

ICEHI/PACE-EH
Environmental Health Assessment Team (EHAT)
MINUTES

Date: Thursday February 9, 2006
Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Location: North Whidbey Family Resource Center

Present: David Macys, Kristy Miller, Jim Patton, Linda Rhodes (Chair), Leslie Stevens (Vice Chair)

Guests: Jean Wieman, Sarah Schmidt

Staff Present: Nancy Farnsworth, Keith Higman, Steve Hoffman, Tim McDonald

Excused: RoseAnn Alspektor, Phyllis Brett, Lisa Clark, Patty Folkestad, Mark Lathrop, Chris Markle, Marie Piper, Celine Servatius,

Unexcused: Reece Rose, Kevin Rio Kiper

Call to Order: The scheduled meeting of the Environmental Health Assessment Team (EHAT) was called to order by chairperson Linda Rhodes at 5:37 pm.

Agenda Items:

1. Review Minutes from January 2006 Meeting

- a) Minutes were approved as submitted.

2. Emerging Issues:

- a) New: Suggested EHAT Bylaw Amendment.
 - 1) Proposal would change the membership candidacy from “Island County residents” to “citizens who live or work in Island County”.
 - 2) No opposition noted. Formal notification will be emailed, which will start the 30-day notice period. Voting will take place at the March EHAT meeting, or members can vote by email.

3. WSU Litter Assessment

- a) Sarah Schmidt, subcontractor with WSU, presented the results of the Litter Assessment Survey.
- b) Discussion of the objectives of the survey, which was to determine the “State of Island County” regarding litter, and conduct a baseline litter assessment in 22 sites. (Collection sites: Camano Island - 4, North Whidbey Island - 5, Central Whidbey - 6, and South Whidbey -7.)
- c) Reviewed the draft report, and the survey protocol.
- d) Determined to quantify litter by counting, and putting in categories under large or small items.
- e) Conclusions: The most abundant single category was Snack Food Packaging. Other high quantity categories were Snacks, Fast Food, and Take-Out. Schools are hot spots for litter. The plan is to repeat survey to compare the trends over time.
- f) EHAT discussed intervention. Concluded that schools are “low hanging fruit”, and partnering with school districts would make a difference. Identified other groups to form partnerships: Solid Waste Dept, public & private schools, golf course and grocery store on Camano Island.
- g) EHAT agreed to get the survey information out to the community; show the data, present the problem, and let the partners help come up with the solutions.

4. Dumping and Littering Updates

- a) Discussed the status of the Litter and It Will Hurt signs.
- b) Leslie showed the draft brochure she has been creating. Discussed ways to make it available to the public. Agreed that after it is completed, to have copies available at City Hall, Visitor Centers, Chamber of Commerce, and Skagit Valley Community College.
- c) Leslie displayed her dumping flier. Discussed putting it on the county website, posting it at ferry terminals, on public kiosk, and community bulletin boards.
- d) Discussed distributing Patty's flier on "free disposal sites" to other property managers.
- e) Discussed organizing a furniture only disposal day, or discount dump day.
- f) Discussed economic incentives, and expanding the Opportunity Council's current program. Agreed to go forward with two suggestions: Offer 50% vouchers to individuals up to 200% poverty level, which would include more of the working poor. And offer a 50% voucher across the board to all residents.
- g) The Dumping Subcommittee will have to develop a 200% plan: write it up, get input and agreement with partners (Opportunity Council, WIC, Navy, Public Health Nurse), and then present it for approval.

5. Board of Health Update

- a) Jim Patton to update the BOH of the Dumping and Walkability action plan.

6. Time did not allow EHAT to discuss the remainder of the items on the agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm.