

November/December 2017

Clean Water Work Group (CWWG) Meeting

Due to the project area field trip on October 11, 2017 and the upcoming public meeting/open house scheduled for December 11, 2017 project partners elected to postpone a CWWG meeting until the New Year. A Doodle poll has been created and partners have been invited to vote on a date in January, 2018.

Public Meeting/Open House

December 11, 2017 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM PIC project partners will host an open house at the Sequim Prairie Grange, 290 Macleay Road, Sequim. We have the space reserved from 4:00 to 8:00 which will leave an hour on each end of the event for setup/takedown.

Participation from any and all project partners available will be much appreciated. Clallam County Environmental Health (CCEH) plans a presentation, literature, and visuals similar to past events. We found at our last public forum in June that participants showed up on time and were ready to hear a presentation straight away, rather than a less formal meet-and-greet, so we'll tailor our timeline to this preference.

We hope to get more turnout from the Matriotti watershed than achieved in June. A direct mailing has gone out to land owners in the Matriotti watershed and the event has been announced in the Conservation District's latest newsletter. CCEH also made a press release and plans a postcard to the greater PIC area including Meadowbrook/Golden Sands/3 Crabs.

Website Update!

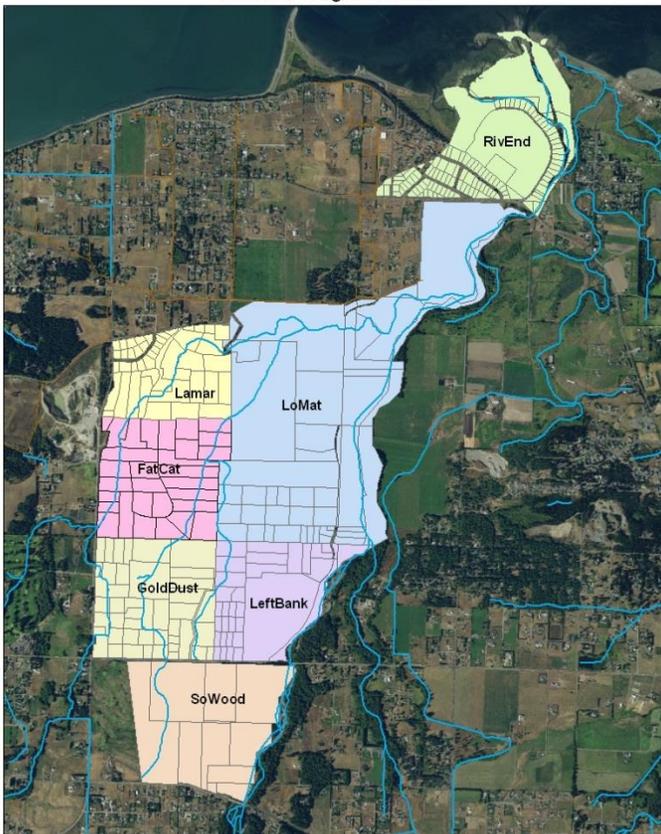
CCEH has finally made some changes/additions to the PIC Project website! We're trying to make results, data, and findings more easily accessible to the public and welcome suggestions on how to make this a reality. The quickest, easiest way to get both trends monitoring data and segmented sampling data online was to save PDF documents on the site. We really don't have a way to make Excel or CSV files available for download, and have settled for providing these to interested parties directly by email upon request.

<http://www.clallam.net/HHS/EnvironmentalHealth/PICProject.html>

Matriotti Watershed

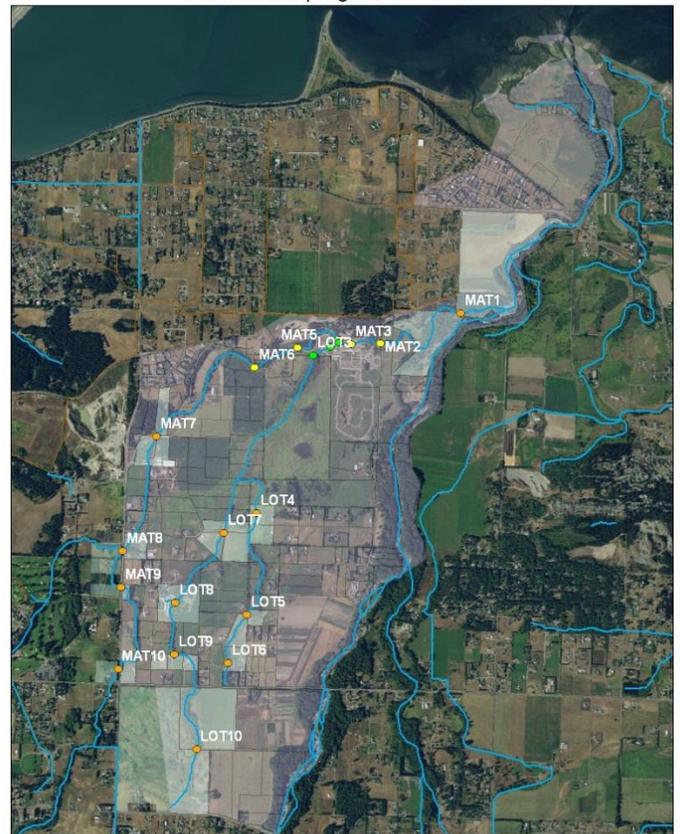
As we prepare to begin segmented water quality sampling in the Matriotti Watershed, CCEH is starting on-the-ground outreach to property owners in the project area the week of November 27, 2017. As mentioned in a recent direct mailing, we'll be knocking on doors to give neighbors project background, ask for permission to access segmented sampling sites in streams, schedule parcel surveys, and invite all to the December open house. We've divided the project area up into distinct neighborhoods to start parcel assessments in manageable chunks and Clallam Conservation District has contacted some farm owners for possible access.

Matriotti Neighborhoods



10/31/2017

Matriotti Sampling Sites Wish List



10/26/2017

An approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is one prerequisite to collecting environmental data in the Matriotti Watershed. CCEH recently submitted to Washington Department of Ecology (ECY) a QAPP with edits following a round of comments. We'll shortly learn how we did in terms of addressing comments and whether ECY will approve the document or require further edits.

Meadowbrook (Dungeness) Slough

The septic inspection enforcement timeline is up for four property owners in the neighborhood. As described in an August 15, 2017 Notice of Violation (NOV) an administrative penalty of \$5 per day began to accrue on September 16, 2017 for those still delinquent on inspections. The maximum penalty of \$300 per year was reached and a certified letter went out on November 16, 2017 instructing recipients to pay administrative penalties within 14 days.

Septic inspections are especially important as bacterial pollution has been documented in the slough and dye testing points toward at least one likely failing system. A professional inspection is needed to uncover what, specifically, is not working for this system and how it can be fixed.

3-Crabs

Many property owners on 3-Crabs road responded to postcard septic inspection reminders and took advantage of septic inspection rebates offered through the summer of 2017. The October 31, 2017 inspection compliance rate for this neighborhood was right at 50 percent! Most recently, letters went out to 39 property owners on 3-Crabs road, dated October 31, 2017, requesting septic inspections. For those still out of compliance the enforcement timeline will begin December 1, 2017 which would place Notices of Violation just after the 1st of the New Year.

Golden Sands

Investigative water quality sampling in Golden Sands Slough generally wrapped up in 2016 and some pollution correction measures have been implemented with various conforming septic systems replacing non-permitted sewage systems. Some in-ground and above-ground non-conforming sewage tanks have been removed. Clallam Conservation District's cost-share program helped overcome barriers that would otherwise make improvements impossible.

Some follow-up water quality sampling occurred in late summer of 2017 to assess where we're at in terms of water quality and to see if implemented changes have made an impact. Sampling at standard segmented sites on September 5, 2017 showed a "high hit" of 644 fecal coliform colony-forming units (CFU) per 100 ml sample. EH staff responded to an apparent "plume" event on September 21, 2017 where a plume of water with suds or bubbles, resembling greywater, appeared in the slough. Fecal coliforms of 284 CFU/100 ml sample were measured from within the plume supporting its characterization as an illicit discharge. Further follow-up sampling on October 13, 2017 returned a highest value of 210 CFU/100 ml sample.

The above results show that bacteria levels in the slough have significantly fallen from those observed in 2015: initially fecal CFUs were consistently measured in the thousands/100 ml sample!

Still, work remains to be done and CCEH needs to address the remaining non-permitted holding tanks and greywater discharges around the slough. Some much needed changes were poised to happen in 2017 until the lack of a State capital budget put cost-share plans on hold and some property owners have left the area for the winter.

Segmented/Targeted Data

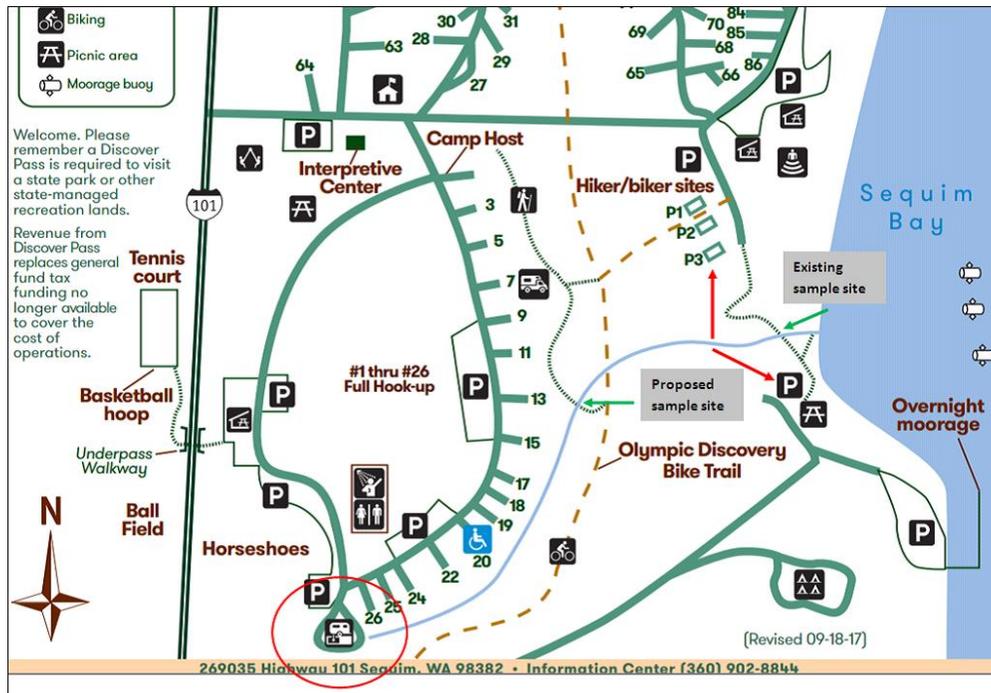
CCEH has begun the process of preparing data for upload to EPA's STORET system. So far this has meant moving the data to templates provided by EPA and tracking down all associated, necessary metadata. This is a new endeavor for us but we think it appears feasible and a worthwhile skill to learn. We've requested access to EPA's water quality data (WQX) web-based application and await a response. As a backup, we may need to ask Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe for help if we get stuck!

Trends Monitoring

Trends monitoring dates have been selected and added to the 2018 calendar.

The Trends team has documented an issue with the Sequim Bay State Park sampling site that may need attention from the Clean Water Work Group: during the low-flow/summer season the current sampling site appears to have negligible stream flow and marine water influence as documented through high salinity measurements.

We propose moving the SBSP site upstream to just above the Olympic Discovery Trail. There is a foot path marked “closed” that provides easy access to the stream. Park Rangers are on board with this plan and have received the 2018 sampling calendar. They will make daily parking passes available to the trends team at the entrance kiosk on sampling days. Would the CWWG/project partners like to weigh in on moving the SBSP trends site upstream, as needed, to avoid collecting marine water samples?



Thanks, all, and we hope to see you at the December 11 open house!

