

HALO
Hillside District Plan Implementation Committee
Minutes 11/19/10

Attendees: Pat Hansen, Jim Munter, Mike Kenny, Wayne Westberg, Lori Davey, John Reese, John Weddleton

AGENDA

What data is available now?

- How useful is it?
- Who can get it?
- Can that process change to get info that is more useful?
- Cost?

How many wells would be monitored?

- What accuracy do we need?
 - Who tests? Private vs MOA vs State
 - Cost?
- What do we do with that data?
- If all is well?
 - If there is a problem

INTRODUCTIONS

Pat is a statistician with Ak Dept of Fish & Game
Jim is a hydrologist working as a consultant.

DISCUSSION

Jim Munter: A Well Water Protection Program would include at least four categories of activity: Monitoring, Ordinances, Education and Enforcement.

This committee is focusing on the monitoring.

Discussion that at this point it makes sense to start with monitoring. Perhaps more in the future.

Unsure of what data Larsen used for the Nitrates map in the HDP. Suggests data for 1998-2008 plus data from report by Bristol Environmental (with Jim Munter) for MOA that was done using data from late 80's to late 90's.

The HDP map is very similar to the map in the 1997 Bristol Environmental study in the 1980's. Neither shows much area with high nitrates. This suggests there is no impending crisis and likely very little change.

Lori will check to see if there are COSAs for every house sold. Discussion on whether MOA has data for all homes sold or some sold without a COSA. MOA might not be getting data for wells that do not meet good standards.

Jim pointed out the MOA does not have a standard for nitrates and will issue a COSA with high nitrates.

Pat felt that starting with COSAs and the DEC data for public wells, the data collected would likely be statistically defensible as a representative sample. Increase data set by encouraging well water testing companies to encourage people to send their results. Could group COSAs in 5 year blocks or something similar.

Jim noted that a truly scientific sample would get complicated quickly with not only location on the hillside relevant, but season and well depth. Some wells can have different nitrate values at different depths in the same well. There are 100's or 1,000's of aquifers on the Hillside. There is a lot of data now, minimal benefit at high cost getting lots more data.

Data is needed in better format. MOA data is .pdf files going back for many years. Not easy to access. If those data can be compiled, then start by presenting a Hillside average nitrate and track that. Possibly a rolling 5 year average can be reported.

Jim: Groups that will be involved at some level include MOA watershed, On-Site Tech Board, Assembly members, State of Ak, Waterways Council. HALO could put out an annual report. Cost for non government group to do it could be \$5,000/year.

Discussion that this could be raised through a plea by HALO for funds for this purpose.

TASKS FOR NEXT MEETING:

Get more info on Larsen's data collection for the HDP. – John W.

Get more info on data available to MOA now. Perhaps they could report to the on-site board every month what COSAs they issued. – Lori

Get list of properties MOA has COSAs for and get data off website – John W check with Anchorage Waterways and see if they have ability to help.

Public Well data is easy to get from State.

Sent to Katie Nolan For HALO newsletter 11/29/10

HALO's HDP implementation committee met for a second time on November 19 to continue working on the Well Water Monitoring Program. Hydrologist Jim Munter and Statistician Pat Hanson attended. Both live on the Hillside.

Jim said typically a Well Water Protection Program would include four categories of activity: Monitoring, Ordinances, Education and Enforcement. This committee is focusing on the monitoring. There was agreement that it makes sense to start with monitoring. Perhaps more would be done in the future if monitoring results suggest a need.

Jim showed that the HDP map is very similar to the map in the 1997 Bristol Environmental study in the 1980's. Neither shows much area with high nitrates. This suggests there is no impending crisis and likely very little change.

Pat felt that starting with the MOA's COSAs and the DEC data for public wells, the data collected would likely be statistically defensible as a representative sample. We could increase the data set by asking well water testing companies to encourage people to send their results. Results could be by group of COSAs in 5 year blocks or something similar.

This is an activity we would want to coordinate with the city and state but it is likely data gathering and reporting could be done by a non governmental group like HALO or the Anchorage Waterways Council. The cost for this level of monitoring could be as low as \$5,000 per year.

We will gather more information and meet again in December.