

Anna's Bay Shellfish Protection District (SPD)

Initial Stake Holders Meeting

11/29/2018

Leading the Meeting: Katie O. (MCPH)

Present from MCPH: Alex Paysse (EH Manager), Katie Otanez (Lead EHS for Anna's Bay), Linsey Fields (EHS)

Meeting Started @ 1:02 pm.

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Housekeeping items. Went around room for introductions some of the Stakeholders present: Department of Ecology, Department of Health, Skokomish Tribe, Tillicum Beach Residents, Hood Canal Improvement Group, Mason Conservation District, Hunter Farms, Residents of Skokomish Valley.

During this time Katie went over agenda and meeting objectives, those objectives are

- Increase stakeholder understanding of DOH's Marine Monitoring Program, how growing are evaluated, classified, and monitored.
- Increase stakeholder understanding of RCW 90.72.045 and the Response Plan Implementation Process.
- Identify priority areas and actions for reaching goal of improved water quality and public health.

### **Begin Power Point Presentation by Trevor Swanson from Department of Health entitled Marine Water Quality Monitoring Program.**

Key points: There are strategically placed Marine Monitoring Stations near possible sources of pollution, those stations are sampled 6-12 times per year. Need at least 30 samples to set standards for that station. Conditionally Approved means that pollution can be predicted, during those predicted times the growing area will be shut down. For Anna's Bay, the predicted elevation in pollution happens when river raises above 15 feet. This is the condition that will close growing areas. History of downgrades in Anna's bay including one in 2005, upgrade in 2009, and this current downgrade. 1,220 commercial growing areas are now Conditionally Approved. This downgrade does not affect management of growing areas or change closure criteria.

Q.) How much will all of this cost?

A.) Katie and Alex-Funding comes primarily though Grant funding and is not fee based or tax based. HCPIC Grant and National Estuary Program Grant money.

Q.) Will there be some new Tax eventually?

A.)-Katie- S.P.D's have never had a fee attached, there is the possibility but no plans for fees?

Q.) It seems all these problems started happening when the Webb-Hill Biosolids facility started operating, we did not see these issues before.

A.) -Katie-We will talk about that later. As well as other concerns in the area. Are there any more questions for Trevor regarding how Department of Health sets approval rating for growing areas?

Q.) The change in going up and down of pollution isn't going to change, there is a bunch of wildlife on Skokomish: birds, seals, rotting salmon, beaver; only solution would be to kill all wildlife and put a filter on the river, but that will never happen.

A.) Trevor: trends will not change, but the data shows higher trends than in the past, trends are also associated and correlated with seasonal changes (influx of rain and flooding) not wildlife or rotting salmon.

Q.) Going back to commercial harvesting beds are they tribal, commercial, or recreational?

A.) Trevor: The photo from earlier and what we monitor are commercial growing bed, some are owned by Skokomish Tribe, as well as private businesses.

Q.) Referring to map from Power Point-Can the public harvest in the brown area?

A.) Trevor: If you live on the water or have permission you can harvest your own shellfish for recreational use, you can also harvest at Potlatch State Park, make you check the DFW website for closures. We monitor for commercial harvesting. The brown area is closed to harvesting for commercial.

Q.) Isn't the pollution coming from all areas of Hood Canal and not just the River?

A.) Trevor: Yes, if pollution noticed or detected in other areas then those beds will be shut down till pollution is identified or improved.

Q.) Is the S.P.D just for areas on River?

A.) Katie: No, the area boundaries will be bigger than just River area.

Q.) We noticed you had some high hits from some of the stations that seem to be outliers did you investigate those?

A.) Trevor: Yes the 540 was a misread, in those cases we resample and then investigate if continued higher levels.

Q.) Do you read at the time of collection or do you send it to a lab. Also do you retest same day as high hits, shouldn't those outliers be removed from data set?

A.) Trevor- we send it to a lab for tests and reading results. We do not have the capacity to sample same day, although that would be nice, and we can not really omit those outliers, but we can retest. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile condition pads the data a little for some extreme outliers.

Q.) How many growing areas in Mason County? How many S.P.D's?

A.) Katie-There are 12-15 growing areas in Mason County, and about 6 Shellfish Protection Districts.

Q.) Why is Black and Bald Point not included?

A.) Trevor- We have a lot more data, did not see trends, may not have been appropriate to include those in this area in the first place, completed some studies on water currents and such.

**Katie Otanez starts her presentation:**

Key points: doing things a little different this time than with Big Bend in order to approved efficiency. I wrote plan and got it approved before public meeting, so that work can get started and we can address concerns directly.

Q.) Andrea Love-Hood Canal Improvement, commented that she has lived in this area for 26 years, and has never once eaten shellfish from her own beach. She has videos of this year of cattle standing in the creeks, and river. This is her biggest concern: the cows in stream upland from her property.

Q.) Can Mason County enforce on people who are not keeping up to date with Operation and Maintenance of their Onsite Septic Systems?

A.) Alex- We have our OSS management system (Carmody), that tracks when parcels are due and when parcels have unsatisfactory events. But we do not have a mechanism for a fine for lack of Maintenance and Pumping of your individual OSS. There are some things in place like not approving building permit if OSS is not up to date or requiring Pumping and Inspection before the sale of a home.

Q.) Most Fecal Coliform comes from individual OSS, why is Mason County not enforcing on individual OSS.

A.) Alex- A failing system is different than a system not up to date. We do have regulations that allow us to enforce on those cases, but pollution is multi sourced. The WAC has stronger language that gives us some teeth to go after those systems and bring them up to code and functioning properly.

**Closing- Please write down any concerns or question on the piece of paper we provided with name and contact information, so I can address all of you concerns and suggestions about focus areas for this SPD. The next meeting will take place in February, please keep checking the link on the white board for time and place of next meeting.**

**Meeting adjourned @ 2:38.**