

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

Date: Thursday, June 14, 2007 **Time:** 5:30pm – 7:30pm **Location:** NWFRC, Oak Harbor

Present: Leslie Stevens (Chair), Dave Macys, Jim Patton, Carl Stephens, Marie Piper, Celine Servatius (Vice Chair)

Staff Present: Keith Higman, Whitney Webber, Valerie Matazzoni

Absent: Art Burke, Katie Hicks, RoseAnn Alspektor, Phyllis Brett, Lisa Clark, Chris Markle, Elaine Woods, Patty Folkestad, Kevin Rio Kiper, Reece Rose, Tim McDonald

Guest: Michael Cooney

Call to Order: Leslie Stevens called the Environmental Health Assessment Team (EHAT) meeting to order at 5:35pm.

Agenda Items:

1. Reviewed minutes from May 2007 meeting

- a) Minutes approved as submitted.
- b) Minutes will be changed to show members as either “present” or “absent.”

2. Future of EHAT (group consensus exercise)

- a) A group exercise was conducted to plan for the future of EHAT. Whitney and Keith let the group know that the Island County Health Department is invested in EHAT and will find a way to sustain the group.
- b) The exercised commenced with four questions being asked of the group. The group was then asked to work individually and in groups to reach consensus on the question: What is the future of EHAT? Individual/group responses are listed:

I. Objective: What has EHAT accomplished?

- Increase visibility of EHAT
- Increased resources – trails, parks
- Given some voice to concerns of public from surveys
- Public engagement
- Concrete products for dumping and littering (i.e. waste code revision, solid waste voucher proposal, litter surveys, LIWH program, advertising)
- Concrete products for walkability (i.e. trail signs, assessments, forum, Z-Cards, Safe Routes to School activities, planning course)
- Gathering of movers and shakers in public forums
- Forums lead to support of EHAT’s project activities
- Defensible process
- Progress could still be made by referring back to workplans
- Able to work creatively to meet goals
- Single-handedly invigorated awareness of EH
- Forums brought out public awareness of need for political will
- Commissioners have changed their ideas about walkability
- Common goal brought people together to work on EH issues
- Perspectives changed in some cases of EHAT members
- Broad level of support

II. Reflective: How do you feel about what EHAT has accomplished?

- EHAT has come a long way
- Have a long way to go; want to build on momentum
- Like community partners – parks, schools, etc.

- See sustainability of program – trail signage, LIWH, etc.
- Know and recognize our successes
- Can see community change
- Concern over sustainability, sustainability not guaranteed
- Glad about impact, but afraid of die down
- Need to do things to sustain program
- Want to keep process in forefront
- A lot of energy in group

III. Interpretive: What has led to these accomplishments? What has helped you stay involved and interested?

- Willing to commit to make a difference
- People pushing for action
- Action-oriented members, impatience
- Difficulty with straying from workplan
- Increased awareness in green living
- Persistence
- Snacks
- Friendships
- EHAT leadership
- Make community healthier
- Give back to community service
- Something about group is different
- Concerned citizens
- Small victories (i.e. trail clearing, LIWH)
- Allows concerns to be magnified
- Concern for future generations
- People are vested

IV. Decisional: What is going to keep you involved and interested? How will you build on past accomplishments?

- Not sure we are ready to conclude and have not defined victory
- Direct self-sustaining efforts in litter prevention
- Small victories lead you to want larger ones
- Walkability has more potential for growth
- Want to keep marching forward and bring new blood in
- Group is important for keeping programs going
- Action has only been going on for a short time; need more time to implement and turn ideas over to community to “act on”
- EHAT acts as “enabler”
- Walkability seemed daunting; small victories will lead to larger victories and tackling larger projects
- Board of Health is aware of EHAT

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Group Consensus
Exercise

Continued Community Engagement	Add New Issue	Continue Two Issues	Normalize Process
Facilitate community involvement	Not yet ready for full reassessment phase	Walkability/ Bike trails for Camano	Something like CHAB, but EH oriented
	Continuation of existing issues and new issues		Funding from private foundations
Be a leader to enable community change	Ensure previous accomplishments are sustained	Action continuing on walkability issues	Create normalized, accepted, and supported community process
	Forest protection/maintenance on Camano		
Continue to engage elected officials and community	Expand burn ban for Camano	Continue with same two issues	Devote time and effort to have ongoing recruitment
	Begin another assessment/ Prioritize cycle		
Maintain visibility with community	Monitor community concerns and prioritize for action	Continue current efforts and target small victories	Devote time and effort to maintain staff/funding
		Camano - Land use compatibility and architectural	New ordinance for EHAT

3. Trail mapping and signing

- a) Trail signs are in. Need volunteers to help with installation.
- b) Distribution list for Z-Cards will be forwarded to EHAT for input and review.

4. Global warming presentation

- a) A joint EHAT/CHAB presentation on global warming will be held on EHAT's regularly scheduled meeting in July. The presentation is scheduled for Thursday, July 12, at 5:30 PM at the NWFRC in Oak Harbor.
- b) Dave Macys will check with CHAB for any mutual areas of interest to work up an agenda (i.e. trails, physical activity, and chronic disease).
- c) Dave and Leslie will both chair the meeting.
- d) Dave asked for discussion points for post-presentation discussion.

5. Update on recent events

- a) SW Walkable Communities reports are in and are available on the EHAT website at <http://www.islandcounty.net/health/EHAT/actionplans/WalkPlan/CC/cc.htm>.
- b) Walking Wednesdays concluded at Oak Harbor Elementary. Approximately 60 children participated. Those completing the program were given a "goodie bag" containing a pedestrian safety light (Globe Strobe), a Clif Zbar, LIWH sticker, and a brochure advertising the Walking School Bus program being planned for the next school year.

6. Upcoming events

- a) Walking School Bus Planning Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 27, at 1:00 PM at the Oak Harbor Senior Center.
- b) WSDOT is updating their Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The public is invited to attend meetings being held around the state. The nearest meeting is scheduled for June 26, at 6:30 PM at the University of Washington; more information is posted on the EHAT website at <http://www.islandcounty.net/health/EHAT/events/events.htm>.

7. Closing business

- a) Dave Macys has been invited to instruct a course this summer at Au Sable; he asked for suggestions regarding course content. Whitney suggested that he present on the connecting trail from Kettles Trail to Rhododendron County Park as an example of a non-motorized transportation system, and explain how it ties in with walkability and the work that EHAT has been doing.
- b) It was suggested that time limits be placed on the agenda to ensure that all items have ample time to be discussed.
- c) Whitney will organize a focused conversation addressing the results of the structured group exercise at the EHAT meeting in August.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.