

## MEETING NOTES

**Project Name:** Dungeness Wastewater Treatment Feasibility Study      **Project No.:** 236-1587-005  
**Location:** Old Dungeness School      **Meeting Date:** May 24, 2012      **Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
**Notes by:** Brenda McDaniels  
**Subject:** **Public Meeting #1**

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### Public Issues

- Community system cost per homeowner.
  - Beckett Point example – approximately \$1.4 million for 85-90 owners, about \$15-\$20k per owner but where distribute big variable
- Rumor regarding pumping wastewater to Sunland – is this being considered?
  - Yes
- Current systems that are working and paid for, do those homeowners have to pay costs for those who don't have working systems?
  - The feasibility study will develop several wastewater improvement alternatives to address the sewer issues at Dungeness. In turn, several funding options will also be investigated. Once these options are developed, we will then be in a position to answer this question.
- Ability to connect in the future – can they pay then and not now? Could cost be when connected because their current system is functional. Owner would like that option.
- Extension of study area to the East, along 3 Crabs, Seashore Lane – How to cross wetlands. The lots are larger and systems are newer and the costs seem exorbitant if using road to south.
  - Yes, this area is being considered. Will need to determine interest and feasibility.
  - County idea is to cross Cooper Creek (need to study this possibility).
- Is it a foregone conclusion that something is going to be done and this meeting is just informative?
  - No, feasibility study only
- How many failing systems?
  - About 20 have been documented by the County.
- What is the definition of failure?

## Meeting Notes (continued)

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- Black slime on gravel is a sure sign; other signs found when inspecting.
- If failure is resulting in groundwater contamination rather than surfacing sewage, sometimes we don't see it, but the system is not treating effectively.
- County currently does not have enforcement capacity.
- At sale or a permit action – inspection and then repair if required.
- Meadowbrook Creek discharge location to the Dungeness River. Would opening the creek's channel lower the groundwater table, flooding issues?
  - Yes, work planned for 2013 (CCD). However, flooding and saturation complicated and modeling predicts freshwater will flood still. Also won't change groundwater.
- Old Dungeness – Mobile homes being used for rentals and using house septic systems without expanded OSS permit. People living on properties without adequate septic systems.
  - County has also noted this issue. Working on but HHS has no enforcement capabilities. Working on enforcement policy. Political will matters.
- What support is needed from the community for enforcement?
  - Make yourself heard. (Commissioner McEntire provided his email address.)
- Quantity of impacts to water quality from Birds/Farms/Housing?
  - MST study was performed. Avian coliform was found, but a significant portion is from people. Determined it is best to put money where you get the most bang for your buck. (JST)
  - Human sewage is the vector for disease for humans. Different than other species for risk. (Andy)
- Does Victoria sewage dumping in to Bay impact this area?
  - Dr. Lake – Victoria Harbor is very deep and also the currents are such that would not affect our water quality here.
- Vacation rentals along 3 Crabs – Septic capacity designed for small house and being rented to 17 people will this overtax the systems. Can the County enforce the number of renters per system? Change the code?
  - OSS Design law does not account for that many people overusing a system.
  - The inspection rule created uproar. Political will matters.
  - Feasibility study can include recommendation for change to code to address this.
- Water Bank and Water Rule (allowed uses) – will that effect waste disposal question?
  - Rule primarily regulates outdoor uses, not indoor use disposed of through OSS. Engineers will use that conservative number (gallons per day for indoor only) in sewage flow calculations.

## Meeting Notes (continued)

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- What percentage of pollution found is from people?
  - Can't say exactly – (repeated answer from above. MST showed some human impact, among other species)
- Will this study consider the impact to the commercial and recreational Shellfish industry? The economic impact of closures (or benefits of re-opening year-round) need to be included in the study.
  - Bacteria counts are used to classify shellfish beds.
- Ulva is a problem. Nitrate in the algae or marine water could be used to estimate Nitrogen loading from land activities including septics. Fairly high concentrations were found and it could be causing Ulva increase and other issues such as plankton blooms, affecting shellfish sales.
  - Nitrate was not found in drinking water wells in high concentrations, probably because wells draw water from below dozens of feet of clay, from the sand and gravel outwash underneath.
- Who will be the recipient of the study?
  - County Commissioners and Health Department. Also, other local water quality managers.
- Will there be action steps in the study?
  - Yes, but no mandate.
- What type of bacteria caused shellfish closure?
  - Fecal coliform – which comes from any warm blooded animal. (international indicator)
- Low hanging fruit – can we go after the failing systems first?
  - Several failing septics have been repaired and it made a big difference in the water quality of adjacent streams. Now need to go after non-compliance properties. HHS's Red-to-Green program should help with getting more properties in compliance. Now required by law in a Clean Water District.
- How are personal/medical care products affecting the water quality? (are cancer drugs killing septic flora?)
  - Unknown
- Will increased aquaculture (e.g., geoduck harvest) create a problem?
  - Unknown
- Can grant funding go to prosecuting attorney to help with enforcement?
  - County has exactly this project underway now; need internal protocols and maybe laws.
- Is there a clear definition of what this study wants to accomplish?

## Meeting Notes (continued)

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- The purpose of this study is to develop wastewater treatment options to address the failing and problematic private septic systems. The study will assess the feasibility of alternative wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal options.
- Request to keep community involved in process.
- What are the recreation lot (RVs, etc.) impacts of this feasibility?
  - The recreational impact will need to be looked at in the Economic Analysis.
  - Cost/benefit – make sure the recommendation is aligned with Community needs.

## MEETING NOTES

**Project Name:** Dungeness Wastewater Feasibility Study      **Project No.:** 236-1578-005  
**Location:** 3 Crabs Restaurant      **Meeting Date:** June 23, 2012      **Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
**Notes by:** Brenda McDaniels  
**Subject:** **Public Meeting #2**

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- What is the formula for well head protection?
  - 100' radius for individual wells and Group water systems.
- Are the above ground systems and Glendons up to code?
  - Yes; if they fail it's due to high waste strength or flooding.
- Do any of these systems treat nitrates?
  - Some aerobic systems treat nitrates. Testing is occurring now by DOH to determine what systems best treat nitrates (proprietary designs do a good job; as far as public domain designs go, recirculating gravel filters have good potential).
  - Actual OSS permits weren't common before 1978; before that there may have been a note on a building permit about an OSS, but nothing consistent about design or installation or location.
- At what point will the community get cost information?
  - The Draft Feasibility Study will include cost ranges.
- What are the options we are looking at?
  - Everything. The goal is to get something that is implementable, so it depends on community's priorities.
- Will Feasibility Study show where a possible community system will be located?
  - Yes, however there are legislative restrictions and regulations that have to be considered when determining location of a community system.
- Will funding options be made known, what funding options are available?
  - Yes, funding options will be part of the report. Funding options will be identified (grants, loans, etc.). More options may depend on political will; legislature may be able to help.
- Who makes the final decision?
  - It will be an iterative process with the Board of Health (and/or possibly Board of Commissioners and DCD) as the ultimate decision maker.
- Will the economic impacts on (and the benefits of) the shellfishing industry be considered?
  - Yes.

## Meeting Minutes (continued)

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- If septic system approved and currently maintained – is it mandatory they be included, connected to the new system?
  - Elected officials to decide (other areas have required hookup “as needed”; sometimes subsidies available).
- Could cost share go outside service area boundaries, e.g., throughout the entire Shellfish Protection District?
  - That is going to be part of the discussion.
- Is there any connection between this project and updating water systems?
  - Only that the PUD is a potential operator for both.
- Group systems have to become an Urban Growth Area (UGA). At what point are you forced into that designation?
  - This is a Land Use decision, but it is doubtful the Urban Growth Boundaries would be expanded at the time.
- Additional notes from County:
  - Note that typical soil characteristics appropriate for onsite systems develop over thousands of years; the soil on many portions of the shoreline is newly deposited fill, without the qualities desirable when designing onsite septic systems.

### **Questions “outside” of the public discussion:**

- Why can't you install a “Step” system and pump the effluent to Sequim?
  - This is prohibited due to the rules adopted by the Legislature as a part of the UGA laws. (Send Mr. Gruber a copy of the Thurston County Court Case).
- If the Three Crabs Restaurant property is purchased by Fish and Wildlife, could it serve as a community drainfield?
  - Do not know status or answer to this question.
- Can the “Community” parcels in Golden Sands development be used as drainfields?
  - Unknown, would have to look at the Plat Covenants.



# PUBLIC SURVEY

PRESENTED BY THE CLALLAM COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



## TOPIC

### Dungeness Wastewater Feasibility Study

## PURPOSE

**We need your help!** During the next few months, a series of public meetings will be held to engage the community and gather input and concerns regarding the development of wastewater treatment options to address failing and problematic onsite septic systems that will best serve the needs of the public.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Ann Soule**  
Project Manager

Clallam County Department of Health  
& Human Services  
223 E. 4th Street, Suite 14  
Port Angeles, WA 98362  
360.417.2424  
[asoule@co.clallam.wa.us](mailto:asoule@co.clallam.wa.us)

Project comment line: 417.2542

May 2012

## BENEFITS OF THIS PROJECT

The goal of the project is to develop a plan that protects and improves the water quality of Dungeness Bay watershed in a cost-effective manner without adversely impacting the quality of life opportunities for the community.

## YOUR COMMENTS

We appreciate your time answering the following questions. There is room on the reverse side to share your concerns and additional ideas with us.

### 1. Describe your current septic system:

a.	Gravity drainfield	17
b.	Open bottom sandfilter	4
c.	Glendon Biofilter	0
d.	Aerobic Treatment Unit (ATU)	3
e.	Pressurized drainfield	1
f.	Other: mound	2
g.	Unknown	0

### 2. What year was your septic system installed?

<5 yrs = 1      5-15 yrs = 8      >15 yrs = 18

### 3. When was your septic system last pumped or inspected?

<2 yrs = 15      2-5 yrs = 9      5+ yrs = 1

Never/not known = 2

### 4. What is your residency status in the project area?

(north of Sequim-Dungeness Way, east of River)

a.	Year-around resident/landowner	21
b.	Renter	0
c.	Weekend only (landowner)	3
d.	Summertime (landowner)	5
e.	Not a resident of project area	4

### 5. Do you currently have septic system operational issues?

a.	No	27
b.	Yes (please explain):	1

*High water table in winter*

