

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

Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2010  
Time: 4:00-6:00 p.m.  
Place: Port's Boating Center Conference Room – 235 Marine Drive, Blaine

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**Agenda**

1.	4:00	Introductions
2.	4:10	Review Agenda and Previous Meeting Summary
3.	4:15	Water Quality Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marine</li><li>• Freshwater</li></ul>
4.	4:35	OSS O&M Program
5.	5:15	PSRF Public Participation Grant Proposal
6.	5:35	Drayton TMDL Summary Implementation Strategy (SIS)
7.	5:50	New Business
8.	6:00	Adjourn

Committee members present: Jackie Goodsir, Janet Hansen, David Thomson, Geoff Menzies, Carl Weimer

Others present: Erika Stroebel (WCPW), Steve Hulbert, Don Hrutfiord, John Wolpers (WC Health Dept.), George Boggs (Conservation District)

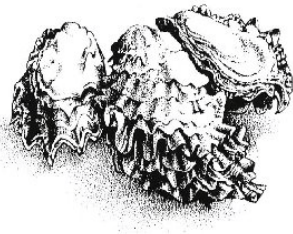
1.	4:00	Introductions
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Introductions were made around the table.

2.	4:10	Review Agenda and Previous Meeting Summary
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The November agenda was accepted as submitted. The September meeting summary was not discussed.

3.	4:15	Water Quality Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marine</li><li>• Freshwater</li></ul>
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Marine – The Drayton Harbor (DH) shellfish growing areas are currently operating under a seasonal closure (Nov. through Feb.). A water quality summary was distributed which summarizes both all ambient data (wet and dry season) and data without the seasonal closure months. When seasonal closure months are omitted, all stations outside the marina closure zone are well within the bacteria standards. Using all data including wet season, two stations are well within the standards (12 & 313), four are of concern but still within standards (4, 11, 314, & 315), two are within standards but threatened (3 & 5), and three are prohibited (15, 8 & 6). Department of Health (DOH) has agreed to complete marine water sampling in DH twice monthly to better characterize the wet season pattern.

The last high bacteria event occurred in January 2008. This sample set is about to be dropped from the 30 sample dataset, at which point the stations should improve even more. The committee would like to see a compilation of the marine data as soon as these old numbers fall off.

What do decision makers and the general public think when they see data like this that show many sites are within the standards even with all ambient data, but the bay is still prohibited for 4 months a year? DOH's concern is that low numbers captured during the dry season may mask the high numbers of the wet season.

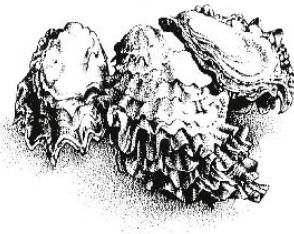
Freshwater – Summaries from Whatcom County and NWIC routine monitoring on California and Dakota creeks were presented. The geometric mean was shown for all ambient data, wet season data, and dry season data. For California Creek, CA14 continues to be the highest priority, as well as CA9 as a site of concern. In Dakota Creek, the lower tributaries continue to have high levels.

Wet season monitoring was started in November, with a focus on the mainstems and the CA14 drainage area. The geometric mean for the freshwater data shows an opposite effect from the marine data in that the wet season typically has lower bacteria values. However, high bacteria spikes are occasionally observed in the freshwater during the wet season, particularly during storm events. Loading data would be useful for understanding impact of dry season. It would be helpful to have month-by-month summaries, particularly for high priority drainages.

4.	4:35	OSS O&M Program
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John Wolpers of the Whatcom County Health Department (Health) gave a presentation on the status of the OSS O&M Program. Health gave a presentation to the Board of Health (County Council) on Nov. 2 to describe the O&M Program since the March 2010 change to regulations no longer requiring initial inspections to be performed by licensed specialists. RCW requires that counties know the status of all OSS within marine recovery areas (like DH) by July 2012.

Currently, 2264 out of 3000 OSS within DH have been evaluated. Health has been directed to concentrate again on DH and will continue sending letters informing owners of the current regulations. It has been found that with persistence, most owners will come into compliance.



Health has completed 17 random quality assurance (QA) visits to owners who had completed their own inspections. All 17 systems were reported as in satisfactory condition. Of those 17, 4 were submitted correctly, 11 were actually in need of maintenance, 1 was a complete failure with effluent found leaking out a seawall, and 1 had never been surveyed despite the report of satisfactory condition. Current regulations allow the County to no longer accept owner inspections if they are found to be fraudulent in their report. Property transfers still require a licensed specialist to complete the inspection as well.

The current County budget has cut all O&M staff, as well as cut back on owner inspection classes. All classes are going on-line and will not include the individualized system review.

It was suggested that the committee submit a letter to the County Council outlining the importance of a QA plan, given the results of the recent random sampling. The 2012 deadline for documenting the status of all OSS in DH should be called out. The committee may recommend the County Council change OSS policy to reflect the results of the recent QA. A draft will be sent to all committee members for approval prior to any action. County Council will be hearing from Ecology regarding the DH TMDL. That may be a good time to submit the letter.

**Action Item (Geoff): Draft a letter to the County Council and submit for review by committee.**

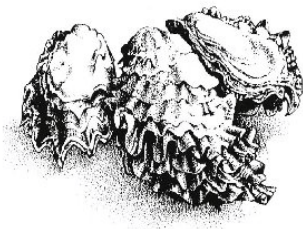
5.	5:15	PSRF Public Participation Grant Proposal
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Geoff and Julie Hirsch are drafting a grant proposal for Ecology's Public Participation Grant. Title of the project will be "Garden of the Salish Sea", with a focus on community education and outreach. Overall goal of the project is to elevate the importance of recovering marine water quality to highlight shellfish resources within Whatcom County. Key components of the project include:

- Increase Community Oyster Garden participation (partner with Small Farm Program and Sustainable Connections)
- Bay Tours with a focus on elected officials, ag. advisory group, and upper watershed residents (partner with CD)
- Shellfish Biology Curriculum development
- Promotion of private shellfish gardens (partner with Lummi Hatchery)
- Web site integrating TMDL reports and water quality findings
- Open House focusing on local food movement (partner with Resort Semiahmoo)
- Water quality monitoring in marine waters near shellfish gardens, and in freshwater urban drainages in Blaine (partner with City of Blaine)

A suggestion was made to partner with the Birch Bay and Blaine Farmer's Markets.

**Action Item (committee): Respond to Geoff with ideas for partnerships and ideas for different areas of focus.**



6.	5:35	Drayton TMDL Summary Implementation Strategy (SIS)
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The draft TMDL summary implementation strategy was distributed by email prior to the meeting. The technical part of the TMDL is now complete. The current summary of the implementation strategy is a broad look at the steps needed for reduction of bacteria in the watershed. Members of the committee have been meeting with Ecology to identify the various agencies and groups that are working in the watershed to define the roles and actions needed. A public review draft reports will be released in 2011 which combines both the technical report and the summary implementation plan. This report will include specific tasks to be completed to reach milestones.

Throughout the report, the committee plays a strong role in coordination and implementation. Because the committee meets infrequently and is volunteer-based, additional resources will need to be directed towards the committee if they are charged with carrying out the implementation. Additionally, Ecology will need to back up committee recommendations to the County Council for implementation steps.

**Action Item (committee): Comments to Erika to forward to Ecology by early December prior to a public review period.**

7.	5:50	New Business
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No new business was introduced and the meeting was adjourned.