

On-Site Sewage System Management Plan Semiannual Report

Local Health Jurisdiction: Skagit County Health Department

LHJ Contact: Corinne Story, Env'l Public Health Manager

Reporting Period: January 1 – June 30, 2011

Estimated Expenditure for Reporting Period: \$78,519

1. Summary of Work Completed by Task

Task #	Brief Task Description	Deliverables/Outcomes
1	Database Enhancement and Reporting.	803 records entered, consisting of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 716 inspections • 87 'pump only'
2	Notification of Inspection Requirement in MRA's and Enforcement of O/M inspections in MRA's.	<p>Our mailing protocol of a first reminder letter with a 90 day response time, followed by a warning letter with a 30 day response time and a final letter notifying the property owner that a \$75 per day fine will commence in 10 days continues to be an effective tool. We consistently see nearly a 50% response rate each time we send a letter. Though we have issued dozens of fines, there has been only one where a fine has accumulated to the maximum of \$5,000 allowed by Skagit County Code. That account then gets turned over to collections. We have two or three fines currently accumulating. Failing on-site sewage systems are dealt with promptly.</p> <p>Thomas Creek SA -- A series of warning and fine letters went to Thomas Creek residents with an on-site sewage system status of 'unknown' or 'pump only.'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb. 15, 2011 - 79 property owners received a second warning letter. • March 24, 2011 - 31 property owners received a third warning letter. • April 29, 2011 – 13 property owners received fines. • As of June 9, only 2 property owners had not contacted us. Their fines are accumulating. <p><i>See Attachment A for letters and a table of responses.</i></p> <p>We shortened the time frame for responses for property owners in MRA's where we have completed identification of all on-site sewage systems. For this second time through these MRA's, both the reminder and warning letters had 30 day deadlines, and then the fine is issued if no action is taken by the property owner by the second deadline.</p> <p>Similk Beach MRA –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 24, 2011 – 53 properties May 11, 2011 – 23 properties received warning letters. • June 15, 2011 – 7 properties received fines. • To date, 4 of those 7 have responded. <p><i>See Attachment B for letters and a table of responses.</i></p>

On-Site Sewage System Management Plan Semiannual Report

		<p>Yokeko Point, Dewey Beach and Quiet Cove MRA (YDQ)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 12, 2011 – 198 properties not current with on-site sewage system inspection received reminder letters. • June 8, 2011 -- 99 properties received warning letters. • To date, there are 76 property owners who need to have OSS evaluations completed. <p>See <i>Attachment C for letters and a table of responses.</i></p>
3	Bayview and Nookachamps MRA's	<p>Bayview MRA – this MRA is left with two unknown systems. One had their fine accumulate to \$5,000 and the matter has been sent to collections (per Skagit County Code). Interestingly, though, this individual attended our Septics 201 class so he could do his own inspection.</p> <p>The second has had a site evaluation completed on the property and has been in continuous contact with our staff. They are waiting for the property to dry out prior to taking further action. See <i>Attachment D.</i></p> <p>Nookachamps SA – This was the first time through this watershed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 3, 2011 – 129 property owners received reminder letters. OSS system owners where the systems had only a septic tank pumping were included in this mailing. • June 3, 2011 – 56 property owners received a second letter (warning letter). • To date, we have received 4 responses from the June 3, 2011 letter. <p>See <i>Attachment E for letters and a table of responses.</i></p>
4	Septics Education	<p>Six Septics 101 classes and one Septics 201 class occurred in this reporting period.</p> <p>Because of contract delays, we were not able to launch Septics 101 training on-line during this time period, so these dollars were put toward the classroom trainings. It's anticipated we will have the contract signed with Granicus on June 27, 2011 to begin airing Septics 101 through Skagit County's web-site shortly thereafter. See <i>Attachment F for Septics Education class rosters evaluations.</i></p>

On-Site Sewage System Management Plan Semiannual Report

2. OSS Data Inventory for this reporting period

MRA's and SA's	Total Number of Known OSS	Number of OSS with Current Inspection	Number of OSS with inspection in the last 5 years
Bayview	663*	59	84
Colony Creek	404	115	117
Guemes Island	693	129	152
Lower Samish	676	201	263
Samish Island	425	168	296
Similk Beach	87	68	82
Upper Samish	701	198	298
Yokeko Point, Dewey Beach, Quiet Cove	295	162	226
Total MRA's	3,944	1,100	1,518
Thomas Creek SA	306	145	180
Nookachamps SA	264	78	118
Total SA's	570	223	298
Grand Total MRA's/SA's	4,514	1,323	1,816

*Includes Bayview Rural Village which was inadvertently omitted in prior reports.

Countywide:	14,852	3,597	5,553
--------------------	---------------	--------------	--------------

3. Enforcement for this reporting period

	Total Failures Found this reporting period	Failures Repaired this reporting period	Unresolved Failures this reporting period	Comments (Why are failures unresolved)
Countywide:	24	5	In addition to the 14 noted in MRA/SA's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 is in process of repair. • 2 are bank-owned and vacant. • 1 received a Notice of Correction & Violation (NCV) letter. • 1 has not yet had any action taken. 	1. The unseasonably wet spring has made it difficult for several installations to be completed. Therefore, we have several failures with issued permits, but stalled installations. 2. Bank repossessions have added a new twist to our work. Notice of Corrections and Violations end up going to banks in Chicago, Atlanta or elsewhere causing further delays.
MRA/SA Specific:	17	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 are somewhere in the process of repair applications or installations. • 4 have received a NCV letter. 	

3. Education during this reporting period

Number of public who attended class room workshops: 28 attendees at Septics 101 classes; 27 at our Septics 201 class.

Number of industry who attended class room workshops: 0

On-Site Sewage System Management Plan Semiannual Report

Number of public who took on-line training: None

Barriers to Plan Implementation: Though there are challenges, we seem to be making steady progress. The mailings take some juggling amongst staff in light of our reduced clerical support.

Challenges or Comments about Issues this Quarter: We had to devote a lot of my time and some staff time to coordination with other agencies for the Clean Samish Initiative (CSI) following the GMAP session identifying the Clean Samish Initiative as a priority area. This cut into planned outreach efforts for the overall MRA project. Both the clerical shortage and CSI diversion contributed to a delay in some of the mailings. For instance, the YDQ mailings were scheduled to go out mid-March and could not be completed until mid-April. Also, the Nookachamps Sensitive Area final mailing had to be pushed out into the last half of 2011. We will have to spend some of this next biennium's dollars for completion of our efforts in these two areas.

Data 'scrubbing' is necessary to assure our data management program is working properly. We know there are anomalies in the data such as a parcel number that is included in a parcel query tool, but does not show up in the queried spreadsheet. Never-the-less, we estimate the data is 95% reliable, which we consider a pretty good batting average.

Next 6 months: We will next throw the majority of our resources at the Samish Watershed. We plan a mailing to all on-site sewage system owners in the watershed in late July or early August using our 90, 30, 10 day protocol.

We expect the on-line entry of O&M reports to be ready in the next few weeks. This will help significantly reduce our time spent hand-entering this data. We can't wait . . .

List of Attachments included with email:

- Attachment A – Thomas Creek letter and responses*
- Attachment B – Similk Beach letter and responses*
- Attachment C – YDQ letters and responses*
- Attachment D – Bayview letter and responses*
- Attachment E – Nookachamps letter and responses*
- Attachment F – Septic 101 and 201 class rosters and evaluations*
- Map 1 – Bayview MRA Status*
- Map 2 – Colony Creek MRA Status*
- Map 3 – Guemes Island MRA Status*
- Map 4 – Lower Samish MRA Status*
- Map 5 – Samish Island MRA Status*
- Map 6 – Similk Beach MRA Status*
- Map 7 – Upper Samish MRA Status*
- Map 8 – Yokeko Point, Dewey Beach & Quiet Cove MRA Status*
- Map 9 – Thomas Creek SA Status*
- Map 10 – Nookachamps Creek SA Status*

Instructions

Reporting Period: Quarterly Reports are due on the 15th day of the month after the quarter ends¹. DOH staff understands that the estimated expenditure for the reporting period is a rough estimate and will not match the invoice.

Table 1: Summary of Work Completed by Task

¹ Report Due Dates: July 15, 2010; January 14, 2011; and June 15, 2011

On-Site Sewage System Management Plan Semiannual Report

Please summarize what work has been done, if any, towards meeting the deliverables/outcomes for each task in your statement of work.

Table 2: OSS Inventory Tracking

If your database is not able to differentiate between MRA and non-MRA or Sensitive Area OSS systems, please add an explanation to the Challenges or Comments section.

Table 3: O&M Report Monitoring

In this section, please report **only** on systems within an MRA. Report all systems in the MRA inspected in the last three years, even if they are out of compliance with the 1 year inspection requirement.

Table 4: Enforcement

In this table, please list ALL failures found, including those found during O&M inspection. The number of Unresolved Failures should reflect ALL known unresolved failures.

Table 5: Percent of Systems in Database with Inspections Current:

RCW 70.118A requires that counties show progressive improvement in the percentage of systems that have had required inspections.

Definitions

Failure: A condition of an on-site sewage system or component that threatens the public health by inadequately treating sewage or by creating a potential for direct or indirect contact between sewage and the public. Examples of failure include: (a) Sewage on the surface of the ground; (b) Sewage backing up into a structure caused by slow soil absorption of septic tank effluent; (c) Sewage leaking from a sewage tank or collection system; (d) Cesspools or seepage pits where evidence of ground water or surface water quality degradation exists; (e) Inadequately treated effluent contaminating ground water or surface water; or (f) Noncompliance with standards stipulated on the permit.

Maintenance: The actions necessary to keep the on-site sewage system components functioning as designed.

Monitoring : Periodic or continuous checking of an on-site sewage system, which is performed by observations and measurements, to determine if the system is functioning as intended and if system maintenance is needed. Monitoring also includes maintaining accurate records that document monitoring activities.