

## OSS Management Plan Meeting Notes June 12, 2014

### Attendance:

Committee Members			
Name and Affiliation	Present?	Name and Affiliation	Present?
Mat Buldis – Shellfish Grower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dennis McVey – City of Rainier Council Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tris Carlson – Chair of Henderson-Nisqually Shellfish Committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Miranda Ries– Shellfish Grower	Absent
Evan Cusack – Designer, Installer and Maintenance Specialist	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Greg Moe – Realtor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joshua Daily – Citizen Representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paul Morneau – Sewage System Designer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sue Davis – Environmental Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Petersen – Environmental Health	Absent
Adam Frank – Olympia Master Builders	Absent	Lynn Schneider – Department of Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
JR Inman – OSS pumping and Maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dan Smith – City of Tumwater	Absent
Erica Marbet – Squaxin Tribe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Art Starry – Environmental Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Roger Max – Scatter Creek area resident	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diane Utter – City of Olympia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Facilitator: Linda Hofstad  
Note Taker: Cissy Fontenot

Linda Hofstad called the meeting to order at 2:33 pm

### Approve Meeting Notes:

Meeting notes from April 3, 2014 were approved without changes and will be posted on the website. No Updates

**Adoption process** of final recommendations: consensus or a vote? A vote was agreed upon with any objections being captured and recorded as the minority perspective.

### Review funding options presented at April meeting

Committee decided to forego a review of the April presentation. They chose to move into discussing and adopting final plan recommendations starting with the funding / financing recommendations.

The committee voted on a proposal to charge all septic system owners a flat rate to fund baseline activities for all OSS in Thurston County. This recommendation was voted on and approved unanimously. [See table following for recommendation language.] This fee would be charged via the property tax statement of to all septic system owners in the county support a comprehensive program.

## QUESTIONS / COMMENTS:

*Will this fee be enforced by a lien jeopardizing the homeowner if they are unable to pay it?*

No, state law does not allow this. Whatcom County uses this program and it is very effective.

A recommendation can be made to allow financial relief for homeowners that need it.

*How did Art come up with the \$40?*

Art prepared a budget estimate for another project he is working on for DOH that looked asked him to estimate the costs for a monitoring and maintenance program that would implement an OSS management plan that would meet the full intent of state law. He calculated the total cost for the program and divided it by the amount of septic systems. The result was \$39.09 and he rounded up. For the DOH project he estimated we need \$2,736,000 per year for a comprehensive program. Dividing this amount by 70,000 OSS resulted in \$39.09 per OSS. See the table on Slides 19 and 26 in the April presentation for details.

*Could the rate change? Is there something that limits how much it can increase and how the money can be used?*

Yes, the initial rate could change depending on accuracy of the estimated 70,000 OSS. If we find out there are fewer septic systems the cost per system could go up. However, as with the Henderson and Nisqually Reach programs, there would likely be a 'cap' for how much the rate can increase. Since 2007, the program rate for Henderson has increased minimally. The committee can make a recommendation on this if they have concerns or preferences. Money collected from the MRAs can only be used for MRA related programs. It cannot be used to pay for other activities within the county or the department.

**See table below for recommendations - acceptance and language adjustments.**

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## Next Meeting:

A request was made to have the next and final meeting be a BBQ at the Septic Park at the top of the parking lot at Lilly Rd.

The next meeting will be July 10 at **3:00 p. m. Weather permitting the picnic will be** at the septic park. More information will be forthcoming in regards to that day.

## Agenda for next meeting:

- Discuss the 2 outstanding recommendations regarding implementation.
- Revisit 2 recommendations where more discussion needed:
  - Adopting recommendations carte blanche from other projects regarding sensitive areas
  - Requiring OPC for all systems except gravity systems countywide
- Vote on acceptance of the 4 recommendations and the adoption of the draft 2014 OSS Management Plan.

**Meeting concluded at 5:35 pm**

## Draft Recommendations to be discussed and approved

	Recommendation	Notes	Priority (low, medium, high)
Database  <b>Passed- Unanimously</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Expand the use of on-line services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enable electronic submittal of certified homeowner inspection reports and time of transfer applications.</li> <li>▪ Establish a method to enable               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the public to submit permit applications and make payments electronically, and</li> <li>○ The public and county staff to complete and submit inspection reports electronically.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Automate transfer of OSS quarterly sample results from OnlineRME to the county system</li> </ul> The recommended timeframe for implementation of this task is end of 2017.	In progress; in staff work plan	
Database  <b>Passed- Unanimously</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Continue to complete the countywide OSS inventory and GIS map layer that will establish a unique identifier for OSS that is not dependent upon tax parcel numbers, and preserves the OSS history.	In progress; in staff work plan	
Database  <b>Passed- Unanimously</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION: Require all OSS inspections be submitted electronically by 12/2017.</b>		
Education  <b>Passed- With new language include</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> The department should have an education program that reaches a wide variety of audiences, including on-site industry professionals, the real estate community, OSS owners, the public and other affected parties, especially when there are changes in regulations, permitting, county processes, and OSS technology. <b>The department should find opportunities to collaborate with on-site industry professionals, while being careful to keep the lines between the regulatory agency and the industry clear.</b>	<b>Minority perspective:</b> need to keep clear distinction between regulators and professionals.	
Education  <b>Passed- Unanimously</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> The Environmental Health website should be updated to make the OSS information easier to find and use.		

Education <b>Passed- Unanimously</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Given the success of the intensive training OSS owner workshops for Henderson and Nisqually Reach MRA, Environmental Health should explore and <b>implement</b> training options for all OSS owners in the county.	Education pilot video project	
Financing <b>DELETED</b>	<del><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> The rate structure for Henderson and Nisqually should be reviewed and adjusted so that the same structure applies in each area. Currently, the program charges for the Henderson MRA and the Nisqually Reach MRA are structured differently. In order for the programs to be self-supporting and equitable, the rate structures should be reviewed and adjusted so that the same structure and charges apply in both areas.</del>	No longer needed due to unanimous acceptance of charging a single fee for all OSS countywide	
Financing <b>Passed- Unanimously</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Staff participation in the WDOH OSS Management Plan Funding project should remain a priority for Environmental Health.		
Funding Strategy <b>Passed- Unanimously</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> The committee recommends charging a single flat fee to all OSS owners <del>or two-tier fee structure</del> throughout the county, to provide stable funding to the department for an O&M program countywide and management of special areas, current and future. The recommended fee would replace the current O&M <b>fees</b> , and pump report fees, <b>Time of Transfer application fees</b> and MRA charges. <del>When implementing future special areas, the county should work to charge the same amount for similar services where possible.</del> <b>Require an additional charge for multiple OSS per parcel (no cap; charge to be determined) and a 50% rate reduction for those in the senior/disabled tax exemption program.</b>		
Implementation To be worked on	Phase 1: Work with the Board of Health to adopt the legal framework and funding mechanism to implement this plan countywide.		
Implementation To be worked on	Phase 2: continue work underway and take advantage of opportunities to make incremental progress implementing the recommendations in the plan until a comprehensive countywide program is established.		
O&M <b>Passed- Unanimously</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Send notices to remind owners of gravity and pressure distribution OSS, who are not within the county's designated MRA's, that routine inspection and maintenance needs of the system should be done.		

O&M <i>Passed – unanimously with adjusted language</i>	<b>RECOMMENDATION: Implement a robust program of</b> quality assurance / quality control (QA/QC) on <b>a representative sample of OSS owners and professionals for</b> all inspections submitted. Prioritize those areas where inspection accuracy is most important for protection of public health and water quality.		
O&M <i>Passed- Unanimously</i>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> The OSS program should require that ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all OSS owners to be routinely notified of the need to inspect their system,</li> <li>system <b>component deficiencies</b> be corrected at time of property transfer, and</li> <li>septic design information for <u>every</u> county OSS be available on OnlineRME</li> </ul>		
O&M <i>Be brought back to work on</i>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Expand required OPC program throughout the county to all system types except gravity, which are still the majority of the OSS.		
Regulation Change <i>Passed- Unanimously</i>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Communicate concern to Washington State Department of Labor & Industry, who establishes electrical regulations <del>1) all electrical wiring of OSS pump chambers be outside the corrosive environment of the pump chamber, and 2) that pump chambers should be accessible for inspection and maintenance.</del> <b>that a solution be found to the issue of electrical components corrosion associated with OSS.</b>		
Sensitive Areas: MRAs <i>Passed- Unanimously</i>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Eld Inlet and its watershed should be designated as a Marine Recovery Area as soon as possible. Henderson and Nisqually Reach are currently Marine Recovery Areas; each has an enhanced O&M program for OSS within their boundaries. The documented marine water quality decline in Eld in the years since the inlet was reopened to shellfish harvest in 1998 is evidence that the area needs a program like Henderson and Nisqually to prevent water quality deterioration.		
Sensitive Areas: MRAs <i>Passed</i>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Totten Inlet and Budd / Deschutes should be considered by the recommended Sensitive Area Workgroup as possible Marine Recovery Areas.	<b>Minority perspective:</b> Budd / Deschutes would take too much money to improve; spend resources on other areas more likely to be successful.	

<p>Sensitive Area: Summit Lake</p> <p><b>Passed- Unanimously</b></p>	<p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Summit Lake, which is used by most residents for their drinking water source, should be designated as a Sensitive Area. All wastewater disposal systems in the Summit Lake watershed should have required operational certificates and dye testing to assure that routine inspections and maintenance is completed at least every three years and failing systems are identified and repaired.</p>		
<p>Sensitive Area: Workgroup</p> <p><b>Passed- Unanimously</b></p>	<p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Form a Sensitive Areas workgroup who will refine the criteria used to identify sensitive areas and apply the criteria to identify what should be designated as sensitive areas. Staff and resources may be needed to investigate problem areas, perform field evaluations, and gather data to assist the work group with their task.</p>		
<p>Sensitive Area: Workgroup</p> <p><b>Passed- Unanimously</b></p>	<p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Give the Sensitive Areas Workgroup the task of developing a system of measurements in order to report on program progress as well as to assist with adaptive management of the program.</p>		
<p>Sensitive Area: To be reviewed</p>	<p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Incorporate into this OSS Management Plan the OSS-specific recommendations from the Budd Inlet/Deschutes River TMDL, Scatter Creek Aquifer, Urban Septic Assessment projects—already underway with their own designated stakeholder committees and work groups,</p>	<p><b>Concern:</b> recommendations from other work groups should be reviewed before accepting into this plan. This OSS plan is looking at the entire county – not just a specific study area.</p>	