



## Clean Water Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2019, 8:30 – 10:30

San Juan Island Grange, 152 First Street North, Friday Harbor

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Jenny DeGroot, Vicki Heater, Kyle Loring, Judy Meyer (on the phone), Bob Naiman,

**Non-Committee Members in Attendance:** Krista Davis, Marta Green, Tom Huse, Mak Kaufman, Jolyn Leslie, Mike Ramsey

**County staff/commissioners in attendance:** Kendra Smith, Byron Rot, Kyle Dodd

8:41 AM Kyle L. opens the meeting as vice-chair

Approval of May meeting minutes: Kyle L. offers edits. Approval of minutes tabled to next meeting.

### Agency Updates:

Jolyn Leslie from Dept. of Health, updates on drought. San Juan County not included in State drought declaration. There may be issues with groundwater wells. If a well goes dry notify Dept. of Health.

Announcements: SRF (State revolving fund) loan applications are being accepted now through July.

October 1 training session for local utilities/water operators. Chlorination class, 3.5 hour long

Question: how does State define drought?

A: it's based on stream flow levels, what % they are below normal. Stream gauges are tracked on major rivers. Other factors include precipitation, snow pack. SJC not included due to lack of data.

Discussion: a quantitative definition is important here where we depend so much on groundwater.

Drought declarations can help public to treat water differently. Should the County declare drought?

Mak Kaufman: Issues of water resources can be addressed through our office. If you want to be included in Governor's drought report contact Tom Perkow (water master, enforcement authority).

9:02 AM Introductions around the room

9:03 AM Lopez Groundwater Monitoring network 2018 Final Report *Kyle D.*

The final report was emailed to this group, touching here on a few items:

Figure 1: lists locations of the 9 wells. These locations have been established for several years as part of a monitoring network and instrumental in calibrating the saltwater intrusion model.

In exec summary see bullet points: All analysis showed no long-term level declines. Data collection devices in wells download static levels over critical period. Static levels reported in appendix.

Conclusions: wells have been fairly steady over past few years. Consultant recommends expanding the network. Some saltwater intrusion on south end of Lopez.

Q: how do we find wells in the south part where it's drier/more susceptible to saltwater intrusion?

A: ID areas that are meaningful, then approach landowners. Conservation District wants to help.

ACTION ITEM: follow-up subcommittee meeting (Vicki, Kimbal, Kyle D., Tom Huse, Judy Meyer, Gary?)  
And bring in Steve Swope with PGG) to:

1. Locate additional Lopez monitoring wells, especially in south Lopez.
2. Expand monitoring to other County islands. Difficulty within bedrock geology is to extrapolate the data beyond a given well.

ACTION ITEM: Cascade Creek, with Gary Sales departure, Kyle will get in touch with the new water master.

9:21 AM Marine water quality in shellfish growing areas

*Kyle D.*

Talking at last meeting about what data are available for marine water quality particularly nearshore. Showing map of WA dept of Health commercial shellfish areas around San Juan County

ACTION ITEM: Kyle to send links after meeting to shellfish map on DOH site/search pathway (*DONE*)

Annual report summarizing water quality. Test for fecal coliform 6 times per year. All stations are within standards, one raises concerns. Annual grow reports (online) show mean and 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. Also list marine quality stations. Broad date range is shown (5 years/last 30 samples).

Site with issues: Upright Channel. North Lopez western shoreline, and southeastern shore of Shaw. Sampling station #92 in Squaw Bay on Shaw was investigated. Shoreline survey, Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC), found a concentrated horse enclosure. Drainage fed to Squaw bay. Vegetation trampled, no filter to drainage to bay. Worked to repair fence, move animals, also found a failing septic system. Now improvement in Upright channel in the areas we've addressed.

When DOH sends letters to county: In 2018 did a review of 2017 and showed this area was 'threatened' with a downgrade, contamination issue. Additional sampling over the past year shows that water quality has improved since then. Meeting standards but trends have declined over time.

Q: what concentration would trigger concern?

A: geometric mean can't be greater than 14 FC/100mL. 30 FC/100mL is cut-off for threat. 43 = fail

ACTION ITEM: Kyle will send 2018 early system warning report, shows trend of data with threshold (*DONE* above).

Q: water quality monitoring in streams? A: no, just marine quality. Some septic testing

Mak K: Dept. of Ecology could commit to provide freshwater monitoring during rain events

Mike Ramsey: we're doing some of that, just did a monitoring event in April throughout DOH sites

9:36AM Water quality/ quality monitoring subcommittee report out

*Marta*

Presented in November about 5-year stormwater monitoring program. In the 2017-2018 season ferry landings were added on SJ, Lopez, and Orcas. Ten stormwater and nine surface water locations were monitored. Most new locations were only sampled once or twice. In future plans are to sample all locations during 3-4 storm events and 1-2 dry weather events. Schedule for surface water, for stormwater need first flush.

Overview of recommendations for the 2019-2020 program:

STORMWATER – ferry landing sweeping and catch basin cleaning, Lopez Village bioswales, source reduction actions in Eastsound to determine effectiveness of plan.

SURFACE WATER – assess performance of stream restoration projects, get baseline. Monitor streams important for salmonids (Garrison, Cascade). Seasonal stream sampling and for first flow/sheet flow.

Q: for surface water, it's not a true first flush in stormwater sense, but to wait until adequate saturation for run off event?

A: We're interested in is the run-off, in non-urban area need to wait longer for soil saturation.

Marta provided a table with at-a-glance summary of water monitoring.

Note: Mak Kaufmann suggests IMC as contact for Kendra/Krista, Stephanie Barney (stormwater permit manager) 360-255-4390

ACTION ITEM: county staff (Marta, Kendra, and Byron) will discuss internally whether to continue water quality sampling at Garrison and Cascade; the monitoring budget is limited. A second conversation is needed for flow. Groundwater is monitored separately

Marta included subcommittee's input in her presentation. This is the proposal, next is to examine costs.

ACTION ITEM: we will revisit this next month at our July meeting. Need to finalize the program so we're ready to go by late August. Aim to approve plan at July meeting

10:17 AM Final CIP review and and approval for submission into the budgeting process *Kendra*  
No quorum, table until next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Kendra will email group to solicit written feedback. Kendra needs to inform capital committee. Budget not very different from last year. The CIP will be a focal point of July meeting

10:22 AM Farmer and Instream Flow water right needs discussion *all*

Interest in farmers securing water rights for pond use. Vicki: Conservation board just adopted new annual plan, includes outreach for 5 participants to go through water use process. This has been a long discussion. Ag community wants to farm into the future, so need to secure water. This is an opportunity to bring everyone together to discuss what the resource is, when and where it's needed.

Discussion: some of this is just formalizing the use that's already occurring. Not grabbing more, legitimizing what's going on. They would need to measure their use as part of the permit. This is about surface water. Groundwater use is exempt up to 5K gallons.

Kyle did a presentation at Ag summit that stimulated a lot of conversation.

Byron: all water planning in the past has been based on the idea that there are no fish in the creeks. Now that there are and we know there are, we need to account for that and make sure some water stays in creeks. need to assess not just how much we're taking out, but how much water is in creeks.

ACTION ITEM: have a formal discussion about messaging to public. Especially in context of drought conversation, limited water and multiple use needs. Groundwater/wells will be an ongoing issue.

Next Step: conversation with Faith. Let these 5 farmers be 'guinea pigs' and look at what that means for their location. Someone should speak for fish at ag summit, permits should be geared with understanding toward needs of fish.

At this point it's just a concept that Faith has brought up. We need a subcommittee – view these 5 farmers as a pilot. And an opportunity to look at the messaging in the long-term about drought

SUB-COMMITTEE: Kyle L., Vicki, Byron, Jenny. Talk to Faith about someone from Conservation district. She's coming to VSP meetings. This group will update the CWAC at the next meeting

10:35 AM Public Comment: none

10:36 AM Adjourn

Next Meeting: July 11, 2019 (August No Meeting), then September 12, 2019