



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

Date: Wednesday, March 26, 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	County Water Resources Integration Project- Jon Hutchings
3.	4:50	2008 Work Plan
4.	5:15	2008 Activity Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOH Annual Report</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
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, meetings may be digitally recorded.

Committee Members Present: Darrel Clark, Jan Hansen, Kathy Cullen, Bjorn Hrutfiord, and Bob Williams

Committee Members Absent: Geoff Menzies, Charlie Hawkins, Pam Taft

Others: John Wolpers (WC Health); Joshua Fleischmann (WC PDS); Carl Weimer (WC Council); Jon Hutchings, Remy Stratton, and Erika Stroebel (WC Public Works), Jason Pentzer (WSDA), Mak Kaufman (DOE), Jackie Goodsir (Farmer), and Don Hrutfiord (Farmer).

1.	4:00	Review Agenda and Previous Meeting Summary
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Meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. No changes were made to the agenda, however, Jon Hutchings from Whatcom County Public Works will be arriving a little later to talk about CWRIP (Comprehensive Water Resources Integration Project).

Erika will provide the previous meeting summary for members to review.

3.	4:50	2008 Work Plan
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Comments that were received on the 2008 Work Plan will be presented today for committee feedback. Most comments were minor clarifications on task details and have been included in the current draft. Recommendations to add three (3) new tasks to the work plan were also received. If these tasks are incorporated into the work plan, three tasks would need to be postponed to 2009. The new tasks and project recommendations are:

- 1) Follow up to MST (Microbial Source Tracking) pilot study started last year. EPA will do additional analysis as a project partner. Funding is need for collecting samples using consultant. The estimated budget is \$7,000. The County reappropriated some 2007 funds to use in 2008 that could be used for this task.
- 2) Quarterly updates of the website (established in 2000-01). This task does take time and hasn't been updated in the last couple of years due to limited staff availability.
- 3) Working on the UGA. It's anticipated that there will be a review of the Blaine UGA later this year with PDS staff. Public Works (PW) staff will participate in providing educational materials and technical support.

We have stretched staff resources really thin in the past. Postponing some projects will help accomplish these new recommended tasks. Potential projects to postpone to 2009 are:

- 1) Identification of priority riparian areas (and wetlands from previous studies) for preservation and restoration.
- 2) Additional monitoring work (nearshore monitoring at the mouth of California and Dakota Creeks and Marine Drive) to help us take a look at key areas. We could seek grant funds for implementation of this project at a later date.
- 3) Updating information about hydrologic systems in the Drayton Harbor watershed, such as how some of the drainage areas are linked to California creek. This work assists in response to high bacteria counts, but can be accomplished to a limited extent as high counts are observed.

The committee provided feedback:

-Coordination of MST seems very worthwhile.

-Identifying pollution sources in nearshore work shouldn't be postponed. If we do postpone this work, it should be the next highest priority.

To add three items means postponing three, although if we can, we'll still try to do them later in 2008. If we need to reprioritize, it was recommended to put additional monitoring work under the postponed items as the first priority. Erika will make the changes to the work plan.

2.	4:05	County Water Resources Integration Project (CWRIP) - Jon Hutchings
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After introducing himself as Bruce Roll's replacement as Assistant Director of Whatcom County Public Works, Jon Hutchings provided some personal background information, and everyone re-introduced themselves.

Jon summarized for the committee the County's activities on CWRIP. Back in August, a group of staff from various County departments was appointed by Council to work on a standardized way to develop and implement water resource projects. Going back 10+ years, any and all water related plans that included things such as capital investment, work on dikes, floodgates, watershed and stormwater management, shellfish protection, salmon recovery, or programs related to monitoring activities were all listed if they would be funded by the County.

There were 43 plans related to water resources with 500+ programs/projects, and these were put in a database with listed attributes (e.g., what it is; where originated; rough costs to implement, operate, and maintain; funding source) in such a way that a query could be made for certain kinds of information. An overall diagram of the process was circulated (Countywide "investments": capital investments, programmatic activities, and planning).

The list of 500+ was pared down to 278 activities—programmatic (e.g. stormwater) vs. planning vs. capital (building things). Spoke about details, costs (over 20 years), and levels of expectation. The list doesn't recognize outside money that we may get (e.g. FEMA, Corps of Engineers), however it works as an analysis tool and could call out smaller investments. Public benefit was a prioritization factor. Council will make decisions based on what they can do under the law, and with community involvement from local groups. These would go into work programs and eventually the budget process.

A question was asked about how cities fit in. Jon responded that if activities fell under another governmental agency, they were not included in the list. There was discussion about funding sources, the Blaine stormwater retrofit, dikes, and other flood and stormwater issues in relation to this.

Level of service was discussed at the last council surface water work session. Graph was shared showing the funding/revenue sources to support water resources expenditures and what the fund balances look like.

Jon briefly summarized the history of the FCZD (established in 1993). He made comparison of fee vs. tax. Fees pay for services that have a direct connection to something you receive, a direct relation. Tax is more general in nature and may require a statute to spend on an array of things. The flood fund was initiated through fees with specific expenditures in 1998-99 because of the Watershed Management Act. In 2003 the fee was converted to a tax, to cover a broader range of projects or issues. Jon summarized expenditures out of the flood fund and that to maintain or increase level of service, we need to tap into this or seek it somewhere.

Next surface water work session is on 4/15/08, 10 a.m.-12 noon, to look at how we can aggregate all this information about prioritizing the activities and work toward defining level of service to people of the County. This project is much more complicated than just creating a list of priorities. Level of service will be gauged by the amount of money and ability to do things in the amount of time it will take.

Carl acknowledged that staff has really worked hard to accomplish this within the next couple of months because of this being a budget year. The level of service will determine such issues as salmon existence in the area 10 years from now.

4.	5:15	2008 Activity Updates
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- **DOH Report**

Spoke about the report at last meeting and got some comments. It has been sent off to DOH and staff will get them to you in the mail.

- **Monitoring**

Data from Greg Combs, WA State DOH, provided info all the way up to March—looking at conditional approval (not including rainfall events). In terms of the conditional approval, sites are meeting standards despite elevated counts last winter. We hope some of our efforts underway will help.

- **OSS**

The previous night there were public hearings for approval of the local management plan and regulation amendments proposed. John provided details on this including language modifications requested by council, added incentive base in the management plan, and removal of the two-year OSS experience (it was felt that if they could pass the test, they should be able to do the work).

The other major topic is the allowance of homeowners to do evaluations of their own system and how often. Classes are required to provide competence. Self-evaluation will not be allowed on certain systems such as community drain fields, table 7 or table 8 repairs (repairs where a system has gone in and could not meet criteria—small lot, high ground water—they need to be put to the spot), food service establishments, and proprietary OSS devices. Licensed O&M (Operations and Maintenance) specialist will inspect upon property transfer.

Minimal failures are still expected, but Health is being proactive to catch them. John acknowledged the support of the council and commented that our County is very progressive and has a good program. Other counties will look at how we do. With the approval of Local Management plan, we have \$100,000 from the state to spend in this effort, and we have the tools we need to move forward. Lot of public input and education is vital so people understand. Costs are a big issue and there are some possibilities for low interest loans and grants.

Mak echoed the importance of education and outreach. Many folks are still opposed most likely because they don't seem to understand that this is first defense against going into state water. Public feels their one system cannot affect things. He concluded with a summary of the process he went through purchasing a house with its accompanying system.

There was discussion on the frequency of inspections and pumping tanks. New system in the ground now require an effluent filter (slides down into the baffle) to help identify any back up. Also, Health and PW have partnered to fund a temporary position to help follow up on OSS in priority drainages within the shellfish protection districts. Areas of focus will be largely driven by water quality monitoring results.

- **Agriculture:**

Dairies have come up for routine inspection. Jason has done five and each took a couple of hours. There were a couple of investigations, and one violation today. Samples were taken, and counts were low.

For non-dairy agriculture, Mak responded to 4 complaints, referred 5 others to PDS who is getting out there addressing the complaints and systematic roadside surveys. He noted they are seeing some good progress from PDS and that Erika has provided regular reports on monitoring.

- **Stormwater:**

Erika said there is no update on the Blaine stormwater retrofit project. Mak added that Ecology has done some inspection of facilities, more so construction and industrial in the Drayton Harbor watershed.

- **Outreach:**

The Drayton Harbor group will be meeting tomorrow.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.