

**Surface and Stormwater Management Program
Advisory Committee Meeting
February 1, 2007**

Attendees: Paul Dorn, Chair, Suquamish Tribe; Jeanne Alford, Chris May, District 1; Bernard Buday, Mark Grimm, District 2; Patty Charnas, Vice Chair, Val Koehler, DCD/Natural Resources; Dave Tucker, Pat Kirschbaum, Surface and Stormwater Management; Deborah Thomas, KPUD; Melva Hill, City of Bainbridge Island; Stuart Whitford, Kitsap County Health District

Welcome and introductions.

Information Sharing:

Mr. Buday requested place cards for future meetings. He also requested a few minutes to discuss watershed planning efforts in Eastern Washington and how they could potentially affect efforts in Kitsap County. Using representation from a watershed plan, Mr. Buday explained that the study found that unless things change and we discover ways of recharging our aquifers, we could find ourselves without adequate water supplies. Patty gave an overview of the reclaimed water project that Natural Resources has been working on and Debbie Thomas gave him information on studies that KPUD has posted on their website.

DCD/Natural Resources: Patty reported that she has been working on the Critical Areas Ordinance. She presented a map depicting Natural Resources Surface and Stormwater related projects and explained that the projects relate to watershed planning and action implementation. She also explained that one of the projects involves potential sites to identify stormwater infiltration sites to augment stream flow. She explained that Natural Resources is active in the areas of watershed planning, water resource planning and actions, fish and wildlife in the area of salmon recovery. She reported that the Stream Team is involved in the Benthic Index Biotic Integrity (BiBi). Paul explained that this involves looking at the bug diversity to gauge the health of a stream. Patty also explained that the Community Salmon Funds through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation are complete. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRF Board) lead entity works through the Natural Resources Division. Another grant through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is funding alternative futures projects, which looks at augmenting stream flows to address increased salmon habitat. She reported that the Chico Creek project is complete. Also, through an EPA grant Natural Resources have what are referred to as Intensely Monitored Watersheds (IMW's) that drain into Hood Canal. These watersheds are monitored to provide baseline information to determine if future projects can make an impact. These include Little Anderson, Big Beef, Stavis and Seabeck Creeks. Other projects include the Forest Legacy Areas and the watershed mini grants. These grants are provided to landowners or civic groups, property owners, etc. interested in salmon recovery or natural resources. These \$2500 grants are available each year from a \$15,000 SSWM funded source. Patty explained that through a grant from DOE, Natural resources is

participating in a project with the Karcher Creek Sewer / Annapolis Water District to filter wastewater and use this reclaimed water for environmental purposes such as irrigating sports fields and augment stream flows and wetland areas. A discussion of other reclaimed water projects followed.

Paul asked Mark and Jeanne as new representative what their interests in the Committee are. Mark, retired Assistant Director from Dept. of Community Committee, is familiar with the issues facing the Committee and also lives on a small lake in south Kitsap County that has deteriorate over the years. Jeanne explained that she has an elderly friend who lives on the waterfront in Kingston and is concerned about the safety of retention ponds in a new upland development, which she said piqued her interest in the Surface and Stormwater Program as a way to find answers.

Grant Initiatives: in answer to Melva's question regarding the re-claimed water grant, Patty reported that the DOE grant is about to wrap up. She said the design and physical aspects are easily accepted, but public support could be problematic. Paul and Debbie reported that the Kingston well seven project, which will return water to the aquifer, has been approved by all entities involved. Natural Resources other grant initiatives include the DOE grant for stormwater infiltration, HWA Sciences, the re-claimed water grant, and an EPA through DOE, a \$50,000 watershed capacity building grant.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the October 19, 2006 meeting minutes.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to retain the Chair and Vice-Chair through 2007.

KEEP Overview: Pat Krischbaum presented the Kitsap Environmental Education Program (KEEP). Most agencies and groups throughout Kitsap County that are involved in environmental education are part of the program. She explained that Kitsap County is known for their environmental education. The groups and agencies involved in KEEP share ideas and are able to coordinate projects. Meetings are held bi-monthly. They plan to have a joint meeting with the Hood Canal Watershed Education Network. Some of the agencies involved host teacher workshops. A discussion of the make-up of the program followed.

A discussion of the watershed plan written for the Cutthroats of Carpenter Creek, and what an excellent template and source of information for other groups also followed. Stuart reported that the Health District wrote a monitoring plan for Wilson Creek that is also available.

A resource list of informational material will be made available to the Committee members.

Program Overview: Dave reported on the agencies involved in the Surface and Stormwater Management Program, which include Kitsap County (Public Works and the Department of Community Development/Natural Resources), the Kitsap County Health District and the Kitsap Conservation District. He explained that as the lead agency, the Public Works Director is authorized to appoint other organizations as part of the Program.

He gave a presentation of the history of the Program, which was established in 1993. With the Health District and Conservation District lacking in funding for certain programs and legislation mandating a program to upgrade water quality, the program was born. The Comprehensive Plan was approved in 1994 and the rate structure became effective in 1995 when fees were first collected.

The Program goals were discussed and are available if requested. The County Code breaks the Program into elements that include Basin and Watershed Planning; Education/Outreach and Involvement; Capital Improvements; Operation and Maintenance; Monitoring; Source Control; and Shellfish Protection.

He explained that watershed plans for Liberty/Miller Bays, Dyes/Sinclair Inlet and Hood Canal were completed in the early 1990's. Localized drainage studies have been completed in Manchester, Suquamish, Navy Yard City, Kingston, East Port Orchard, Clear Creek and Converse Ave. Most of these studies call for constructing regional facilities; help the public alleviate flooding problems and also dealing with water quality issues. The Alternative Futures Program involves Chico Creek and the Silverdale area including Barker, Clear and Steele Creeks. This program looks to the future and the impact building will have on our water resources.

Education and Outreach: Dave explained that all the agencies have an education and outreach function, which the agencies try to coordinate. Some functions include working with the schools to include water-related curriculum, community, industry and school presentation. Agencies also coordinate and partner with each other on projects such as the annual Salmon Tour and Water Festival. Watershed and stream signage can be seen throughout the county.

Public Involvement: Dave explained that Stream Team is a great way to get the public involved. The Stream Team coordinator organizes over 200 volunteers per year working on various restoration and monitoring projects helping people understand their role in stream protection. Stream Team also oversees the Mini-Grant Program. Other public involvement opportunities within the Program include sitting on the Advisory Board, conducting community surveys regarding the public's interests in stormwater management and storm drain stenciling, which is a great opportunity for younger groups to learn the importance of water quality.

Capital Project Construction: Dave explained that capital projects are geared toward flood reduction, water quality enhancement, and fish passage improvement projects, which are state mandated. He reported that every six years, the Program is required to

produce a six-year capital facilities plan. The Surface and Stormwater Capital projects include flood reduction projects in Kingston and Charleston Beach, which is in conjunction with the City of Bremerton as part of their Gateway Project. Other capital projects include a Suquamish regional project, which has already begun on Augusta St. and will be followed up to Center Street. This project is a cooperative effort with the Road Division and will improve drivability and better stormwater control. A culvert replacement project along Steele Creek will replace three culverts. Dave also explained that the Program would provide matching funds for the salmon recovery funding project in Chico Creek at the Kitsap Golf Course. He also reported that the Manchester Main Street Outfall project would have to be redesigned due to easement problems in the chosen alternative area. This project would improve the drainage along Main Street. The Converse area regional pond would drain stormwater from the Converse area where the ground water is very high and homes have had to be evacuated in previous storms. This alternative involves a wide drainage area. An ILA with the Port of Bremerton sets aside 90% of the funds paid by the Port each year. A rebate of these funds covers the cost of any regional stormwater facilities built or retro-fitted in the airport/industrial park area. A project in the Hansville area will alleviate problems within the floodplain and restore a portion of Finn Creek. He also explained the Silverdale project, which was completed with stormwater management funding and a small grant from DOE in cooperation with the road division, includes a large excavation project to allow for greater flood storage from the creek and also the stormwater from the road areas. He also explained that the water quality has improved with this project. The total project cost \$5 mil and replaced two bridges along with the flood control project. A discussion of how the Clear Creed trail will be extended to include this area followed. He also reported on other smaller projects that have been completed throughout the county.

Trend Monitoring: The monitoring program involves trend monitoring by the Health District. This monitoring looks at our streams, marine environment and lakes. Trend monitoring looks at whether these water bodies are improving or turning worse and what the causes may be. It also helps to focus on the areas needing attention. He reported that through source tracking, Public Works and the Health District are working together to determine the cause of pollution at the mouth of Clear Creek. A portion of the Program monitoring is in response to citizen complaints. This includes sampling for enforcement action if necessary. Monitoring for compliance issues is also a part of the program. The Health District and SSWM water quality personnel conduct outfall monitoring. A discussion of outfall monitoring methods followed.

Source Control Monitoring: Dave said that source control monitoring is what he believes to be the “best bang for the buck”. He explained that instead of trying to clean the water after it’s dirty, try not to get it dirty. He reported that two great Health District programs are the Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC), which involve surveying areas to find the cause of the pollution. They conduct door-to-door surveys to try and find the sources, and work with the property owner or agency to try and correct the problem. Hood Canal, Yukon Harbor and Burley, are some of the project areas. The Septic Operations and Maintenance program is another great corrective effort by the

Health District that involves maintenance oversight for septic systems. The wellhead protection program monitors what are called Group B class wells for proper maintenance and pollution problems. The Business Pollution Prevention Program works with business owners to help them understand the importance of maintaining their stormwater systems. Restaurants have been a major source of pollution in county stormwater systems. This program is an educational tool for business practices. He also reported that the Agricultural Program educates people on agricultural practices that don't contribute negatively to water quality. The Mutt Pit station program in Indianola has been a great success. The Health District, through the Program, provides the station, but the group sponsoring the program has to provide the trash collection capabilities.

Dave explained that the Conservation District differs with the other agencies in that they have funding to help people out. For every dollar put into the KCD fund, they put in four. They help local farms with Best Management Practices (BMP's), doing a great job of diverting pollution from our waterways.

O & M: Dave reported that this portion of the Program involves maintaining all the stormwater facilities owned or operated by the county. This includes over 550 ponds, tanks swales and water quality devices. Also, 225 miles of pipe and 10,900 catch basins. The county operates three decant facilities used for disposal of these spoils. Staff inspects county maintained systems along with 700 private systems to ensure proper maintenance for water quality. They also inspect large or deep culverts and respond to citizen complaints. Complaints related to drainage have dropped over the last few years, from over 400 per year to approximately 35. A discussion of the decant facilities and the treatment of the spoils followed.

Program Fees: Dave again explained how the Program fees are determined using Equivalent Service Units (ESU's). Residential fees are based on 1 ESU, commercial sites are based on measured impervious surface, which includes parking areas, rooftops, sidewalks, etc. and is then divided by 4200 square feet. He further explained that the fees started at \$45.00 per ESU in 1995 and remained at that level through 2004. Once inflation caught up, the fees were increased. Before the fees were raised, an independent performance audit of the program was conducted. As a result of the audit, an asset management fund has been established to pay for the cost of replacing county systems when needed. This \$2.30 per fee paid is a dedicated fee to be used only for replacement purposes. Mr. Buday suggested finding ways to bring down the costs of stormwater management. Dave showed a comparison of other jurisdictions stormwater fees compared to Kitsap County, whose fees are the lowest. He broke down the 2007 budget and the expenditures by fund activity. He also reported that commercial sites are offered a 50% fee credit for systems that keep 100% of their stormwater onsite, harvest rainwater or discharge directly to Puget Sound. A discussion of the methodology for determining the 100% followed. The credits are applicable to commercial sites only.

Dave explained that the budget is restricted by state constraints and accounting standards.

Paul suggested that Jeff Adam's near shore program presentation be tabled until next meeting.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Patty suggested the April meeting be dedicated to review of the Puget Sound Initiative for impact to the Surface and Stormwater Program and advise the BOCC as necessary. She explained that Puget Sound issues have become a hot topic with millions of dollars being spent on these issues. A discussion of major issues contributing to the pollution of Puget Sound followed. Mr. Buday requested that fees and credits be put on the agenda. A discussion of failed retention ponds and liability followed.

Motion was made to adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 3:50