



**PORTAGE BAY SHELLFISH PROTECTION DISTRICT
Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
March 2007 Minutes**

Date: March 14, 2007
Time: 3:00- 4:30 pm
Place: **2011 Young Street, Suite 201, Bellingham (above Whatcom Land Title)**

Agenda

1.	3:00	Introductions and Review Agenda
2.	3:10	Water Quality Update
3.	3:30	2007 Priorities and Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response Protocol• Water Quality Monitoring• Small Farms• On-site Sewage Systems• Others
4.	4:20	New Business
5.	4:30	Wrap-Up and Action Items

MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members: Bas Scholten, Bob VanWeerdhuizen, Mike Cochrane, Dorie Belisle, and Albert deBoer (member?)

Others: George Boggs (Whatcom County Conservation District), Erika Stroebel and Remy Stratton (Whatcom County Public Works), Carl Weimer (Whatcom County Council), Bob Cecile (City of Ferndale), Dean Martin (Lummi Indian Business Council), Jeff Hegedus (Whatcom County Health), Nora Mena and Jason Pentzer (Washington

State Dept. of Agriculture), and Steve Hood and Mark Henderson (Washington State Dept. of Ecology)

MEETING CONTENTS:

1. Introductions and Review Agenda

Meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. Introductions were made, and there were no changes to the agenda.

2. Water Quality Update

Erika noted that there were numerous sampling events. Ecology mentioned that there are more stations that are meeting water quality criteria. In the past, Station #7 had not met criteria, but it is now. There was discussion of the other stations and the results of monitoring. There has been a noticeable improvement overall. Numbers are available on Ecology's website. It was suggested that extra funds could be used toward sampling specific sites. Erika asked members to list items that would be most effective in tackling water quality monitoring. Currently Northwest Indian College is doing some monitoring. Funds will expire at the end of June. Ecology needs to be informed of the location and sample identifier before any water quality monitoring is done.

ACTION: Members to provide feedback to Erika or let them know if they are interested in getting involved with water quality monitoring.

Members were invited to a North Whatcom Fishtrap meeting that evening.

3. 2007 Priorities and Projects

- **Response Protocol**

Priorities were identified and Erika sent them out to the agencies involved and received some response. She encouraged agencies to commit to developing a protocol establishing one point person (Coordinator position) to get word out to other agencies that are impacted. In the past, the situation would dictate who was the lead agency, and whoever was collecting samples would contact the other agencies. It would be more efficient to have one point of contact.

ACTION: Erika will contact agencies in the next month to send a representative to help develop a response protocol.

- **Water Quality Monitoring**

Ecology's funding goes through the end of June 2007. There are 10 sites being monitored in Portage Bay with 11-13 additional sites to consider. We are now moving into a different phase and need long-term monitoring stations to ensure good water quality including marine water quality. The committee was encouraged to begin thinking of goals and priorities for 2008.

- **Small Farms**

Activities have included taking the checklist out of the "Tips" handbook and distributing to farmers. There was discussion about farms that are certified to Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). PDS (Planning & Development Services) has an

employee working half time who is taking these tips out in the field and distributing at the center. The question was raised as to what happens beyond “talk”. Education is key, however if the target group is not responsive, enforcement measures must be taken. There is a \$40,000 budget to spend by the end of 2007 to help in this regard and to develop priorities.

Further discussion took place on what the district could do to help people. A farm plan was suggested requiring technical assistance. Voluntary compliance is desired and to make it work, there would need to be penalization of neighbors who do not comply (through PDS enforcement). A PDS person should be invited to our meetings. It would also be ideal to have BMPs on the ground and a cost-share program established. Follow-up with farm owners would be key along with providing them with tools and funding.

Workshops seem to be of interest to farmers. Dorie reported that their recent small farm workshop had a good response with 65-70 people that showed up. There were 60-70 at the septic workshop.

- **On-site Sewage Systems**

Inspection frequency of various types of systems was discussed. The State requires inspections to be done regularly as part of Operations & Maintenance. Classes would need to be taken for homeowners who qualify to inspect their own system, provided they are not in a critical area (e.g. shellfish districts or other troubled water bodies).

It was noted that there are failing systems in Drayton Harbor. Implications of groundwater impact were discussed.

The Whatcom County Health Department will send inspectors and provide technical assistance as needed. They are also trying to hire a program coordinator.

The Whatcom County Council will have another meeting regarding on-site sewage systems in the near future.

- **Others**

There was a question as to what to expect in funding for next year’s budget for the district. Another \$80,000 is anticipated to split equally between Portage Bay and Drayton Harbor. Monitoring is at a monthly budget of \$5,000 for 10 sites.

4. New Business

None were discussed

5. Closure and next meeting

Next meeting will be held on May 9, 2007, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.