

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

Date: Thursday September 14, 2006 **Time:** 5:30pm – 7:30pm **Location:** NWFRC

Present: RoseAnn Alspektor, Phyllis Brett, Art Burke, Celine Servatius (Chair), David Macys, Chris Markle

Guests: Charlotte Claybrooke, Safe Routes to Schools Program Coordinator; Eric Johnston, City of Oak Harbor; Bruce Worley, Oak Harbor School District; Connie Bowers, Island County Public Works

Staff Present: Keith Higman, Tim McDonald, Whitney Webber

Excused: Lisa Clark, Patty Folkestad, Katie Hicks, Keith Higman, Jim Patton, Marie Piper, Kevin Rio Kiper, Carl Stephens

Call to Order: Celine Servatius called The Environmental Health Assessment Team (EHAT) meeting to order at 5:35pm.

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions

2. Background on the Safe Routes to Schools program

- a) Charlotte Claybrooke identified the three components of the program: engineering, education and encouragement, and enforcement. She discussed the grant application process and encouraged us to apply by the October 2 deadline. The group discussed its current programs and projects related to the grant.

3. Discuss opportunities for community partnerships related to Safe Routes to Schools projects

- a) The group identified barriers to the grant application process and decided not to apply this round, mostly given time constraints. There was a quick brainstorming session on how the group might partner on safe routes to schools projects. The group decided to collaborate on upcoming projects and potentially pull an application together for the next call for projects.

4. Review Minutes from August 2006 Meeting

- a) Minutes approved as submitted.

5. Updates

- a) Nancy Farnsworth has accepted another position teaching in Anacortes. We are actively seeking someone to fill her position.
- b) The Walkability Forum is now scheduled for Friday, October 27, from 8 to 10 AM in the Coupeville Recreation Hall. Commissioner Shelton will be the Chair. An invitation letter and a statement summarizing the link between overweight/obesity and walking in Island County will be sent out to all invitees by the beginning of October.
- c) EHAT is sponsoring Walk to School day in the local elementary schools in Oak Harbor. Joyce Swanson, Principal at Broad View, has already agreed to participate. Cathy Niiro from United Way is working to increase the presence of local law enforcement on the day of the event. We have the option to go beyond an education and advocacy effort and turn it into an incentives program to support continued walking in the schools.
- d) Dave Thomason from CHAB suggested partnering with NAS for "Litter Awareness" Month, which presents a great photo op for the police department, NAS, ICPH, City of Oak Harbor Solid Waste Division, and EHAT. All groups can be present for installation of signs. Dave can arrange for NAS to give out car litter bags at the entrance with a few words on litter prevention.
- e) EHAT is developing its partnerships with the local high schools on litter prevention and recycling. South Whidbey High School is extremely supportive of this work, and might be interested in having the high schoolers develop a training module similar to those created for Island County Assessment and Community Development in order to provide outreach to the younger grades.

- f) EHAT is co-sponsoring a walk with elected officials on Children's Day. The event will be held at South Whidbey Park on Saturday, September 30, at 11 AM. Sign up to walk!
- g) The Soroptimists of Oak Harbor are new partners working to complete the walkability checklist and distribute educational materials.
- h) The outreach flyers asking community organizations and individuals to partner with EHAT and volunteer their time for service projects has been distributed to libraries, ferry terminals, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, United Way, SW and CW Youth Connection, NW and SW Parks and Recreation, and Chambers of Commerce.
- i) Over the next 6 months, an ad will appear in the Whidbey Marketplace promoting Whidbey FreecycleTM—an online service that allows members to post their unwanted items for free. Join the growing list of members!
- j) EHAT has been asked to present to CHAB in January or February and to state reps/senator in December or January.

6. Closing Business

- a) Steering Committee did not meet, but will meet next month.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.