

Big Bend Area Shellfish Protection District meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Mason County Public Works

1 pm -3 pm

Everyone signed-in and took a hand out for the meeting.

Meeting officially began at 1:06 pm.

Mason County Public Health opened the meeting by going over the meeting's agenda. Then everyone introduced themselves and their affiliation with the Shellfish Protection District. Next, Mason County Public Health covered the ground rules of the meeting, to which everyone agreed with.

MCPH- Department of Health has been doing work since implementation of the SPD.

DOH- There has been monthly FC monitoring by the DOH, except for July. DOH is required to sample 6 times during the open season- which has been exceeded. Water quality has been stable during sampling since the Shellfish Protection District creation.

Station 292 examined in meeting packet. Sample data from station 292 shown from 2005 to last month includes the peak in 2015 at 350 FC/100 ml of water. Data is highlighted in blue when sampled during a rain event. High FC samples at station 292 do not seem to be dominated by rainfall events.

Q: If station 292 is not dominated by rainfall events what factor is driving the high FC events at 292?

A DOH: A number of factors could be the source of high FC events for station 292, but the data is heavy with rainfall events which do not always occur in hand with the high FC samples.

Q: (Looking at the data in the meeting packet) What is the difference between the standards for salt and freshwater? How come the 90th percentile is used and not just the geometric mean (geomean)? It seems only the geomean is used to determine the status of freshwater and not the 90th percentile.

A DOH: Saltwater has more stringent regulations due to recreational activity and the food sourced from saltwater. For saltwater the FC geomean cannot be greater than 14 and the 90th percentile cannot be higher than 43 FC per 100 ml.

A MCPH: For freshwater throughout Hood Canal the FC cannot be greater than 200 FC/ 100 ml of water.

(Discussion about how to calculate the geomean and how it is different from a normal mean is discussed by the stakeholders. It is now better understood by the group.)

Q MCPH: What is the upcoming sampling schedule for DOH?

A DOH: Next sampling looks to be November 26th.

Q: Would it have been beneficial to require monthly sampling for the DOH?

A DOH: It could have resulted in high samples or low samples, and logistics has to be taken into consideration. It could have changed the results in a good or bad direction depending on the sample results. It's possible another high FC sample, like the 350, could have resulted.

MCPH- (Referring to data in meeting packet) Our work in the field with freshwater identified one hot spot which was the one hot spot we started with. There have been some high samples on Dalby. The focuses of our efforts have been on Dalby and the drainages on the parcel closures on Mason Avenue and Calm Cove. The sample site at the end of Mason Avenue was dry during our sampling. Site BC-001 showed one high hit on Dalby Road across the street from the LOSS drainfield of the Blue Heron.

Q: Do we know any information or enforcement on the illegal encampment on Dalby?

A: No, we do not know of any enforcement.

Comment: If you look at the history of the parcels you will find stacks of complaints and violations.

Q: Is I-73 sample site the mouth of Big Bend Creek?

A: Yes, right at the outfall.

Q DOH: Will there be continued sampling during the wet season?

A: Yes, but not under this work. We can't take more samples due to the contract with the lab ending when we thought the grant was going to end. The HCPIC will begin and the plan will be to continue work in the Big Bend area.

Comment DOH: We should talk later about the possibility of taking some grabs especially at the sites of high hits and using DOH's lab.

Q: In regards to the after the fact as built on this table, how is that going with Robin Hood?

A: Robin Hood had an as-built completed. We found this out after working with the site manager on creating one with the information he had. After meeting with the site manager I contacted the owner of Robin Hood who informed me that an as built was created. The owner of Robin Hood will be getting us a copy of the as-built.

Q: Are the holding tanks on the shore side across from the Robin Hood restaurant up to date on their service?

Q: Were the holding tanks mislabeled as a sewer on a previous handout?

(Everyone looked at the map being referred to and the questioner was corrected).

Q: Would you be able to dye-trace the Robin Hood system?

A: The owner has an up to date as-built and they are up to date on their servicing, so dye tracing would not be necessary.

Q: Has Blue Heron been inspected?

A: Blue Heron is a large onsite sewage system which is required to be inspected by the State on a regular schedule.

A DOH: I'm not sure how often DOH checks large onsite sewage systems. I will send MCPH the contact information of the engineer of the LOSS system for Blue Heron.

Comment: They have to keep a log and check the pipe crossing the creek once a month.

MCPH- The last table shows our other deliverables. The field parcel surveys give us very valuable information. The surveys consist of meeting with the homeowner on their property, ask them questions about their septic use, and education the homeowner about septic and the water quality connection. We also offer the homeowners the septic maintenance rebate through this grant. So far, 19 rebates have been used and if you know of any neighbors that could use the rebate send them our way. The rebates will be granted through the first week of December. Some of the rebates that have been used were on systems that never had maintenance since installation which is a step in the right direction.

Q: What types of systems used this rebate that never had maintenance since installation?

A: I'm not sure without looking at the information, but I think they are older, conventional gravity systems.

The last page is our flyer for the Septic Workshop on the 27th. It is at the Union Fire Hall and everyone is welcome to come.

As far as stormwater efforts, there has not been any reported by the Department of Transportation on the highway or by Public Works on all the other public roads. We hope to work more closely with MCPW in order to track their stormwater efforts.

Q: Do you know about the big culvert on the water side of Orres Nobel Road? I will email you a picture.

Comment DOH: We should be able to ask DOT and MCPW for a GIS layer of stormwater facilities.

MCPH- During the dry season, while we were out sampling, stormwater issues are difficult to detect.

Q: In regards to Calm Cove, what do you think is going on?

A: Above the neighborhood, the water samples are clean. My focus has been getting all the septic systems in that neighborhood up to date. My plan is to do dye tests of the systems of concern. The dye tests can only be done during the wet season. We do know that this area of concern is in the Haller and Sprague area.

Q: How come you have identified 4 farms in the area but none of them have been referred to the conservation district?

A: All the farms that have been identified have been small scale with a few chickens or rabbits. The only farm that could use the help of the conservation district is already working with them.

Q: How many of these farms did you talk with the owner?

A: All but one.

Q: Activity 15 is pet waste stations, how come there have not been any installed?

A: They have been offered to Alderbrook, Blue Heron, Union Marina, and the New Community Church. The Blue Heron declined because they are a pet free facility. The other places we have offered have not responded. The stations should only be offered to a business or a neighborhood with an HOA where someone can maintain it.

Q: Was it PUD 1 digging up on Mason Avenue recently?

A: Yes. I talked to them as they were doing the work. They worked on the ditch previously, but MCPW wasn't satisfied with their work and it needed to be redone. We will continue our investigation on Calm Cove and Mason Avenue with some possible dye-testing.

Q Skokomish Tribe: I surveyed an adjacent parcel to the closed parcel and it just stunk. There were also really gross looking black oysters on the parcel.

Q: Some farmed oysters are being bred to be black... and green and yellow. Is this the case?

A: No, they were disgusting and wild oysters. From the water, looking to shore, it is the parcel between the two docks.

Our continued work plan with the HCPIC will not be changed from the current work being done. Our goals will be to open the 2 closed parcels and upgrade the conditional closure.

Q: What is the timeframe for upgrading the closures?

A DOH: Every year in January we look at all the stations and the data. We re-evaluate by which ones are and are not meeting standards. Downgrades are decided in April and upgrades are decided after the downgrades.

We would like to see sampling through the wet season. Clean hits and continued efforts are the two benchmarks we want to meet.

Comment: We can't do any sampling until the HCPIC begins. HCPIC has not started due to not having a facilitator person yet.

Comment DOH to MCPH: We will have to have a conversation about taking samples in Big Bend and the shoreline.

Comment: Hood Canal Coordinating Council is sub contracted to do work in Big Bend, there will be a guidance meeting in the next two weeks.

Q: For Annas Bay, we will all meet again, what do we need to bring to the Commissioners to help you do your work?

A: We need to have a designated water quality program funded through the county rather than having to find the funds to do this work.

Comment: I would suggest you remain a singular entity instead of coordinating with many entities to try to get your work funded.

Comment DOH: I recommend having a wrap up meeting for the Big Bend SPD in December, rather than this being the last meeting.

Comment: Yes, I agree. Does another meeting work for everyone in December when our work is completed?

Q: How about January when all the data is compiled and the information is all together?

A: We will wait closer until the end and I will send out a doodle poll around the first week of December for the official wrap-up meeting.

Q: Will you meet with the commissioners?

A: I will ask my manager.

Comment: I will be in contact with everyone at the beginning of December, and I will be in contact with you regarding a commissioners meeting.

Meeting concluded at 2:45 pm.