



Harper Estuary Restoration Project Community Gathering

Summary

**Please note, the following are not meeting minutes and are meant for staff record and analysis purposes.*

Date: April 6, 2015

Time: 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Location: South Colby Methodist Church

Attendance: About 40 attendees (DCD has sign-in sheet)

Kitsap County Staff: Commissioner Charlotte Garrido, Andy Nelson (Director of PW), Tina Nelson (Roads PW), Kathy Peters (Natural Resources DCD), Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech (DCD), Heather Adams (Policy CO), Jennifer Haro (Policy CO)

WA state staff: Doris Small (WDFW), Corey Morss (WDFW), Celina Abercrombie (DOE)

Recording: This was a public meeting and recorded by K. Mesebeluu-Yobech and video-taped by Jennifer Haro (Notice to attendees about videotaping and recording was provided)

Purpose: Update the Harper-Southworth community on the current status of the different components of the restoration project.

Presentations: (uploaded to the website)

- Commissioner Garrido welcomed the community and introduced County and State staff present at the meeting. Commissioner Garrido gave an overview of the restoration project including the different elements of the project led by Kitsap County and WDFW.
- Doris Small and Corey Morss from WDFW discussed the Phase I component of the project. Phase I involves removal of historic fill and adding habitat components, reconnecting wetlands and tidal influence to the estuary, and relocating the boat landing. Doris Small explained the different surveys that have occurred and will take place in the next several months to inform permits for estuarine restoration which will be submitted summer 2015. WDFW documented juvenile chum salmon in the estuary during a beach seining exercise (A short video of the fish was presented to the community) Corey Morss explained in detail specific restoration actions within the estuary. Restoration actions include removal of clinker bricks, excavation of fill to expose former marsh and tidelands, removal of remnant road fill to reconnect historic salt water marsh, removal of pilings and bulkhead, installation of soft bank protection, realigning tidal channels, and removal of contaminated soil.
- Celina Abercrombie from DOE gave a brief report of the Phase II Assessment (testing for more than 150 chemicals in the estuary) completed in spring 2014. Low levels of two chemicals found in the estuary will be removed with the anticipated fill removal restoration action by WDFW.



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- Andy Nelson from Kitsap County Public Works discussed the proposed boat landing sites. Kitsap County is currently evaluating different potential locations. Current options include Southworth Drive near Harper Park and Sebring Drive road end near Southworth Ferry Terminal.
- Tina Nelson from Kitsap County Public Works discussed the Phase II component of the project. Phase II involves replacing the undersized culvert under SE Olympiad Drive and associated road embankment with a bridge spanning the estuary. Kitsap County is in the process of contracting Otak, an engineering firm that has successfully designed intertidal culverts in Kitsap County including Curley Creek Bridge, to complete preliminary designs including a Type Size and Location (TS&L) report. The Type Size and Location (TS&L) report will provide a scientific and engineering analysis to determine the size of roadway opening and type of structure that will provide the greatest environmental benefits within project resource constraints. In the next several months, Otak will be conducting several assessments and surveys in the estuary and on the roadway to gather data needed to complete the TS&L report.
- Community involvement is a significant component of this restoration project. There are plans to salvage some clinker bricks to build a structure to commemorate the history of Harper. Community volunteers will be needed in recovering bricks to be used for the structure. More information will be available in the future.

Public Questions and Responses:

Q. Can the community remove bricks in the estuary right now for their own use?

A. It is highly recommended to wait until after a cultural resources survey is completed in order to document accurate existing conditions of the estuary.

Q. Will there be a traffic control sign to calm the traffic on Southworth Drive if a boat landing will be relocated to the corner of Southworth and Olympiad Drive?

A. Evaluation of the optional boat landing site will determine if a traffic control sign is required.

Q. Will there be a location to tie a boat while parking your vehicle and trailer at the proposed Southworth Drive boat landing site?

A. The boat landing will have similar accessories the current boat landing has per request of the community. During a community outreach effort in the beginning of 2014, the community strongly recommended that the boat landing be kept small, specifically the way it is today.

Q. Can the boat landing be relocated to the northeastern shoreline?

A. This location was initially proposed as a potential boat landing site; however, due to the large amount of private property at this location as well as topographical constraints, the County decided that it is not a feasible site.



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Q. Will there be enough parking at Harper Park for the proposed boat landing site at the corner of Southworth and Olympiad Drive?

A. Availability of parking will be evaluated during a feasibility study of each proposed boat landing site.

Q. Do you know the length of the structure that will be replacing the culvert under Olympiad Drive (a major culprit of the estuarine environment)?

A. This will be determined through an alternatives analysis that will be completed by July 2015 and then included in a Type Size and Location report by the end of October 2015.

Q. Will the boat landing be available to the community during relocation and/or restoration?

A. The County will try to provide an alternate boat landing site if the current boat landing site is not available during relocation and/or restoration.

Q. Will Southworth Drive remain open during construction of the bridge?

A. Yes. Southworth Drive will remain open during construction of the bridge. During a delivery of large construction materials for the bridge, Southworth Drive may be closed for about 20 minutes. Olympiad Drive will be closed during construction of the bridge.

Public Comments:

- There is lots of trailer traffic in the summertime. The Harper Park parking is not a good parking area.
- Landowner at the end of Sebring Drive will not be happy with traffic around his property.
- It is difficult to launch a boat on a trailer at the proposed Sebring Drive boat landing location.
- In order to ease traffic issues with the proposed boat landing location at Southworth Drive, the County should consider constructing a roundabout.
- The community feels like they have been asking lots of questions and not getting direct answers; rather, they have raised more questions.
- The community should be happy that they are getting a bridge to replace Olympiad Drive and will keep their boat landing. When the project first started, removal of the road was an option. The project has evolved overtime to meet the needs of the community. With many changes to the project plan, the County and WDFW requires more time. The Harper community should applaud the efforts put into this restoration project.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm. Many community members stayed after the meeting to discuss their individual questions and concerns with County, WDFW, and DOE staff.