



## **Meeting Summary**

### **Open House**

### **Belfair Elementary School**

### **June 4, 2009**

---

#### **Background and Event Format:**

On June 4, 2009, staff from the Belfair Wastewater and Water Reclamation Facilities Project presented project update information at a project open house at Belfair Elementary School. This meeting served as an opportunity for the Belfair Wastewater project team to speak with the residents of Belfair to ensure they were aware of the project's ongoing progress and status since July 2008. At that time, project engineers were in the midst of design. Since the last formal project update, the project team has worked towards completion of design of project facilities, and is readying construction documents.

This event was a chance for the community to see project facilities taking shape in a more concrete way than shown previously. Updated funding information was provided, taking into account recent awards from the Department of Ecology. Overall project budgets were presented. The project team also presented the latest design, hookup logistics, financing and construction information. Additional information was available related to future connections. In addition, a representative from USDA Rural Development, Shayna Dickey, provided possible financing options information for this existing federal program.

A staff member greeted attendees at the door, asked them to sign in and provided them with a map of the room. Attendees were invited to read the boards and speak with staff members stationed throughout the room at their own pace. No presentation was given and the open house format gave citizens an opportunity to ask questions about the project and to alleviate potential concerns about funding, hookups and construction through detailed, property-specific, one-on-one conversations with the project team members.

**Date:** Thursday, June 4, 2009  
**Location:** Belfair Elementary School  
**Time:** 6 – 8 p.m.  
**Number of Attendees:** Approximately 70

#### **Commonly heard questions and comments:**

Residents were concerned about the cost of hooking into the system as well as the construction impacts on SR 3. In general, residents were happy that their questions were answered. Specifically, the project team heard the following questions and comments:

- How was the treatment plant size decided?
- Why does the project cost more now?
- What are the logistics of future connections? What is the timeline?
- Do I install one pipe for every ERU on my property?
- I would like information on the cost of grinder pumps for my property.

- I can't afford to connect. What are my options? Will the connection fee be lowered?
- What is the process for connecting to the system?

**Notification:**

The public was notified of the meeting in the following ways:

- Newsletter sent to the Belfair zip code and the Mason County Hookup List one week before the public meeting
- Letter (Hookup Letter #2) sent to property owners required to hook up to the system approximately 10 days prior to the public meeting
- Press Release distributed to Mason County media list two weeks before public meeting
- Display ad in Belfair Herald (May 28, 2009)
- E-mail to stakeholders and project distribution list
- Project Web site [www.masoncountywastewater.com](http://www.masoncountywastewater.com)
- North Mason Chamber Web site: [www.northmasonchamber.com](http://www.northmasonchamber.com)
- Briefing with Clifton Ridge Homeowners' Association (Romance Hill Road, June 1, 2009)

**Materials:**

The following materials were divided into stations, available for viewing or distribution at the meeting:

Displays:

***Project Background and Funding***

- This project will provide Community Benefits
- Elements of a Sewer System
- An MBR Treatment Plant System
- Project Schedule
- Project Budget
- Project Funding
- Project Quality Assurance: Value Engineering Study

***Project Design and Field Studies***

- Project Maps (Aerial and Conceptual)
- Reclaiming, Storing and Using Water
- Treatment Plant Conceptual Drawings (Renderings)
- Pump Station Conceptual Drawings (Renderings)
- How do Field Studies Inform Facility Design?
- Designing to Protect Local Wetlands
- Environmental and Field Studies to Date
- Preliminary Sewer Rates – for discussion purposes

***Future Phases***

- Future Phases Map (for Belfair UGA sewer utility)
- Future Project Opportunities: Reclaimed Water Uses

***Property Owner Connections***

- What to Expect: Individual Property Connections
- What to Expect: System Construction
- Hookup Info: Costs to Hooking Into the System
- Where Will Your Sewer Connection Be?
- Financing Options

Take-away materials:

- Newsletter
- Side Sewer Fact Sheet
- Questions and Answers about Belfair Wastewater

- Open House Room Guide and Comment Form
- Community Outreach Business Cards

**Next Steps:**

As needed and appropriate, project staff will be following up with community members with specific questions related to their parcels. Communications staff will ready a plan for outreach associated with construction, side sewer financing, and side sewer communications/tracking, in addition to planning for construction groundbreaking in late summer/early fall 2009.

**Written comments:**

*Commenters replied to the following questions on the comment form. The question being answered is indicated by number in their comments.*

1. *Do you have specific questions or concerns about hooking into the system/building your side sewer?*
2. *Construction is slated to begin in late Summer/early Fall of this year, and project outreach staff will be relaying information about these activities. Do you have questions or concerns about active construction of the project in the Belfair community?*
3. *Do you have additional comments or questions about the project?*

Name: Robertson

Hooking in?: Yes

Comment: 1. Why was the line taken down to the Union River Bridge on one side of the highway and shown as urban growth and not on the other side? Why are we in a residential area and classed as urban growth? Why are low income people having to pay for the businesses and people with money profiting off of us? We also have to pay for all of you people.

2. I have concerns that you are making the rich richer while the retired people have a hard time making it and have to pay for the Overtons, Krugers and Johnsons who have the money!

3. Is Overton going to get the treated water for free or is he going to have to pay? Why, since Overton is in Kitsap County, do we have to keep doing business with him since he sent bad water to the water district? It is bad for your health and unfit for human consumption.

Name: Anonymous

Hooking in?: No

Comment: 1. I have concerns about being on a fixed income and paying for all of this. Husband is in a nursing home from stroke. North and South Shore should be the ones connecting.

Name: Anonymous

Hooking in?: No

Comment: 1. Raising the population density brings traffic problems, crime, stress on police force, maintenance and upkeep costs are never ending. Smell – example: where highway 16 meet highway 3 – another reclamation center.

2. Concerned about traffic!

3. Who benefits from this higher density zone?

Name: Anonymous

Hooking in?: Unknown

Comment: 1. Cost

2. Amount of time working on Highway 3.

Name: Thayes  
Hooking in?: Yes  
Comment: 1. Why was the urban growth area taken down one side of SR 300 and not the other side? From the literature being distributed there is no plan to include the area down the hill into business growth.  
  
2. I have concerns that this project is making the rich richer. For instance, the Johnsons and the Kreugers. Is Overton going to get the treated water for nothing?  
  
3. All this started because of the houses on the North Shore and South Shore. Why are they not included? Looks to me you are putting this sewer system in for the businesses.

Name: James M. Scott  
Hooking in?: Yes  
Comment: 1. How many units can I side connect to my property. (2 Buildings). What would the cost be? 131 Roy Board Road.  
  
2. How will it affect the chiropractic and dental offices on Roy Boad Road? Parking?  
  
3. Good presentation! Thanks!

Name: Ken VanBuskirk  
Hooking in?: No  
Comment: 1. Been told that properties outside UGA boundary will not be required to hook to sewer, is that correct?  
  
2. Concerns!!! Highway 3 is all ready high accident corridor with elementary school and single SR 3 roads. Traffic is already at a standstill daily, please use extreme care for the community.  
  
3. Impacts to critical aquifer recharge area!!! (where my drinking water comes from). Please identify CARA on maps. No injection wells. Impacts of sewer line itself. Department of Ecology guidelines for CARA protection need to be followed.

Name: Lorie Waggett  
Hooking in?: No  
Comment: 1.  
1-Did not see any projected estimates/costs for grinders if needed – if a property owner needs a loan they would include that cost into expenses.  
2-If sewer comes down a private road, who would be responsible for pipes, etc. from main sewer line to house?  
3-If a property owner is not mandated to hookup in Phase I but due to developing of property close, will those estimates still the same?

Name: Kim Stone

Hooking in?: Yes

Comment: 1. See page 137 with Court Harris.

3.

- Is property line or house feet from main line?
- Each home separate? We have four homes. Do each have a connection line, all the way to main line?