

Big Bend Shellfish Protection District (SPD)
Second Stakeholder Meeting
1/24/2017

Meeting started @ 1:02p

1) Welcome and introductions

Sign ins, handouts distributed

Went around room for introductions.

Covered ground rules item by item. Everyone agreed. Asked how many present attended previous meeting: most attendees were present 1st meeting.

2) Overview of Shellfish Protection District process and water quality in the area.

Began PowerPoint presentation

Q: What are funding options after funding runs out?

A: Taxation, but not a concern, we have funding.

Q: If I have property zoned as agricultural forest land, could I get charged fees/etc?

A: No, none of the kinds of zoning where those charges apply, forest land is specifically exempt.

(Attempt to improve audio issues for conference callers)

Q: Question about PowerPoint slide concerning what our statement about pollution means: Is it a blanket statement about pollution?

A: No, what we mean is the pollution levels currently do not meet the confidence levels that pollution remains low after rain events.

Q: Rain gauge is in Shelton, should we have one for Hood Canal?

A: We could look into that. Monitoring directly @ HC is not a bad idea.

Q: Is there seasonality to the closure, or just rain events?

DOH A: Both. Downgrade overlaps with seasonal closures in addition to rain event closures.

Q: Are there other monitoring stations than 292?

DOH A: Yes. We collect samples 6-12 months a year. 1500 stations in Puget Sound and the coast. 8 Along shoreline from Union to (Forest Beach/East of Union). There are 32 stations in Hood Canal #6.

Q: When did pollution start @ station 292?

A: It's been ongoing, and back and forth. In 2015 it was downgraded.

Q: Out of compliance means there will be an SPD formed?

A: Yes if they have been they will be.

Q: If they go back into compliance, will the SPD be dissolved?

A: Yes it can be. There are a variety of factors to the formation and inactivation of SPDs.

Q: Can pollution sample reading raw data be made available?

A: Certainly, WDOH can release it to MCPH to disseminate through the email list.

Q: Correlation between rainfall? Request an explanation as to how rainfall affects pollution.

A: Rainfall washes pollution into waterway. Compare readings from before rain and after rain.

Q: What degree of correlation is there specifically?

DOH A: Significant enough based from data going back through the 1980s.

Stakeholders present mentioned the DOH interactive commercial shellfish map is a great resource for a lot of information.

Q: Do we go into the streams to sample?

A: That's what we are trying to get approved to do. This is our goal of the meeting.

Q: Seasonal contributions outside of rainfall?

A: Certainly, we have to find out what and where contribution is taking place.

Stakeholders suggest that parcels with a historical precedent for pollution be taken into account.

Q: How do we know that the entities involved are being truthful with their findings/reporting?

A: We have to trust the agencies we work with. We are aware of the larger entities involved in the SPD.

Q: Will the SPD affect current or future development?

A: No.

3) Progress in Big Bend SPD to date and boundary changes.

Clarification on which map presented is the most recent version of the proposed SPD boundary.

Q: What determines the beach boundary?

A: DOH shoreline surveys. Also close-by parcels closed to commercial shellfish harvesting are included in this SPD.

Q: How do we determine cutoffs of boundaries?

A: Determined through sampling over time, monitoring, and testing marine waters. Field work tracking routes of stream flows.

Q: Why are there straight lines?

A: The boundaries are set by parcel, so the edges are all by parcel. We don't split up parcels in SPDs.

Stakeholders asked us to point out the clear cut by the transfer station. Request obliged. Stakeholder states only the section closest to the transfer was most recently clear cut.

Q: Are culverts and roadside drainage ditches sampled along SR 106?

A: Certainly, once we have a work plan approved we can start doing sampling. Storm water, septic, animal waste, etc, it is all connected.

Q: If WDOH has people that sample on the canal, does the county collaborate or get to share in that information?

A: Yes. We collaborate when we can. MCPH gets referrals from WDOH.

Q: When does monitoring trigger contact by DOH to MCPH?

A: It really depends on what the readings are. A failing septic system is referred same-day/ASAP for instance.

Q: Would a monthly alert help?

A: Coordination always is occurring; an 'alert' system is more or less already in place.

Q: Would it be possible to access data so community can respond?

A: Certainly, we can attempt to provide as much data and collaboration as possible. This meeting is an example of this.

Q: Did a notification go out to everyone?

A: Unfortunately not everyone added into the latest revision was notified based on proximity to the meeting.

Q: Is this meeting valid then?

A: Yes, hundreds of letters went out, not all stakeholders are present.

4) What governance structure will the group have? Are all the stakeholder groups sufficiently represented? Who else is needed if anyone?

Q: What power is voting have here? Who votes?

A: The commissioners approved the plan. We want your approval so we aren't proceeding with a work plan approved by the commissioners that doesn't align with the citizens involved.

Q: Why not just ask if we object instead of approved?

A: Sure.

Stakeholders revisit wanting data on other stations in HC and about pollution levels. DOH interactive map is again brought up as a great resource for that info.

Q: Is Alderbrook creek included?

A: Based on parcels, yes.

Q: Are we looking at Alderbrook resort?

A: We are looking at Alderbrook resort.

Q: Why isn't Alderbrook creek on the map?

A: It is included in the parcels, we just didn't include the drawing of the water flow on the final map. (Did not have Alderbrook Creek layer file.) But we are confident in the map.

Stakeholders suggested deferring vote until later.

More discussion on the involvement of Alderbrook, their sewer system, and what is considered 'sewage'. Responded in part that this is ultimately a matter with Department of Ecology: Alderbrook is highly regulated, and data is accessible.

Stakeholders inquire if Mason County ensuring the data is correct based on the notion that there are other pollutants, such as nitrogen that could be monitored as well. Stakeholder references past examples of non-FC pollution.

Responded that all of our investigation into different sources and forms of pollution needs to be approved. We can't do anything until a work plan is approved.

Q: Why can't we just move forward on this?

A: We would like to do just that.

Q: What is our normal plan of action?

A: Test shorelines, move up into watershed, and take account of all factors.

Q: When we get money, does boundary preclude using funds for anything outside of SPD?

A: Kind of. Adjustments can be made until we find the source.

Q: Boundaries do not constrain our work?

A: No. We want to focus on pollution identification and correction, not boundaries.

Discussion about the flexibility of SPDs, their boundaries, and ability to focus on the main objective: PIC work.

Q: If we find a lead, can we pursue outside of the boundary.

A: Yes

Q: So there is flexibility in this.

A: Yes

Q: Why is there overlap in the boundaries with other clean water districts? What are the legal issues? We should look at the legal ramifications of overlap.

A: Certainly.

Q: Do we have authority to do this meeting and have a vote?

A: Yes.

Q: Can we just declare if there are objections?

A: Sure

Conversation of validity of meeting, voting, and the merit of the process of SPDs, and if objections are more useful than approval.

Stakeholders suggest that we put language in the work plan that explicitly states that the boundaries are "subject to revision throughout the process"

5) Discussion of the draft plan, discussion of tasks

Discussion of work plan, going over TOC, acronyms, and into governance structure with past options that have worked. It can be just whoever shows up.

Q: Will this affect development?

A: No.

Q: Will this increase attempts to enforce?

A: No special provisions or powers.

Q: Discussion about Q&M maintenance and how they are reported to the county. Clarification of differences between compliance, non-compliance, and failure for septic systems.

Q: When is the SPD abandoned?

A: For this: satisfying DOH to trigger an upgrade from Conditionally approved to Approved.

Q: When does work end? Do we form an SPD every time there's a high reading?

A: It's an ongoing process to determine down/upgrades, and this SPD is reflecting past concerns. This isn't the first time this has happened in HC. It's an ongoing evaluation

Q: Is being in an SPD going to show on property deeds?

A: No.

Q: How long will it take to upgrade? 2.5 years?

A: It can, it can also take a relatively short time depending on what investigations find.

Q: Will the SPD allow MCPH to force dye tests?

A: No, not outside of our normal capacity to enforce public health.

Q: Are these harvest areas recreational or commercial?

A: Commercial only. The beaches are typically leased by commercial shellfish companies from private owners.

Q: If 292 readings are showing that it meets NSSP standards, why is this happening?

A: Historical precedence of pollution in the area.

Q: Do we have to make this SPD?

A: In this case yes, there was a downgrade.

Asked Stakeholders if any agencies or groups were not included in the list of members:

Businesses that aren't shellfish farmers

Hood Canal Coordinating Council

(Remove Puget Sound Partnership)

Maybe Fish and Wildlife concerning wildlife populations and maybe DOT as needed but not on the official list.

Short discussion began about base flow and how it is measured.

6) Establish meeting frequency and plan next meeting date.

Meeting adjourned. @ 3:06p