



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: June 17, 2015

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Location: South Colby Methodist Church

Attendance: About 45 attendees (DCD has sign-in sheet)

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

WDFW staff: Doris Small

Cultural Resources consultant: Sharon Boswell (Senior Historian, SWCA Environmental Consultants)

Recording: This public meeting was recorded and video-taped. Notice to attendees about videotaping and recording was provided.

Purpose: Update the Harper-Southworth community on the current status of the project. Project components addressed at the meeting include WDFW planning and surveys completed, bridge design progress, and the preferred boat landing location.

Presentations: (Project progress presentation has been uploaded to the website; Cultural and Historical Investigation presentation will be posted when approval from the Suquamish Tribe is obtained)

- Commissioner Garrido welcomed the community and introduced County and State staff present at the meeting. Commissioner Garrido gave a brief background and overview of the restoration project.
- Doris Small from WDFW gave an update of the work that has been completed since the last community meeting. The WDFW contracted SWCA Environmental Consultants to complete an archeological and cultural resource assessment in the estuary. This assessment provided data of the geological profile of the estuary which determined the depth of historical marine sediments. This information is critical when planning and designing in-estuarine restoration. A wetland delineation study was also completed. Four wetlands and two streams were identified in this study.
- Sharon Boswell, Senior Historian from SWCA Environmental Consultants gave a presentation about cultural resources assessment completed in the estuary. Ms. Boswell gave a brief overview of the type of bricks found in the estuary. Different brick samples were brought to the meeting for display. The focus of the presentation was the historical context of the Harper community: the first settlers of Harper, early land use of the area, and the establishment and closing of the Harper Clay and Brick Factory.



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- Tina Nelson from Kitsap County Public Works Roads Division gave a brief update about the bridge design and the different surveys and studies completed to inform the project. Tasks completed include a geotechnical investigation, stream hydraulic analysis, coastal analysis, and a topographical survey of the cross sections of the estuary.
- Kathy Peters from Kitsap County Department of Community Development gave a presentation on the preferred boat landing location.

Questions and Answers:

- 1. What will be done with the spit during the restoration?**
 - a. Sediment transport information collected during the stream hydraulic analysis and close collaboration with WDFW estuarine restoration plans will determine the spit conditions after the restoration.
- 2. Will the bridge abutments and retaining walls be positioned away from the spit?**
 - a. Maybe. More information is needed to know where the bridge will be positioned in the estuary. This will be addressed in the Type Size and Location report.
- 3. Will the bridge have a similar slope to what Olympiad Drive currently has?**
 - a. The bridge will have a 2% slope to allow water to run off the sides. The height of the bridge will be determined by how much clearance is needed for high tides and flood events. The associated roadways on both ends of the bridge may be changed due to the prescribed height of the bridge.
- 4. Are you going to allow natural tidal processes to flush out the accumulated sediment in the estuary?**
 - a. This is a clean up project and will entail excavation and removal of artificial fill and bricks.
- 5. Is it a goal to remove all of the bricks or will some of the bricks stay?**
 - a. For the bridge: in order to build a bridge, all the bricks and fill under Olympiad Drive need to be removed.
 - b. For estuary restoration: restoration efforts will remove as much bricks as possible to reach natural marine sediments. Bricks outside of the project area will not be addressed in this project.
- 6. What is Kitsap County doing about the safety issues on Nokomis Road?**
 - a. The County will look into the safety issue on Nokomis Road. This may be addressed during construction of the bridge when traffic will be rerouted through Nokomis Road.
- 7. Why is the vegetation along Olympiad Drive being cleared?**
 - a. This may be a public works road clean up effort. It is not associated with the Harper Estuary Restoration project.

Closing Remarks:

Commissioner Garrido thanked the Harper-Southworth community for coming to the meeting.



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Open House:

Several information stations were set up for the community members to visit and ask questions regarding the different elements of the restoration project. Information stations include: Kitsap County comprehensive plan update, community brick project, WDFW estuary restoration, boat landing location, and cultural and archaeological resources.