

## **From the Desk of the Environmental Health Manager (interim) August 2018 and September 2018**

For Board of Health September 25th – by Alex Paysse

On August 21<sup>st</sup> I was officially offered the management position, to which I accepted. I appreciate the opportunity to continue serving Mason County. If any of the board members have any questions, do not hesitate to call me. You can reach me at [alexp@co.mason.wa.us](mailto:alexp@co.mason.wa.us) or 360-427-9670, ext. 279.

On August 1<sup>st</sup> we hired a new Environmental Health Specialist, Linsey Fields. Linsey is filling the new temp position that was created from the additional funding received in July for prevention of communicable disease. She will also be assisting in other various water quality grants.

### **Onsite Sewage:**

Onsite staff, being mostly geared towards permitting, will be very busy in the upcoming weeks training for the new permit software SmartGov. Alex continues to assist in the program transfer, verifying data is migrating correctly and setup of new permit procedures. Smart GOV hopes to go live in November

As of August 30<sup>th</sup>, we have received 325 onsite sewage permits, which is an increase of 21% from last year.

### **Drinking Water:**

Alex and Jeff met with DOH office of drinking water staff in August for a meet-n-greet and contract review. Jeff will be taking over the Group A sanitary surveys (formally done by Maria Machado).

As of August 30<sup>th</sup>, we have received 116 well construction applications. 65 well constructions (35 with driller) and 2 well decommissions have been inspected by staff.

### **Water Quality:**

Katie is still working on finalizing the Annas Bay response plan. She is currently working with community stakeholders and we hope to have the plan finished soon, so staff can start investigations and field work.

Sean continues to work on Hammersly inlet and investigate non-point sources of pollution. As the wet season nears, more sampling and testing can be done both in

Hammersly and Hood Canal. Sean gave updates to his work at the September quarterly meeting for the Oakland Bay Clean Water Advisory meeting.

Mason County still has some rebates available for Mason County residents (depending on location). This year 116 rebates have been provided to residents for maintenance of their onsite sewage systems. Rebates range up to \$400.00 per system for maintenance of their OSS or addition of risers/effluent filters. These rebates help owners keep their systems up to date on maintenance and assist in our water quality efforts.

Linsey Fields will be bridging the gap between onsite sewage maintenance and water quality. She is working the Carmody database and preparing mailings towards owners that have unsatisfactory sewage reports on file. This work is funded by the foundational money received in July, as well as other various grants.

#### **Food Safety:**

Cody L. continues to wrap up the summer temp events and prepare for Oysterfest 2018. He is also working to improve community relations and educate the public on recent inspections, recalls, events, etc... through the Mason County food facebook page. Check it out, he is looking for likes.

#### **Solid Waste:**

Luke C. has been working on facility inspections, including the Mason County transfer station and the State Prison composter. He will be attending the annual Solid Waste Conference in September in Leavenworth, WA.

#### **Vector:**

Staff responded to 1 dog bite and several bat inquiries. Two bats were submitted for testing and both were negative for rabies.

#### **Shellfish:**

Sean M. continues collecting Mussels from Jerrell's Cove for Biotoxin testing. Mason Co. currently has no shellfish marine biotoxin closures per latest DOH bulletin.

#### **Water Recreation:**

Cody L. has completed the 2018 pool/spa inspections.