

MASON COUNTY CLEAN WATER DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for September 14th, 2023 (via Zoom)

Welcome & Introductions: Roll Call

Members: Erica Marbet - SIT, Glenn Landram – Citizen, Nick Schneider – MCD, Rebecca Cohen & Erin Ewald – Taylor Shellfish, Teri King – Citizen, Evan Bauder – MCD, Art Whitson – Port of Grapeview

Other Agencies/ Public: Alena Reynolds – Skokomish Tribe Water Quality, Jean Frost – WSDOH, Kenny Oberg – City of Shelton, Molly Paige – WSDOH, Lea Shields – WSDOH, Trevor Swanson – WSDOH, Constance Ibsen – Citizen

County Staff: Ian Tracy, Vladimir Nekrutenko, JJ Stepan

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the meeting minutes was motioned by Teri King, seconded by Erica Marbet, approved.

Review Agenda: No changes

Public Comments: None

Program Overview:

- Ian introduced the new MCEH Water Quality specialist, Vlad Nekrutenko, he comes from Thurston County EH and was working in O/M and teaching homeowner septic maintenance classes, we are happy to have him here!
- Ian provided County Updates. He stated, I did receive a contract from the Conservation District yesterday, that's for NEP funds that the Conservation District received for them to do work in Mason County as well as pass-through funding for MCEH to do some public education meetings in the Oakland Bay and North Bay area. So, over the next 3 years we will be holding two public meetings per year to do some Water Quality education. Thankfully, we have 2 staff to do that work now. Public outreach is important, and we are really looking forward to doing that – we are looking to get the contract finalized by early October. Also, we are expecting *funding* from the South Sound partnership managed by Barba Ann Smolko in Pierce County. There should also be some Water Quality funding, we might have to hire a third person to do Water Quality work at least part time, that will use up some of that funding. I am still waiting for word from Barbara Ann on that. Funding wise, that's all I am expecting as far as changes this year. We have some extending contracts from basically a year ago that we were given with South Sound and with Hood Canal Coordinating council. Unfortunately, those extensions only went from July and August and expire September 30th, so there's not a lot of time to spend that funding. Hopefully those will get extended, both Hood Canal Coordinating Council and Barbara Ann had said that they are planning to extend those out for several more months. Any questions? Erica asked, do we have any upcoming grant application deadlines coming up? Not that I know of, but I have not been on top of that, says Ian. Nick said, there is a NEP 2.0, is it 2.0 or 3.0? Another shellfish SIO, due October 20th. Lea said she will be happy to give an update about that later. Erica talked about the SIT web map and data sharing.
- JJ shared the Water Quality report with the group. He reviewed a document with the group that is meant to be a physical handout at Oysterfest, they have printed 1,000 copies of the document

and it summarizes what the program does, the areas worked in, and then a breakdown of shoreline surveys and OSS water quality surveys. It also displays an ambient monitoring breakdown on the back, with a coordinating map. He showed a color-coded grading table that will easily show clean and troubled water areas. All our streams monitored on Hood canal came back really clean throughout the year, especially relative to places around Belfair and Shelton through the year, which are also more populated areas on average. There is a QR code that will take you to the 2023 Annual Water Quality report that all will have access to. Erica wanted to make a note on Uncle Johns and Campbell creek that some of the elevated bacteria levels are happening by the shoreline, she recalls sometimes there are close septic systems on Uncle Johns and fine sediment that doesn't seem to flush, and there seems to always be elevated bacteria in that area. JJ said yes, Uncle Johns, that's something I was going to get to later, I've spent a lot of time investigating over the last couple of months. We have traced it back to a parcel with livestock, I think that may have been responsible for a lot of the high hits throughout the year. I referred that over to Nick with Mason CD and he had a chance to visit the property. That's been a big development in the last 30 days or so. There's also a solid waste parcel in that area that we've been looking into as well, as we don't know what's being done as far as human waste disposal on that property. The biggest issue so far seems to be the livestock property, so hopefully we can get some good management out there. Trevor asked, I am curious as it says coliform bacteria in the reports, is this a mixture of fecal and ecoli? JJ confirmed, yes. Teri asked, what is the plan on distribution of the 1,000 copies? How can we get it out to the rest of the residents? Ian said, the outreach can start at Oysterfest with the physical copies, and then the majority of outreach would be through social media, press releases and other means to try and get this report out to people. We discussed this as a direct mailing and the cost was very high to get this to everybody. JJ mentioned Emily Layman who handles the social media information for our department, and he intends to share this by next week for her to post online. Teri said, it has been a long time since Mason County has had its stand-alone water quality report, I think the last time it was done was with Mason Matters, I am a bit confused because Commissioner Shutty confirmed with us that a draft of the document that was going to be handed out to Oysterfest was going to be reviewed by us before it was finalized and published for the public. I think we maybe missed a step, there's no taking back the 1000 copies, but I think we could've added some things that could've helped, so maybe let's mark that for the next one or for the quarterly update or something we can help you with. Ian said that was our intention and unfortunately our time got away from us this year, with only having JJ, we had deadlines and he had to get something done, we ran out of time. I was not aware of commissioner Shutty's statement that it would be reviewed by the committee ahead of time. It was at the June meeting where he promised us that, said Teri. A lot of us are having technology issues in the north end and some of us don't have cellphones and can't get QR codes so for accessibility it's very important to make sure the website is also linked so we can physically type it in, and that was an oversight. There are some reading accessibility issues we need to make sure we are covering through ADA, so there are some color choices and things that aren't necessarily helpful. I know you said Emily does social media, I am sure she knows these things and has been trained in them and if she could be brought into the system it would probably be helpful to the team and doing that. JJ said for the online report there is a way to set up those web maps to be accessible where they have alternative text, audio, etc, I haven't investigated it myself, but I can

try to cover and learn how to do this setup. Teri said don't forget you do have community and county partners you can work with too, so within your own team you have folks that specialize in these things too, I would encourage you to partner up for accessibility and rely on others when needed. Ian said as far as comments, I know there can be a lot of feedback, we appreciate if anyone has comments to send us an email summarizing comments and suggestions for a future report, ideally we would like to have a draft for everyone ahead of time, it would probably not be at a MCCWD meeting, ideally we would probably be sending that out next year in electronic format between meetings and would appreciate feedback that way. Glen asked about the map, where it has Trails End Creek, it looks like Holy Oak. Ian clarified that the list of sites being sampled including Trails End Creek originated from the salmon enhancement group, and it's the site that they were sampling. I know there was so confusion with some of the names, but we do appreciate clarification if you know the name of what we are sampling is wrong or not. On the interactive map, you should be able to zoom in closely and we appreciate any clarification if the site is in fact wrong. JJ explained that he added these water courses to the regular ambient monitoring web map that is linked on the county website, so it's on there now too. Glen said he will take a look at it.

- JJ provided an ambient monitoring update. He went over things observed in ambient monitoring over the last 3 months. Over the summer, with warmer weather and lower water levels we've in general seen higher numbers across the board, which meant a lot of confirmation samples being taken and a lot of work being done trying to trace down bacteria sources. A lot of streams have been chalked up to natural factors. Most high hits discussed popped up and fizzled out before any source tracking could occur, with Uncle John's being the exception. Teri asked, are any of these sites near the 3 soon to be downgraded areas? Yes, so we sample Lilliwaup creek, which is a downgrade area, we have not ever recorded a high hit there, so there is something interesting going on there. We sample the Tahuya river, the downgrade is at the mouth of Tahuya. Caldervin is a site as well, it has shown slightly elevated numbers but generally also stays pretty low. Isn't that where you indicated someone had been in the water? asks Teri. JJ confirmed this was the area seen with the piece of big equipment in the area and has been referred on with an ERTS report.
- Vladimir provided septic O/M updates. There are no mailing updates at this point of time, Rhonda was out for a long time. When it comes to a deficiencies list, since the last meeting, there was around 150 counted via ORME reports. Due to staffing issues, we were not able to get them addressed as desired. With Rhonda coming back, and me now on the team, we hope to get back to tackling this O/M project. Teri asked, so, this is 150 new deficiencies from the last time we met, or 150 total? So, in addition to what we hadn't cleared previously? Vladimir said that is correct, I would also like to clarify that at times 2 reports may be linked to one property, i.e. one deficient pumping report and a deficient inspection report, so some of these may be repeats. Teri asked if there were numbers on failures, and Ian said case-wise we have approximately 43 onsite septic failure cases currently open. These are not cases actively overflowing, we only have one of those that I know of, and it is not near shoreline or anything like that. Teri asked how many rebates have been issued since the last meeting, and how many are left? Ian replied, our contract with DOH for rebates just renewed 2-3 weeks ago, DOH has added a lot of requirements to the rebate process, and we were not able to get those cleared up until recently. We did receive 35 \$350 rebates this year as opposed to our 25 \$250 rebates that

we were used to, so that is a nice increase. We have started issuing those, but unfortunately a lot of the applications we had were from May and June. DOH has recently added that we are not to issue rebates for services that occurred outside of the contract time period, which differs from the rules in previous years. That part is a little disappointing, as we already told those people we could process those rebates when the new contract came in and now that is not going to happen.

Partner updates:

- Erica updated the group with news that Brian is gone for the foreseeable future. She shared her screen with the group and reviewed a map of Monitoring Locations of Skookum Valley & Kamilche Point. She shared a summary for Fecal Coliform hits that showed results in sampling over a span of 2019 – 2022 for various sites. Teri requested the data be sent to her, and asked concerning the LIT1 high hits, what is your stormwater control or vector control in those dumpsters, as fecal can also be found there? (LIT1 is a point between two gas stations and also has a lot of transient activity.) Erica explained that she doesn't think there is a connection of the KTP express dumpsters to Little Creek, but there could be a KTP connection to Little Creek on the other side, however I've never seen a surface discharge from those areas to the creek. That is an excellent question however, and I'm glad to send you that data. Also, Nick and Evan got some funding to do some community outreach in Skookum Valley. So, that is poised to happen and will happen when Mason Conservation District is ready to get it going. Lastly, Erica discussed a specific location with the group, showing the new Coffee Creek, she was walking the new Coffee Creek with WSDOT and then walked the old Coffee Creek to see what it is looking like now. While doing the walk at the old Coffee Creek, she was down at the creek behind a house where there appeared to be a lot of manure, and there was a horse about 10 feet from the embankment. She shared the house location with the group and asked if it was inside city limits, and it was confirmed that this was a county jurisdiction. The house is dumping manure in the creek. There appeared to be a homeless bathing area down the creek as well. Kenny Oberg said that his samples down there would confirm everything you just said Erica. Erica said that she believes it is more the horse than the people, but she is more than willing to collaborate on any information necessary. Erica ended her screenshare. Teri asked Erica, when you found the piles, what did you do? Who did you call, did you put in an ERTS? Did you refer them to Nick? Erica explained what she did, and did not call Nick though she needed to, but it was 3 weeks ago and now we have the meeting to discuss. Teri said, maybe in the next meeting, we can discuss the process of who to contact when we see something. How can we help people not do these things, and learn about these things? Because poop that close to the stream, or in the stream, is not good. Elena spoke and said in the past I have used the map you are describing to compare not only results, but also names of sites as they can differ across sources of data, so that was helpful in the past. The second thing that I have had, when I drive around and feel like I might need to submit an ERTS, I have the ERTS website forms up on my work phone as a webpage. So that's a quick tip when scouting areas. JJ added that he just got results back for ambient monitoring for September that was done on Monday and Tuesday. We only got 33 Coliforms per 100/ml on our Goldsborough site so I think that property is just exactly right outside of what is reflected in that data, so thank you for bringing that up because they probably would have just

barely managed to skirt getting reflected in our samples for months to come. Ian asked what specific area of the site was being sampled there, and JJ explained, it is downstream. Erica had no further updates for the group.

- Nick shared with the group. As Erica mentioned, Skookum Valley outreach work will be coming up. We discussed this week using that as a good target reach on partnering our services with the Craft program and doing combined survey. We are trying to model it off of our Knotweed assessment surveys because we get a staggering response back from those, piles and piles. We have taken those lessons and are putting it towards buffers and fun conservation practices in Skookum Valley. I can't share too much of the referral that I received from JJ, but I did get verbal consent from the land owner to go out there and get going on the process, it's a willing cooperator that did not realize what the situation on the ground was. Progress should be underway on that case. I'm still communicating with Hannah Coe in Ecology, there are other going-on's in the county. Some good news is that we did get 4 of the \$12,000 with the BMP implementation already, 2 months into our funding cycle so we are hitting the ground pretty hard. That reflects 9 different farms in the county. If you know anyone in the Skokomish Valley who's looking for riparian plantings, I know our riparian crew is looking for some acreage. Erica asked, when you do your reports for these meetings, is it possible for you to give us a 30,000 ft view map? Meaning, not where we can see the parcel boundary but we could see the dot, the dots would be like active farm plan updates, interactions in the past 4 years, etc, where we could see sort of a general spatial distribution of where you guys are engaged. Ian added, what about a heat map of some kind? Showing, here's the valley, and here's the number of plans that we're working on. Nick replied that this was a big topic of conversation in our NEP contract negotiation, because of sharing and spatial data in recording, I think we all understand the role that the Conservation District plays in water quality and our pillars of confidentiality and not being able to volunteer practices. With the NEP funds we are starting to look at a sliding scale. There would be a lot of internal discussion here on what we felt was comfortable bringing to the public forum, and a lot of it would be, we do have GIS staffer now, Justin Bennet who is also the VSP coordinator. Him and I were pretty in tandem on a lot of our aspects on scopes of work. That could be something, the big issue is funding, time and capacity. I'm never going to claim to be a GIS expert so my abilities there are somewhat limited, but it's definitely something we could discuss. I know a lot of our work is starting to look at things like that. Erica said okay, I will just say it remains an ongoing request, because it would help people know how valuable you are and it would help us stand how water quality compares to Mason CD activity. Nick said, about 90% of my funding is water quality associated, even with the cost share and the commission funded for implementation, most of it flows through shellfish program funding. Even the salmon recovery, so I think it was our conversation with you, Erica, and Washington Water Trust that kind of floated back to a hard to differentiate the water conversation from the water quality aspect of it. Evan added that, because of this DOH and EP award, and the conversations around their need to prove efficacy of their programming, obviously they'd like to have as detailed information as they could get. We talked about that a lot internally and with DOH, so we are committed now to start at the 12 level and to start being able to roll things up at a 12, in some cases we should be able to get more refined in that, but in some smaller areas we condense information into it may become more obvious who we are working with. We cannot be successful in doing our job unless we have the trust in the community, so that's a very important

aspect as we navigate through these conversations. We need our people to feel confident and trust in us if they are inviting us out on their property. Teri had brought up a question on who to call, and when, and that became more complicated too. That is something we would love to map out in a more formal way over time, starting between the district and Ecology, and also bringing in the local health department and the Tribes to try and figure out the order of operations and when we can and cannot respond. For example, the horse example being spoken of, we could easily go to that home and introduce ourselves, what services we provide and say we are here to help you. If that was an ERTS complaint and became a referral letter, we wouldn't be reaching out to that landowner until they reached out to us in response to the ERTS complaint because we need to make sure that we are separated from the regulatory process. We wouldn't be going on a joint site visit unless the landowner specifically requested us to be present because again, we want to be seen as a resource that they can call on that's completely separate from the regulatory process. Teri said, Evan, you just explained exactly what we need to understand as a group and what the public needs to understand as well. She asked, could you remind me what's a HUC 12, how big is that? He replied, it varies, but I bet we could probably pull up a HUC 12 map. Teri said, she is asking because at one point, Jen on your team, they had produced a lovely series of maps by watershed. It would say there are 220 farms, for example, and 90% have farm plans, and there are 222 pigs, and 5 cattle and x number – it wasn't per farm, it was the area, and what it did for water quality specialists was help form an understanding of the agricultural impact within that watershed, not where it was but the overall impact. In VSP land, I thought we could see the farms, is that not true? Under the voluntary stewardship plan or program, couldn't we know which farms those were or is that not the case? Evan said, no, we don't have to reveal if someone comes to us through VSP for a farm plan or anything like that, we shouldn't be revealing that otherwise they won't come to us for farm plans. Teri said, okay, some of us are still concerned about VSP and its effect on water quality, there's a couple of farms I've seen recently with livestock standing in a stream and I was told that they were a VSP farm and they can do that, and that concerned me as a citizen. Evan said, that's misinformation Teri and I'm happy to have a conversation with you about it. Teri said, great, it was the owner that told me, so that's why I was curious if they really are a VSP farm or not, and I have no way of knowing. Do you know how many VSP farms we have over all? Evan said, we can go down a pretty long tangent in this conversation, for us right, we consider any farmer willing to fill out a survey form for us to be a VSP participant. There's no such thing as a VSP farm, and also just because someone is VSP it does not mean they can have animals in the stream, that's just not how it works. VSP does not provide as much flexibility for farmers as it seems on paper, not even close. Since I took over as manager in the district, I've had to dive as deep as I can in VSP over the years, what I've come to realize is that it's a great resource for voluntary stewardship, it brings extra money into the community for implementing BMP's but when it comes down to the regulations and how water quality law is enforced on farms in Mason County, they're really not getting more flexibility. There are still setbacks, there are still permits you need to get. I think on both sides there's a bit of an inflated expectation of what VSP does, and it's a program in its infancy so I'd be happy to chat with you more about what I've learned. Ian mentioned that Vladimir will be coordinating meetings from now on, and any topics you would like to see in future meetings, feel free to send him an e-mail with details and we can put it on the agenda for future discussion as well. Evan had an additional comment, he said

when you are thinking back to numbers of animals and things like that discussed in the beginning, there was a point in time, there was a couple of iterations of inventories that we completed in the past and we haven't had an opportunity to do farm inventory in quite a long time. So, the only information we would have would be from site visits, etc. Any of that particular data we have now is pretty dated. Ian responded to the earlier comment of people in Skokomish Valley who may be interested in riparian planting, mentioning talking to Sean Johnson a year or two ago where he expressed interest in it back then. For closure, Evan said, if we decide we want to a VSP agenda item to do a deeper dive, I recommend getting the planning department on board as well, and someone from the state as well, so it's not just us speaking to you about it. Ian agreed with this, and said it would take some planning, and likely 3-6 months to prepare for.

- Trevor Swanson shared his screen with the group and gave a standard update from WSDOH on Preliminary Marine Water Data (SRS) in Oakland Bay. Right now, there are no pending upgrades or downgrades. Ian asked, do you know when we will receive those official notifications for downgrades in Lilliliwaup and Tahuya? Trevor said, I think we sent them out today so you may get one via e-mail soon and via regular mail within the week or so. It will be happening real soon. Ian asked, when we receive those, that will be the start of our 160 days right, to write the closure response plan? Trevor said yes, correct. The group had no further questions on Trevor's presentation.
- Kenny said, we don't have our September of this year samples in yet, but I did prepare some updated data tables and made some graphs, and I also have the storm sampling map to share. Ian asked, for your sampling program, you're only sampling during certain months of the year, not year-round, correct? Kenny confirmed, it is not year-round, it is July through September. We will be renewing our stormwater permit and that will take effect in 2024. Kenny shared his screen with the group and refreshed them on where the sampling points are located. We sampled next to outflows on the city storm system and yes, it's dry so there's no actual flow coming out of those. There's only one that flows year-round and that's point #9. That comes from city springs, right by the city shop, there's a little duck pond that constantly flows. Erica asked, why sample in the summer but the outfalls are dry? Kenny said, I'm not entirely sure where that came from, but I can tell you physically there is no way I can sample from the outfall in the creek during wet months. I've just been under the assumption since we were new on this cycle that we had to get a baseline and then I was told in the future we would probably switch to the last catch basin before the outfall and do that in the wetter months when we have stormflow. So, we'd have a couple years of baseline data and then once we get that point, we can start sampling during the wet months to see what the city itself is contributing to it, but I'm not entirely sure on that, I'm just doing what I have to do to meet the permit requirements. Kenny continued to show data to the group from the samples collected. Teri asked why about an upward trend, and he explained human occupancy around the creek is very common and very challenging to consistently track down because a lot of it is after dark hours activity and they tend to move around a lot, I am referring to the homeless population in the city. I know that contributes to this, and the data for August would indicate a recent change just based on that. Ian asked, do you also have data for Shelton creek, or just Goldsborough? Kenny said, only Goldsborough, Shelton creek may change that comes down within next permit cycle, we just have to be very specific about where we sample because more to the bay or eastern area of the

city you'd be getting water from Canyon Creek and City Springs creek when they tie together and go into Shelton creek. Erica said, just so you know we sample behind the Dairy Queen for 15-20 years, so we have a long record to compare for you, as well as Goldsborough at first street. It was monthly, year-round sampling. Kenny said, as far as preventative water quality, my source control program that I developed last year and implemented this year got a slow start, because doing the stormwater permit things and inspections and there also a lot of developments in the process of going through preliminary plat or in one case approved civil plans for construction and I do a lot that as far as the permitting and plan review. We also got some other Public Works guy trained up on those source control inspection procedures, and we're going to meet our cap of 70 inspections by the end of the year. So far, I've had one major one I'm working with currently to get corrected. Nothing too major, but it cannot be overlooked. That is in the process and hopefully as time goes on and we move our concentration areas of inspections, which is downtown, we'll be able to hit all around the city within 2 years I'd assume. Kenny concluded his presentation and the group had no further questions.

- Leah shared a blog post link in the chat. She said, we have another funding opportunity through the shellfish SIL right now, very similar to the last, it is currently open and there is about \$4.5 million available this time. One of the main differences we are offering this time around is kind of an applicant support office hours type of situation, we're trying to find ways to provide better feedback for those trying to fill out applications and trying to help them build stronger applications. There are a few hours throughout the application period that people can drop in to and bring you applications and chat with folks to get some technical assistance on that. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or want any additional information on that. Teri asked, LEAH, what do you do with the SIL? Leah said, I am in the National Estuary Program, and the Shellfish Strategic Initiative. My position previously mostly focused on Whatcom counties pick work with my predecessor but since she left, a little over a year ago, my position morphed into more of a regional role. I am part of WSDOH.
- Molly Paige introduced herself as the new Nonpoint Water Quality specialist in Mason County and she will be taking over for Alena Reynolds. I don't have a ton of updates as I'm still going through old complaints and kind of wrapping my head around different local issues and that sort of thing. I am excited to be here and working with you all, and land owners in Mason County as well. We hired 2 other Nonpoint specialists as well as myself so that is exciting. Ian mentioned the Oakland Bay Farms, also Natures Creation Organic Farm, that property on highway 3 is up for sale right now. That could affect things going forward. In the future, we're highly interested in the work happening in the Skokomish River Valley. There was a lot of work that Alena and Anne Baxter were doing there, working with the hunters and other land owners. We'd love to hear more about where Ecology currently is with their cases. Molly said, I know Hannah Coe is still managing that but hopefully in the future that will be handed over to me. Ian said, I heard Hannah is not going to be on the nonpoint team anymore, is that true? Molly confirmed that is true. The group had no further questions.
- Alena Reynolds shared an update. I did observe cattle having access to Hunter Creek, and I submitted an ERTS. They put up polywire to contain the cattle. Is the tribes ambient monitoring sampling program up yet? asked Ian. Alena said, yeah so Seth brought me in mid-March, and we hit the ground running, so I've been able to take samples monthly. I'm taking a leaf out of Erica's book and learning R (a software program). I'm far behind Erica so I'm only starting to get that

ball rolling. Erica said, you're not that far behind me but what we are going to do is we are going to make maps as fancy as JJ's. Let's make that our goal for 2024. The group had no further questions.

- Art shared that he had no updates, just concerns on fresh water. We have a whole host of people living on the lake, I'm sure we have failing septic systems, and we had a bloom in Benson Lake that basically made the lake look like Green Lake in Seattle. It wasn't toxic, but it's scary. And then we did have a blue-green algae bloom in February in Mason Lake. So, there's some health issues and if we could figure out how to get water sampling going on Mason-Benson lake and all large lakes in Mason County that'd be awesome. Somehow, we must figure out how to make this start happening. I was trying to get the port to pay for it, but we don't have a big budget. We would probably use it up in one month of sampling. If we could figure out how to get a funding source and make it a regular routine, I don't think we'd have a problem with finding volunteers to sample, the biggest issue is the lab as far as the cost of sending samples to the lab. Ian said, the only lab I know that's doing the analysis is King County Environmental Lab. Did you ever find the cost, Art? Art said, there's a lab in Poulsbo, I asked them for the cost, we are looking at \$800 full spectrum for nutrient loading sampling and then occasionally algae identification type of stuff, it is not cheap. Erica said, I think you could find labs in Olympia for nutrients and bacteria, and have you ever thought about a special purpose district for Mason-Benson area where you form some sort of entity just for that purpose? We went out and did some stratification sampling, not of bacteria but of dissolved oxygen and temperature in Mason Lake down to 30 feet this summer. At one time I reviewed your data, you have a sampling location on a regular basis right, on Mason Lake? Erica said yes, I'm overdue to get that information to you. What about a special purpose district? Art said, we have one for invasive water plants where we sample and we're looking at milfoil. It's a very active process, not only identification but removal. I was involved in that for a little while, but that's after the fact, that's after you have nutrients in the water and release of invasive species. What I'm after is, what's the root cause. We're identifying there's an issue but not really going after a root cause. When Benson Lake turned green, there's a logging operation that occurred around the lake which may have played a part, but there are other factors too, septic tanks perhaps. We're only going after the event occurs and not why it occurred. With the water sampling going on to support the oyster industry, you guys are really getting after pinpointing it. I'd like to see us do the same thing in our lakes. Ian said, that might be a good thing to suggest to Vladimir try to get on the schedule of the topic for a future meeting to brainstorm ideas for lake work in the county. We have \$30,000 allocated towards lake work to respond to algae blooms. We didn't come close to spending that, we didn't have the stuff during summer to expend that, but we didn't get a whole lot of reports of blooms this summer to respond to as well. I think this warrants for discussion. Art said there was also a bloom on Trails End lake. There were no further updates.
- Teri shared, just a plug your workshop, your team and WSU will be offering your septic class at noon on the 12th of October. Ian said also, we do have mini grants available for up to \$1,000 for people to apply for anything that furthers the mission of Mason County Public Health. So, it can be public education related things, we've had several groups that have requested money to create posters for educational events, it can be anything related to any Mason County Public Health Programs, anything Environmental Health or Water Quality related things, we just need a letter for how the money will be used and how it will help support the mission of Mason County

Public Health. It's a pretty simple application if anyone knows of anyone who would want to apply for that or any non-profits that are interested in that. Teri asked, do they need to be a 501c3 and can't be a 501c4? Ian said, I don't think there's been any evaluation of what their tax status is. It's just for public education, not something being used to fund a specific group necessarily. The application is not online, but has been sent out via social media. The group concluded their updates.

Meeting adjourned by Ian Tracy.

Next meeting, December 14th 2023.