interlocal agreement.**

Objective Seven addressed “Boats and Marinas”. Pam provided information, some changes were noted, and recommendations were made with regard to water quality reporting, outreach and signage.

Other Recommendations were noted in Appendix A that touched briefly on outreach. A newsletter is being compiled to be released soon.

**Action Item: Erika to provide local management plan to committee members. She also would like comments on annual report to DOH by next Wednesday (2/27/08).**

**PROPOSED WORK PLAN**

Erika provided an overview of CWRIP (Comprehensive Water Resources Integration Project), a broad array which includes flood management, salmon recovery, stormwater, marine resources, and land use regulations. Staff worked with a consultant to prioritize projects (400) based on public benefit and some were lumped together bringing the list down to ~280 projects. 13 criteria were used to for prioritization. All Drayton Harbor recommendations were included in the plan. Each year, new projects will be plugged into it. Things funded in 2007 or 2008 budget are noted. Public Works is requesting reappropriation of budget not expended last year. The first phase of the CWRIP was identification, now the second phase deals with funding sources, and the third phase will be on organizational structure (to be completed prior to planning 2009 budget).

4.	4:45	2008 Activities
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- Coordinated Program  
Still moving forward through CWRIP process. Stormwater staff is currently not plugging into this discussion—CWRIP staff only.

- **Monitoring**  
Water quality monitoring is being conducted through NWIC (Northwest Indian College). More effort will be made to go after grants to assist with this. The Hirsch contract was touched on for tributary monitoring at California Creek. Quarterly reports throughout the year will be done on this. Task 3 on hold. There was discussion of work in the Birch Bay watershed and to do something similar in Drayton Harbor watershed although there is currently no budget for that. Task 4 is to follow-up on high bacteria counts, monitoring, and high delineation. Task 5 circulation piece is also on hold.
- **OSS**  
Shared funding between Health and Public Works was discussed with primary focus on the Drayton Harbor watershed. Minimum of 500 inspection reports of system status is inspected. Quarterly reports to be provided. Also Task 2 for the MRC volunteer monitoring project will continue to 2009 and then reassessed
- **Agriculture**  
Task 1 links the relationship between Public Works and PDS and the Conservation District in providing public outreach. We will continue to work with state agencies. PDS focus on Critical areas will continue (their jurisdiction).
- **Stormwater**  
Regarding urban stormwater sources: there will be 100% design on the Blaine project to be constructed this summer.
- **Outreach**  
We would like to do a Drayton Harbor watershed newsletter similar to what was done in Birch Bay (sample distributed). This would be an excellent outreach tool that would cover topics such as water quality, water quantity, solutions, and a resource page where folks can link into activities currently underway in watershed. Scarlet Tang at Public Works will assist with developing content, and Cascadia Consulting will help with layout. Erika asked for committee involvement and a project planning meeting to assist with content review and creation of the final version. We hope to have this done by summer time when lots of visitors coming through. Both Jan and Kathy voiced interest in helping with this.

Erika asked members to provide any feedback on priorities of recovery plan. This plan lays out the framework for the next annual report. If there is something there that isn't in the plan, let her know.

Regarding the OSS staff position, interviews have been conducted with one more the following Monday.

5.	5:45	New Business
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Geoff noted that we received a commitment from EPA to provide analysis as they do more sampling.

Jan asked whether or not we will we do an open house this year.

Erika mentioned that the MRC has relied on subcommittees to facilitate moving forward with activities. If the Drayton Harbor group would like to do more outreach, we could perhaps have an Outreach subcommittee to assist with this.

There was a recent dairy issue that was discussed also. Geoff got a call last Friday regarding a discharge from a commercial dairy. The appropriate agencies were alerted (Ecology, Ag, and County), and someone from the County went out at 4 p.m. that afternoon to do some sampling. Conservation District was aware. Problem was due to a plugged drain. The owner has a certified nutrient management plan (2003) that needed updating. Drain was unplugged and should be better now. Jason provided background and noted a report is written and available. The issue of enforce and legal protocol

was discussed along with data of dairies in the watershed and their plans.

6.	5:55	Next Agenda
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Meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.