

**Mason County Consolidated Contract # C14956**  
**On-Site Marine Recovery Area Project**  
**Quarterly Update**  
**January-March 2008**

**Task 1 Coordination and updates of implementation work**

During the first quarter of 2008 MCPH held 3 regular Oakland Bay meetings, and distributed meeting notes and monthly update on sampling activities. A new matrix for tracking sanitary survey/dye trace progress in the focus areas was developed at the request of the group and better maps of focus areas and sample sites have also been developed. 3 monthly updates will have been sent to the group by the end of the quarter. MCPH updated their portion of the matrix.

**Task 2 District Development**

MCPH has almost completed all of the tasks necessary to set up the special purpose governance needed for a Shellfish Protection District. The county commissioners are scheduled to formally create the Oakland Bay Clean Water District Board and set up the Oakland Bay Clean Water District Advisory Committee as advisors to the board shortly after the end of the quarter. At that time the current Oakland Bay Shellfish Response Committee will become the Oakland Bay Clean Water District Advisory Committee. MCPH has also developed by-laws for the Oakland Bay Advisory Committee. They have been finalized and approved by the committee.

MCPH attended 2 education subcommittee meetings and contributed to the TWG grant proposal. We also hosted one county interdepartmental meeting on non-point pollution ordinance coordination and attended 2 stormwater project coordination meetings.

**Task 3 Identify On-site Sewage System Sources**

MCPH is currently developing a QAPP for the shoreline sanitary surveys. The QAPP will incorporate the MCPH water quality SOP's into a protocol that addresses the issues of the Oakland Bay Marine Recovery Area.

One dye trace has been completed currently and about 40 samples have been collected in known degraded areas.

Some equipment has been purchase and research has been done on the rest of the equipment needed for the surveys. It is anticipated that equipment purchasing will be completed shortly.

#### Task 4 “Water Quality Education”- **Submitted by WSU**

During this first quarter of 2008 we partnered with the Squaxin Island Tribe, Mason County Public Health, the Mason Conservation District and Sea Grant to submit a major multi-year grant proposal to the EPA’s Targeted Watershed Grants Program. We should be notified on our application before the end of the first quarter. If successful this funding would assist and enhance our efforts on public engagement and education in the Oakland Bay Watershed.

In addition to the grant proposal we also attended several meetings for the South Sound Action Area hosted by the Puget Sound Partnership of which the Oakland Bay Watershed is a part. This action area core group is organizing and inventorying current programs underway, identifying gaps and will eventually be prioritizing this into an action agenda. These meeting included one South Sound Action Area Core Group Meeting, one ECO (Education, Communication and Outreach) Meeting for development of a sound wide education strategy, and the South Sound Puget Sound Partnership Action Area Workshop at The Evergreen State College which gave local experts the opportunity to weigh in on local watershed issues, review the inventory and provide feedback.

We also hosted two Education and Outreach Sub-committee meetings in addition to attending the Oakland Bay Shellfish Closure Response (SCR) meetings. Education and Outreach Sub-committee Meetings have focused on planning and coordination of education events (and their advertisement) for residents including Earth Week events in partnership with many organizations (including Mason County, Mason Conservation District, City of Shelton, Taylor Shellfish, Olympic College etc). Materials for an Oakland Bay booth are being gathered and will include scientific posters being presented at the South Sound Science Symposium on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

We are scoping out the possibility of hosting an Open House at Pioneer school in early June to update the community as well. We also briefed the Pioneer School Board on our efforts with the assistance of Janis Snoey (resident and SCR member) and the Mason Conservation District). Erica Guttman of WSU Thurston Extension and the Native Plant Salvage Project and Paul Feenan of WSU Thurston Extension presented to a community workshop in early March on Composting and Raingardens.

We have also been working on a template and gathering content to launch a Mason County Oakland Bay Clean Water Website. So far we have gathered links and a local contact sheet as well some of the scientific data to post online. This will be reviewed by the SCR group before being posted.

For the second quarter we are planning a variety of Earth Week events that will focus on Oakland Bay: a Septic System Operation and Maintenance workshop for residents in partnership with MCPH, a Shorelines Workshop for real estate professionals including a field trip to Oakland Bay and continued work on website content.

