



Big Lake Water Quality Action Plan
Work Session #1 – August 7, 2010
FINAL Meeting Notes
Facilitated by Shelly Wade, Agnew::Beck Consulting

Agenda Items:

- Welcome + Introduction – Work session participants introduced themselves. Shelly Wade gave an overview of the project including workshop topics and guidelines. Wade also gave a brief overview of potential solutions from previous efforts including recommendations from the 2009 DEC Water Quality Monitoring Report.
- Action Planning – The community and other stakeholders brainstormed practical solutions for addressing petroleum hydrocarbons on Big Lake. See the action plan matrix for details. The conversation began with some discussion of why the problem exists in specific locations and several questions surfaced that will require follow-up including:
 - How many launches do we have? **RESPONSE: 2 public launches, 2 private marinas, and dozens of private docks. Army Corps of Engineers did a dock survey a couple of years ago and may have a number for the private docks.**
 - Would we find the same high levels of petroleum hydrocarbons at condo sites? **RESPONSE: We need to clarify which condos the community is referring to. Sites BL-06 and BL-05 were near condos. BL-5 exceeded Total Aromatic Hydrocarbons (TAH) standards 0-25% of the total samples taken at that site. BL-6 exceeded TAH standards 25-40% of the total samples taken at that site. But these sites are also near Southport marina, a fueling station and the South Shore Recreation area.**
 - Can DEC back calculate fuel to a number that the community can understand like the figure provided on the Kenai River (i.e. the gasoline coming from motor craft in the river translates to X number of barrels being dumped over the bridge into the river)? **RESPONSE: estimated 121 gallons of gasoline for 4 of the highest use days in 2009. Please refer to the 2009 Big Lake Water Quality Report, Section 6.3 for calculation details.**
 - Should we be thinking long-term? Is there a maximum loading capacity for Big Lake? We will eventually get to a place where we can no longer allow anymore motors? **RESPONSE: This will be done as a part of the Total Maximum Daily Load development. From a water quality standpoint, the maximum capacity is the state water quality standard of 10 ug/l of petroleum. If the community wants a maximum number of motorized watercraft, that is dependent on several**

variables (motor type, hp, operating time, throttle use, environmental conditions such as temperature, wind, etc.) and there is no set number right now.

- Next Steps – See below.

Next Steps (after work session)

- Summarize meeting notes and distribute to work session participants
- Invite partners to Work Session #2
 - Alaska Department of Natural Resources State Parks
 - Matanuska Susitna Borough
 - US Coast Guard
 - Department of Motor Vehicles
 - Alaska Department of Fish + Game
 - Burkeshore + Southport Marinas (invited to first work session but did not attend)
- Pick dates for Work Session #2 – dependent on availability of other partners. See follow-up email regarding potential dates.
- Develop Work Session #2 Agenda (draft ideas below)
 - Present draft solutions to partners
 - Review what other communities are doing - What lessons can Big Lake learn from other communities that are addressing the petroleum hydrocarbon issue? Need to provide a few clear examples of what others are doing.
 - Kenai solutions + implementation approach
 - Harding Lake in Fairbanks
 - Sand Lake
 - Campbell Lake
 - Lake Tahoe pads - Noreen to provide additional information
 - Florida donuts - Need to clarify
 - Revise draft solutions with partners – to be presented at community meeting for feedback

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NOTE: Includes ideas from previous work sessions

Action	Rationale - Pollution Sources, Location, Timing	Timeframe for Implementation; Long-Term Solution (yes/no)	Responsible Party + Contact Information	Cost + Resources Needed to Implement
1. Monitor bilges; check for pads before allowing launch or refueling	North + South launches, marinas <i>During busy weekends</i>		State Parks + Parks Contractors	- Bid document overhaul – build in monitoring activities into bid documents
2. Place absorbent pads in bilge; dispose of pads; make bilge pads that stores can sell	North + South launches Mile 8.2 Marinas <i>All of the time; good practice</i>		State Parks, Mat-Su Borough (MSB), Coast Guard, Marinas, Local Stores; Coordinate with DEC Spill Prevention + Response Program for information on absorbent pads and proper disposal, 907.269.7688	Partnerships
3. Develop a community patrol group made of local residents	High petroleum hydrocarbon zones (identified in 2009 report) + other busy areas on the Lake <i>During busy times</i>		BLCC, MSB, Coast Guard	- Incorporate into Lake Management Plan - Boat (non-private); community patrol sign on the boat - Does not do enforcement; observes and report back to appropriate authorities (who is this?)
4. Limit boat launch times + charge an additional fee at launches	Launches <i>During busy weekends</i>		State Parks	- Charge additional fees at launch to cover cost of monitoring launch times
5. Limit loading on lakes/lake	High density areas on Big Lake and all surrounding lakes	Longer term solution that considers growth and future density of the lake		- Could be folded into Lake Management Plan as part of long-term solution; concept already addressed in Comp Plan Update Land Use + Environment chapter.

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6. Encourage boaters not to top off when fueling – refuel at 80% capacity	Marinas + other fueling locations		Marinas + other fueling locations	- Incorporate into signage and other clean boating materials
7. Restrict Big Lake to certain boats or limit use of certain engines				Incorporate into Lake Management Plan
8. Install containment structures	Launches, marinas All year round		State Parks, Marinas	
9. Install good signage	Launches, marinas		State Parks, Marinas	
10. Create no wake zone + nesting areas	Purdy Point to South edge of Right's Island		BLCC, MSB	
11. Develop a clean boat launch campaign (would cover a number of issues, including most of other solutions the community has recommended)	Add to existing signage at launches, marinas, boat manufacturers, Tesoro Station, condo association materials, DMV		All partners – public + private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TV + radio ads - Pamphlets (Coast Guard) - Add to existing signage - Put labels on gas cans - Distribute with licensing materials + add fee for funding campaign (how much?)
12. Institute no refueling policy on the water except at the marinas + mandatory haul out for refueling jet skis			State Parks, Marinas	
13. Educate marina staff on clean boating + how they can help implement specific actions			Marinas	

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14. Establish a Lake Association			BLCC	<p>North American Lake Management Society: www.nalms.org The NALMS mission statement is simple and clear: The purpose of the Society is to forge partnerships among citizens, scientists, and professionals to foster the management and protection of lakes and reservoirs for today and tomorrow.</p> <p>Information on forming a lake association:</p> <p>http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/lakes/LakeAssociation.html</p>
15. Establish a no idle zone along the coast from BL-6 to BL-10			BLCC, MSB	
16. Develop a fueling ramp for jet skis with a containment mechanism			State Parks	
17. Install personal inspection facilities for motorized watercraft at the launches.			State Parks	

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18. Enact policy that requires plugs to be removed only after the watercraft is a required distance away from launch ramp.			State Parks, Marinas	
19. Create a bilge pump out station with a tank to collect the dirty bilge water.				
20. Evaluate grant opportunities for action.				
21. Follow up hydrocarbon sampling after actions are implemented.			DEC	

Attendees:

Big Lake Water Quality - Action Plan Work Participants

First name	Last Name	Phone	Email
Cathy	Mayfield	907-227-5077	jdmayfield@ak.net
Cindy	Gilder	907-269-3066	cindy.gilder@alaska.gov
Dan	Mayfield	907-223-2447	biglaketrails@gmail.com
Dan	Maxwell	907-240-3430	danl@chugach.net
Frankie	Barker	907-746-7439	fbarker@matsugov.us
Gerard	Billinger	907-892-2399	gerardsb@rocketmail.com
Jay	Nolfi	907-892-6356	
Kent	Bohac	907-345-2703	dkbohac@gci.net
Lisa	Borowsky	907-746-7441	lisa.borowsky@matsugov.us
Margaret	Billinger	907-841-2188	ccbiglake@yahoo.com
Mike	Szymanski	907-892-7124 or 907-250-4280	mikeszymanski@acsalaska.net
Pierre + Judy	Strong	907-	pjstrong@mtaonline.net
Wes	Hamrick	907-355-2445	soarinthevalley@mtaonline.net