



Big Lake Water Quality Improvement Project
Work Session #5 – April 18, 2011
Meeting Notes
Facilitated by Shelly Wade, Agnew::Beck Consulting

Summary of Agenda Topics

Welcome + Introductions

Work session participants introduced themselves. Shelly Wade gave an overview of Work Sessions 1-4, the purpose and topics of Work Session #5.

Action Plan Updates

Work session participants identified current actions and work that needs to happen within two major timeframes: 1) April through the end of June, and 2) July 1st and on. The discussion touched on actions at key areas of concern as well as funding opportunities for making progress on desirable actions. The results are outlined below:

April through June

- General
 - Alaska Water Wise class – Shelly is working with Alaska Boating Safety staff to confirm a course date. The community has requested an 8-hour course (1 day) during the work week when marina staff and other interested community members can attend. The community has also requested the course happen during the first two weeks of May before the busy summer season kicks in. **As of 4/28, Shelly has confirmed a date and time, Monday, May 9th, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. We will confirm a location and get a flyer out to the community for distribution and recruitment.**
- Funding
 - Waiting to hear on the Alaska Clean Water Action Grant – approximately \$40,000
 - Dan Mayfield reported to the group that he has not heard back from Representative Neuman's office regarding the legislative request to fund a new launch ramp design at the State Parks recreation sites. Dan will continue to try and follow-up.
 - Mat-Su Health Foundation is still a possibility – Holly will investigate immediate opportunities and the details regarding pass through possibilities (e.g. can Cook Inletkeeper act as the pass through entity for the Big Lake community?). She may be able to get a small amount of funding soon for emergency spill response kits at the launch sites. Sharon Scott is the contact at Mat-Su Health Foundation.

- Later, once we've established the framework for the clean boating education campaign and key components, we may be able to ask for contributions from individual residents and business owners.
- Marinas
 - The educational brochure went out with marina billings
 - Rachel Lord of Cook Inletkeeper is working with the marinas to review the Clean Harbor program checklist and to develop action plans around action items they would like to work on
- Launches
 - Educational brochure went out with launch passes
 - Interpretive materials will be redone – Two metal clean boating signs will be put up at North and South recreation sites accompanied by a new panel that addresses spill response. As mentioned above, Holly is also working on securing funds for emergency spill response kits at the launch sites.
- Businesses – Are there businesses and other key locations where we should start placing education materials? Yes. We can share the brochures and businesses can put them up as they see appropriate.
 - Dan, Cathy, Gerard are willing to connect with the following businesses and key locations:
 - Gorilla Fireworks
 - Tesoro
 - Steve's Food Boy
 - Burkeshore
 - Library
 - Fisherman's Choice Charters
- Community Events – Are there community events that would be good opportunities to share clean boating educational materials? When are they? Who are the main contacts?
 - June 11th Block Party
 - Focus on Big Lake safety
 - At the fire station
 - We could have a clean boating booth
 - Deborah McCann and Kathy Kramer are contacts

July 1st and on

- What if we get the ACWA grant? (\$40 admin?) How can we build on this or augment? What if we don't get the grant? What are our alternatives?
 - Either way, we will need to develop a plan for researching other funding opportunities. The Cook Inletkeeper can continue to assist with the community and perhaps help with research and apply for grants. This is a part of the Cook Inletkeeper's mission to work with communities in the Cook Inlet Watershed. They will not go away. Potential funding sources include:
 - Boat U.S. small grants (e.g. cigarette clean-up)
 - Mat-Su Salmon Partnership – National Fish Habitat Initiative; focus is on fish habitat and passage

- Sustainable Salmon Fund – DEC has applied for funding to support a statewide “Fuel Out, Fish In” campaign. We will not know if the funding has been awarded until mid-May at the earliest.
- Cook Inletkeeper will work with the community to develop and potential pilot components of the launch host program (as identified in the ACWA grant proposal); we have a number of programs from other communities and states to build from – we don’t have to start from scratch
- Working with their partners, the community should also have a good start on clean boating kits that can be distributed (for free) to boaters (and other motorized recreationists) at marinas and launch sites

Immediate Next Steps

- Talk with the BLCC and get on their May 11th agenda (**DONE**). Be sure to communicate:
 - Status update – highlight significant contributions of core group and Burkesshore’s specific work with Cook Inletkeeper
 - How we would like them to be involved?
 - Can we post educational info on the BLCC website?
 - Can we share educational information at the June 4th park dedication event?
- Talk with Chamber about posting education info to their website
- Develop menu of options for after October – how do we keep up the momentum?

Work Session #5 Attendees:

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