

MASON COUNTY CLEAN WATER DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for June 8th, 2023 (via Zoom)

06/08/2023 – CTO 1:04 pm by Commissioner Shetty

Welcome & Introductions: Roll Call

Members: Erica Marbet - SIT, Glenn Landram – Citizen, Nick Schneider – MCD, Kevin Shetty – BOCC, Teri King – Citizen, Evan Bauder – MCD, Art Whitson – Port of Grapeview, Constance Ibsen – Citizen

Other Agencies/ Public: Scott Chernoff – WSDOH, Trevor Swanson – WSDOH

County Staff: JJ Stepan MCEH, Cheryl Craig MCPH

Review Agenda: No changes

Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve March meeting minutes as presented made by Nick Schneider, seconded by JJ Stepan. March meeting minutes approved, unanimously.

Public Comments: None

Program Overview:

- JJ updated the group on his ambient monitoring progress. Half of the monthly water sample results are back, with some high hits out at Trails End and Cranberry Creek. Besides those, there has been nothing too alarming in the past couple of months.
- Septic O/M update: In the March meeting, JJ reported that there was contact made with 99 homeowners with deficient septic systems from personally going to these parcels and establishing contact. Now, that number is 116 people reached. With the departure of Erik from MCEH, JJ said he will have to change his routine a bit to complete the tasks he was once sharing with his co-worker, aiming to not have any progress left behind.
- JJ mentioned to the group that he is open to ways to improve the upcoming annual water quality report. Constance asked if there will be O/M reports included in the report, and when it would be sent out – she wanted to ensure a draft would be looked over by the group before publishing. Kevin Shetty confirmed that the draft will go to the board for review before being finalized to publish to the public.
- JJ explained potential septic rebate increases, and how the amount may increase to \$350 from the original \$200 amount. There may be additional funding if risers are installed on their system, and the rebates are a huge incentive for people to go ahead and give O/M a try since they know they wouldn't be "out the money". Constance asked where this money comes from, and where is the data that shows this works. Kevin said it is not a county general fund, it could possibly be from foundational public health funding. Trevor said that some of it comes from the national estuary funding, federal, given through state agencies to whoever needs it down there, not every county has one but if there's a big need for such money, a lot of it can go to rebates. JJ said we do have some data, and we can get it to you Constance. Constance discussed the MCCWD budget going toward rebates if it is that good of a program. JJ suggested maybe at the next meeting, he can get Rhonda to come and talk about the rebates. Constance said she would really like that.

- Teri K. asked about SOP's for a high hit in ambient monitoring, do you go back immediately? JJ explained he will resample anything that comes back over 100 this month, if the hit is over 200, it is immediately resampled.
- Trevor Swanson showed a presentation to the group about Shellfish Downgrades in Hood Canal – [ctrl + click to view presentation documents.](#)
- JJ revisited the topic of coordinated sampling. Trying to find what pollution sources may be in Tahuya and Annas bay. He collected Tahuya, Skokomish and Lilliwaup creek samples and intends to see if his samples reflect what DOH collects as well. An incident of an excavator being driven on a shoreline was discussed by the group, and it brought awareness of reporting and monitoring this situation if it were to be continuous.

Next steps:

- Teri asked if Rhonda could talk about septic rebates as well as septic education pieces at the next meeting. She mentioned that new closures response is needed, and asked if there is any role in this committee in supporting the review and analysis.

Partner updates:

- Nick updated, June is a busy month, we are wrapping up a 2-year funding cycle. July is renewal time, and one of our main funding sources is the state commission shellfish program which is favorable for how our streams and green areas are coordinated. Recently, our board approved a raise to the reimbursement rate, so now VSP program participants are eligible to receive 90% reimbursement, up to \$100k reimbursed maximum in 1 year, and \$25/hr for labor. Partner referrals do get a priority in the process for funding.
- Constance mentioned the importance of getting the county to consider mandating regular septic inspections, instead of the current process. Instead of just focusing on deficient reports, we really need to have everybody focused on. What we don't discuss here is the effects of septic's that aren't working on also in groundwater, so there's an education and enforcement component that both need to be strengthened and as a county we really haven't done that. JJ said believe me, we want to increase that as well, but there are over 26k systems and we have 2 enforcement officers and 3 OSS specialists who are basically confined to inspection of new systems and handling permitting at the moment, our enforcement officers are taking on as many cases as they can and that's with septic failures alone, getting people with deficiencies by water is the best that I can do right now and is priority. Constance said we need the commissioners to do some work here as she knows the department is stretched so thin.

Links Shared in the Meeting (ctrl + click to follow link):

- [Annas Bay Growing area report and map](#)
- [Hood Canal 6](#)
- [Hood Canal 5](#)
- [Oakland Bay](#)

Adjourned: 2:45 by Commissioner Shetty

Next Meeting: September 14th, 2023