Agenda

- SHD and EH basics
- On-Site Sewage System introduction
- OSS Monitoring and Maintenance Program
Snohomish Health District
History with Watershed Groups
- Limited involvement in watershed groups
  - Stillaguamish Clean Water District
  - Involvement in all phases of PIC
- It’s hard to give us money
- Permits come first
- Land Use capacity is down
- New EH Leadership means new direction!
Snohomish Health District
Basic Organization
Snohomish Health District
Board of Health

- 15 Board of Health members
  - All 5 County Councilmembers
  - 10 elected representatives from cities, 2 from each district
    - Marysville City Council
    - Mayor of Darrington
    - Everett City Council
    - Mukilteo City Council
    - Edmonds City Council
    - Lynnwood City Council
    - Mayor of Mountlake Terrace
    - Brier City Council
    - Lake Stevens City Council
    - Snohomish City Council
## Environmental Health

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Environmental Health

• Land Use
  – Supervisors:
    ▪ Andrea Pellham
    ▪ Jeff Hutchison = Safe Environments
  – Leads:
    ▪ Steve Rice and Lucas Larson
  – EHS:
    ▪ Brad Ball, Corinna Ong, Tori Vouk, Anthony O’Brien, Natalie Peterson, Michael Wagner
On-Site Sewage Systems
The Basics
OSS

- On-site sewage systems consist of two basic components.
- The septic tank.
- The dispersal and disposal component or drainfield.
Septic Tank Function

- To provide adequate retention time for separation of solids from the liquid
- Treatment process is anaerobic
- Solids reduction
Vertical Separation

• Soil depth between trench bottom and water table or restrictive layer

• Vertical separation determines treatment and disposal capability and requirements
Drainfield Trenches
Conventional Gravity Systems

Actual arrangement may vary depending on individual land
Pressure Distribution Systems
Why Systems Fail

• Hydraulic overloading
• Household practices
• Physical damage
• Age
Regular Monitoring & Maintenance

• Provide routine maintenance necessary for proper system function
• Resolve small problems before they become big problems
• A requirement of permit issuance for many systems
• Performed by qualified individuals
What we do when we encounter an issue

• SHD notified in a variety of ways
  – Repair designs submitted
  – Building permit reviews
  – Complaint
  – OnlineRME reports

• Procedure for public health nuisance
  – Surfacing sewage
Failing Systems
Illicit Discharge
OSS Monitoring and Maintenance Program
How it’s funded

• Contractors are required to submit reports via OnlineRME

• There is a small fee associated with each report they submit, this pays for our M&M program

• We started collecting these fees in November 2019
Our M&M Plan

• We plan to focus on voluntary compliance and outreach

• This is a 3–5 year goal

• Have M&M completing OSS complaints to maintain more cohesive records and action
Point of sale

• A change of code will create a new procedure for ensuring systems are inspected prior to a home being sold

• Expected ~Fall/Summer 2022

• Reach out to Realtors

• Time of sale fees could lead to more complete compliance
Participation

• PIC III
  – We act as a resource regarding OSS county data and technical information
  – We act as a resource for the hunting shacks

• Watershed groups
  – Becoming a part of the discussion
Outreach re: maintenance

• Work with the county’s septic contractors

• Target homeowners broadly with general flyers, workshops, mailers etc.

• Eventually develop more targeted educational material if we identify a need for it
Outreach re: M&M inspections

• Postcards reminding homeowners to voluntarily perform annual maintenance and file inspection reports

• Provide homeowners with information on when and why to have their system inspected
O&M compliance

• Reviewing OSS systems for food establishments

• Currently, we follow up and log all reports that could cause a public health hazard

• Review of O&M reports to ensure compliance
Outreach re: unknown systems

- Target properties with unknown systems with questionnaire mailings to gather information from owners
- Direct them to appropriate OSS contractors
Other things we’d like to do

• Proactively identify failing systems in areas of concern
  – GIS
  – Water sampling
  – Dye testing if appropriate
- Questions?
- Thoughts?
- Comments?
contact information
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Thank you