

**PORTAGE BAY SHELLFISH PROTECTION DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

MEETING SUMMARY

Date: June 8, 2005
 Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 Place: 322 N. Commercial Street, Suite 210 Conference Room

AGENDA

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| 1. | 4:00 | Introductions |
| 2. | 4:05 | Review Agenda and Previous Meeting Summary |
| 3. | 4:10 | Nutrient Management Follow-Up |
| 4. | 4:25 | On-Site Sewage System Subcommittee |
| 5. | 4:35 | Water Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshwater Sites • Marine Sites (Don Lennartson) • USGS Proposal |
| 6. | 5:15 | Advisory Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of New Members • Identification of Chair |
| 7. | 5:20 | New Business |
| 8. | 5:30 | Wrap-Up and Action Items |

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Mike Cochrane
 Bas Scholten

Bob Van Weerdhuizen
 Dorie Belisle

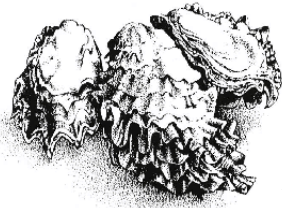
Agency Representatives

Jeremy Freimund, Lummi Natural Res.
 Jeff Canaan, WSDA
 Ken Carrasco, WSU Ext./Sea Grant
 George Boggs, Whatcom CD

Mark Henderson, DOE
 Jeff Hegedus, WC Health
 Erika Stroebel, WC Water Resources
 Don Lennartson, DOH

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED

- 06/08/05 Agenda
- Lummi Indian Business Council letter to EPA- June 7, 2005
- Draft 2005Q2 NWIC Quarterly Summary Spreadsheet
- Tenmile Creek- Water Quality Summaries for T1-T4
- Marine Water Quality Chart- Station #52
- USGS Proposal- Bacteria in the Nooksack River and Portage Bay



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MEETING CONTENTS

1. Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Mark Henderson at 4:00 p.m. He is the acting chair of the committee, and will facilitate these meetings until a committee member is appointed as chair.

2. Review Agenda and Previous Meeting Summary

Last meeting was in April. The summary was distributed to the committee prior to the meeting. The summary was approved.

3. Nutrient Management Follow-Up

Jeff Canaan provided an update on enforcement actions within the Portage Bay Shellfish District. Two manure spills occurred in the Fishtrap drainage in May. A Notice of Violation was given for one site and is expected for the second site. The producer has 30 days to respond to the Notice of Violation. WSDA has begun work with a farm near Ferndale that has had long-term issues. The goal is to get the manure storage handling system back into good order.

Bob Van Weerhuizen provided an update on his meeting with Jeff Canaan (see April 2005 Action Item). The Dairy Federation Executive Board met with Jeff Canaan to discuss nutrient management issues, inspections, and enforcement actions in Whatcom County.

There was a discussion among members about the criteria used to determine when manure can be applied to fields. One member stated that there should be more flexibility provided to farmers. There should be an ability to apply a light cover of manure earlier in February if the grass is growing and there is no rain. Another member described the TSum200 method that is used to determine the date at which manure application may begin. The method identifies the earliest date for application based upon science and is trying to reduce the risk to water quality. After the TSum200 date has passed, the farmer must still consider rainfall and proximity to ditches or streams. There is a need to get to the bottom of the issue that led to the need of some farmers to spread manure at an earlier date this year. There was further discussion about adaptive management and contingency planning to deal with storage and application issues. The decision needs to be based on science.

Jeremy Freimund provided members with a letter from the Lummi Nation to the EPA. The letter provided a brief history on water quality degradation in the Nooksack River watershed, impacts on the tribal shellfish beds, actions taken to improve water quality, actions that have not continued at the initial level of effort, and requested actions.



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4. On-site Sewage System Subcommittee

Jeff Hegedus provided a brief overview of a committee that is being formed to provide review and recommendations for the County's OSS Operation and Maintenance Program that will be required through state law. The Health Department hopes to have a representative from the shellfish districts participate in the committee. Geoff Menzies (Drayton Harbor Shellfish Committee) has agreed to participate, but it would be helpful to have a second shellfish committee representative at least serving as an alternate. It may also be possible for the shellfish committee to receive written materials to review, discuss, and comment on at their own meetings. The written comments could then be provided to the Health Department.

Action: Erika Stroebel will check with Jim Goode (WC Health) about the schedule for the committee meetings and forward this information to the Shellfish Committee.

5. Water Quality

Freshwater Sites

Mark Henderson distributed copies of the spreadsheet summarizing water quality for the freshwater stations during the second quarter of 2005. Several stations were identified as exceeding the water quality standards. These included specific stations along Bertrand Creek, Dufner Ditch, Fishtrap Creek, Kamm Slough, and Tenmile Creek.

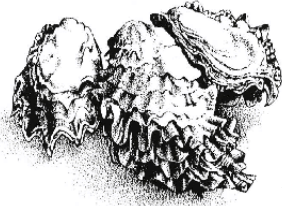
Erika distributed a set of four fact sheets illustrating water quality at the four stations along Tenmile Creek. These factsheets were a draft version provided for feedback on content, layout, and target audiences. The goal is to create similar factsheets that can be used by the committee, watershed residents, and on the website to communicate water quality patterns and the relationship to specific drainages and the marine waters. Comments can be sent to Erika. There was a suggestion that the group may want to monitor parameters beyond fecal coliform to help identify potential issues and solutions.

Action: Sue Blake (WC Water Resources) will be asked to present information about other water quality parameters at the next meeting.

Marine Sites

Don Lennartson provided an update on the status of the marine water quality stations. Since January, samples have been taken during times with both high and low salinity. All of these samples have had low fecal coliform levels. Station 52, the station with the largest impact from the Nooksack River, has greatly improved. These patterns are encouraging and may help lead to an upgrade of the remaining restricted areas later this year. The group was encouraged to consider flow rates and loading estimates rather than just concentrations when targeting areas for water quality improvements.

There is currently a Red Tide closure throughout Whatcom County. People should be encouraged to call the Red Tide hotline or visit the website. Three Whatcom County shellfish growing areas were identified as areas of concern or threatened through the DOH in 2004. These areas included two sites in Birch Bay, one site in Lummi Bay, and two sites in Portage Bay.



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USGS Proposal

Erika distributed a proposal from USGS. It was suggested that the proposal be taken to the data work group for review and comment.

Action: The USGS proposal will be discussed by the data work group. Recommendations will be forwarded to the advisory committee.

6. Advisory Committee

Currently, about half the advisory committee seats are vacant. A suggestion was made to attempt to recruit new members that could represent critical drainage areas within the shellfish district. One member suggested that the advisory committee should show support for management by subbasin approach as outlined in the recently adopted WRIA1 Watershed Plan.

Action: The advisory committee will meet next month to discuss strategies for recruiting new members.

7. New Business

In a recent conference call with EPA, there was discussion about methods for source identification. EPA may have some resources to put towards pilot projects implementing source identification methods. The Nooksack River was suggested as a potential pilot site.

8. Wrap-Up and Action Items

- **Action:** Erika Stroebel will check with Jim Goode (WC Health) about the schedule for the committee meetings and forward this information to the Shellfish Committee.
- **Action:** Sue Blake (WC Water Resources) will be asked to present information about other water quality parameters at the next meeting.
- **Action:** The USGS proposal will be discussed by the data work group. Recommendations will be forwarded to the advisory committee.
- **Action:** The advisory committee will meet next month to discuss strategies for recruiting new members.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.