



Big Lake Water Quality Improvement Project
Spring Community Check-In: April 16, 2013
Meeting Notes # 10
Facilitated by Cindy Gilder, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Welcome + Introductions

After work session participants introduced themselves, Cindy gave an overview of the purpose and topics of the check-in meeting including:

- Summer 2013 Water Quality Resampling – Presentation by Aquatic Restoration & Research Institute (ARRI).
- Water Quality Improvement Activities – What has happened? Who participated? What were the main outcomes?
- Current Action Plan – Where are we at? What do we need to revise and/or update? What additional resources are there to successfully implement our action plan?
- Next Steps – Immediate + future.

Water Quality Re-sampling

Report from Jeff Davis, President, ARRI

Handout provided (attached) – Jeff gave a presentation of the proposed sampling program and how boats will be counted. He demonstrated the device that is used to collect samples (Wildco sampler) and described quality control procedures used to ensure sample accuracy. Community concerns/actions needed:

- Cindy/Jeff to research whether one representative from the community can accompany the sampling. Once research is complete –Cindy will let Bill Kramer know the outcome. If someone can accompany ARRI in their boat, Cindy will ask Bill Kramer to have Council possibly appoint someone as a representative/liaison. Another option is for the community representative to follow along in their own boat.
- Community is concerned that the sampling is only targeting high use weekends. Community member thought a better option is to conduct sampling July 3-6 (versus July 4-7). Cindy explained that the sampling is designed to capture the worst case scenario. EPA methods for determining toxicity indicate that fish and other aquatic species are adversely affected if the average pollutant levels are over water quality criteria for 96 hours or more. According to EPA

scientists, if more than one 96 hour period in 3 years is exceeded, there is an impact to the species. The petroleum threshold that was developed for Alaska was based on Alaska species.

- Suggestion for Cindy/Jeff to present at an upcoming Community Council meeting to get more community buy-in for the sampling program. Cindy will follow up with Bill Kramer.

Winter 2012-2013 Activities

Report from Rachel Lord, Cook Inletkeeper (Big Lake ACWA Grant Project Lead) and Catherine Inman, Mat-Su Conservation Services

- Outreach activities over the fall and winter included:
 - Burkesshore Family Fishing Day, outreach at local library, Mat-Su Sportsman Show.
 - Girl Scout Gold Award – a local resident, Cassandra Alexander earned her Gold award, the highest achievement in Girl Scouting for her outreach work on Clean Boating for Big Lake.
- Survey results from Big Lake Launch Host efforts and Mat-Su Sportsman Show (details attached):
 - Majority of people have been boating on Big Lake 10+ years;
 - Diversity of engine types;
 - Most gas fill-up at gas station, do not use adsorbent pads/diapers;
 - Would replace older 2-stroke engine if there was a buyback program;
 - Did not know Big Lake is polluted;
 - Cook Inletkeeper and Mat-Su Conservation Services, with the help of Randi Perlman, will continue to provide Clean Boating kits and outreach assistance to the community for Launch Host activities during the summer of 2013. Volunteers from the community are encouraged to participate!
- Floyd suggested having more outreach prior to Memorial Day weekend in the bigger news outlets – ADN, talk radio shows, etc. to get the word out about clean boating to Anchorage/Valley boaters. Last season there was a 5-minute TV spot on Anchorage Channel 2 news, as well as op-eds in the Frontiersman, Make-A-Scene, and updates on Clean Boating efforts in Ina's Big Lake News. Rachel and Catherine said they would continue these efforts, and encouraged community members to forward along anything they see to help spread the word.

Report from Cindy Gilder, ADEC Non-Point Section

- Clean Boating brochures continue to be distributed by DMV. Supplies also provided to local boating shops, repair shops.
- Clean Boating booth at Great Alaska Sportsman Show; distributed more than 250 fuel absorbent pads, 50 Boat Fuel Vent Recovery Systems.

Upcoming Activities

- DEC will have a clean boating booth at Big Lake Boating & Sport Show – additional volunteers welcome. Catherine will follow up with Cindy; also, Chris Wagner or Carrie Dedrigin may be able to help.

- Cook Inletkeeper’s outreach work will continue – another DEC ACWA grant. Outreach ideas include radio and print, perhaps being a guest on one of the morning talk shows (see above). Catherine/Rachel to follow up on ideas.
- Wayne reported that the boat launches are being repaired. Expect to happen before Memorial Day weekend. No design changes. Holly will be the campground host again.

Testing Results

- Cindy outlined 3 possible outcomes and follow-up actions from testing:
 - Results shows water quality is meeting standards – schedule 2nd year of testing.
 - Results show water quality improvement but not meeting standards – revisit Community Action Plan.
 - Results show water quality worse – revisit Community Action Plan.

Spring Community Check-In Attendees

Cindy	Gilder	269-3066	cindy.gilder@alaska.gov
Jeff	Davis	733-5432	arri@mtaonline.net
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