



Hank Kastner <henrykastner@gmail.com>

January PIC Program E-News

Whatcom County PIC Program <PICProgram@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Reply-To: Whatcom County PIC Program <PICProgram@co.whatcom.wa.us>
To: henrykastner@gmail.com

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 4:14 PM

[View this email in your browser](#)

January 2019

Whatcom County Watersheds PIC Program E-Newsletter

Happy New Year from the PIC Program!

In the spirit of the New Year, the PIC Program is trying something different, an E-Newsletter to help keep you up to date on news, events, water quality monitoring, and currently available tools and programs. Please feel free to pass along and encourage others to join the mailing list.

Water Quality Updates

Drayton Harbor



Drayton Marine Status- As of September 2018, the two stations near the mouth of Drayton Harbor (8 and 15) began meeting water quality standards. These two stations have not met standards since 1995 when our water quality records begin, with the exception of station 8 for seven months in 2013. We'll cross our fingers that this is a long-term pattern.

Bacteria levels at **station 4**, have also been continuing to decline since February 2018.

Drayton Watershed Freshwater Summary - The last routine freshwater sampling run was conducted on December 12, 2018. While there had been over an inch of rain over the past 3 days, bacteria levels were low throughout the watershed with the exception of one site in the Lower Dakota drainage (TribDak4).

[Click Here for the Latest Water Quality Summary](#)

Portage Bay



Portage Bay Marine Status- Since September 2018, the 90th percentile of the last 30 samples has increased at several marine stations. Of particular concern are increases seen at stations 50, 52, and 271. Station 50 has a 90th percentile of 36.7 MPN/100MI, approaching the threshold of 43 MPN/100mL for “prohibited” status. Station 52 is currently above the 30 MPN/100mL threshold for “threatened” status and station 271 increased above the 20 MPN/100mL threshold for “of concern” status.



Portage Bay Marine Fall Closure Status- During the **fall closure period** (October through December) from 2015 through 2018 the majority of Portage marine sites are still within the “prohibited” and “threatened” status. Red is prohibited, orange is threatened, yellow is of concern, and green is well within standards. This illustrates that this period is still a critical time for water quality improvements and protections.

Portage Freshwater Summary - The last routine freshwater sampling run was conducted on January 7, 2019. Elevated bacteria results were observed at Bertrand Creek (B1) and the mainstem of the Nooksack River at Ferndale (M2) and Marine Drive (M1). This sampling run followed a half inch of rain the day prior.

[Click Here for the Latest Water Quality Summary](#)

Water Quality News

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WATER QUALITY AND HELPING THE COMMUNITY?

Drayton Harbor and Portage Bay Shellfish Protection
Districts are looking for committee members.



APPLY TODAY

call (360)778-6294 or visit

www.whatcomcounty.us/1585/Current-Vacancies



Whatcom Conservation District is Proud to Nominate Local Farmer for Conservation Award. The Whatcom Conservation District nominated Rich Appel of Appel Farms for his environmental leadership in the Whatcom County agricultural community. On November 27, 2018, he was awarded the Vim Wright 'Building Bridges' award at the 2018 annual meeting of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts.

3rd Annual Drayton Harbor Shellebration!



On the evening of Friday, December 14, G Street plaza in Blaine Washington was full of excited community members congregating to celebrate the second year of lifted harvesting restrictions on 810 acres of shellfish growing areas in Drayton Harbor. The reopening is really something to be proud of and a huge community success story over 20 years in the making.

The line for the scrumptious grilled oysters and oyster chowder provided by the Drayton Harbor Oyster Company extended outside of the plaza. The wait was well worth it for a free taste of the fresh, delicious oysters grown right within view in Drayton Harbor. Folks chatted in line with their families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers as they anticipated how delighted their taste buds would be when they reached the front of the line!

Erika Douglas, Senior Water Quality Planner for Whatcom County Public Works, spoke to the crowd about how water connects us all and what actions community members are taking to protect water quality. We all make a difference by inspecting septic systems, paying sewer bills, picking up pet waste, using boat pump-out stations, and following farm plans. Blaine City Council member Alicia Rule talked about the importance of small businesses like the Drayton Harbor Oyster Company in the development and success of downtown Blaine.

Kate Kimber from Whatcom County Public Works, Rick Beauregard, a Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District Advisory Committee member, and Aneka Sweeny from the Whatcom Conservation District proceeded to deliver the 2018 Drayton Harbor Watershed Steward Awards. These awards are given to community members who have shown outstanding dedication to improving water quality in Drayton Harbor. This year's winners are:

- **Julie Hirsh, an environmental scientist dedicated to shellfish growing area recovery and founder of the Garden of the Salish Sea Curriculum.**
- **The Whatcom Land Trust and Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2 for their work to acquire property on California Creek to turn into a public park.**
- **Western Waves Dairy for their commitment to on-farm stewardship and contribution to nutrient research in Whatcom County.**
- **Terri Plake, a local small farmer with horses and goats, for her commitment to on-farm stewardship and for being a leader in the equine community promoting conservation practices.**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the event and made it a success. The community has continued to show their dedication to clean water by taking action and proving that fecal coliform pollution prevention actions do work to improve water quality. See you next year!

Upcoming Events



The **5th Annual Manure Nutrient Management Training** will be held on Thursday, January 17th from 10am to 3pm. The Workshop will be held at the Mount Baker Rotary Building at **1751 Front Street** in Lynden.

[Click here for more information and registration.](#)



Whatcom Pastured Poultry Workshop will be hosted by the Whatcom Conservation District on Thursday, January 7th from 6-8pm. The workshop will be held at Whatcom County Civic Center at **322 N. Commercial Street, Bellingham.**

[Click here for more information and registration.](#)

Small Farm Expo

Free Event!

Saturday, March 9th
9am - 2pm
 NW WA Fairgrounds
whatcomcd.org/small-farm-expo

Whatcom
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Keynote speaker: *Author and Farmer, Rebecca Thistlethwaite*
 Over 30 exhibitors with talks every 30 minutes
 Soil & compost demonstrations
 Veterinary & ag experts
 Family friendly!

WHATCOM COUNTY
WASHINGTON

Helpful Tools & Programs

This Edition's Program Spotlight:



Whatcom County Public Works and the Whatcom Conservation District are offering a small farm improvements rebate for **barn gutters and heavy use area footing material**. Landowners in PIC areas can become eligible for this rebate program by attending a Conservation District workshop. Since the program began in June 2018, **11** rebates have been processed.

Other Program Links:

- [Septic Maintenance Rebate Program](#)
- [Craft3 - Septic System Low Interest Loans](#)
- [Small Farm Grant Program, Borrow a Manure Spreader, Free Soil Testing and more...](#)

Water Quality Tools:

- [Interactive Online Water Quality Results Map](#)
- [Online Water Quality Story Map](#)
- [Wildlife Tracker App](#)

What is the PIC Program?

Whatcom County Public Work's PIC (Pollution, Identification, and Correction) Program uses water quality monitoring (collecting samples in creeks, rivers, and bays) to identify priority areas for improvement programs and provides community outreach and education, technical and financial assistance for landowners, and coordination with County departments and other agencies to identify and address potential bacteria sources.

PIC Program Website



Our contact information:

322 N. Commercial Street Suite 110
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360)778-6230
PICProgram@co.whatcom.wa.us

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement PC-01J18001 through the Washington State Department of Health. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency or the Washington State Department of Health, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

This email was sent to henrykastner@gmail.com

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Whatcom County Public Works · 322 N Commercial St Ste 110 · Bellingham, WA 98225-4042 · USA

