

## **CHAPTER 10. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH**

The goal of public involvement and outreach is to inform interested citizens about the project and to provide opportunities for meaningful involvement in the sewer planning process.

### **STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP PROCESS**

To facilitate local input, four focused stakeholder workshops were held to advise the development of the sewer facility plan. Jefferson County Commissioners, County staff, local agency staff, and several community leaders and other interested parties were invited to the workshops. The County identified local agencies whose facilities might be sewerred and/or whose activities might be affected by the installation or operation of a sewer. The County also identified representatives of business and community organizations and citizens who had been active previously in the process to establish a UGA. These parties were contacted by mail. A notice of each workshop was available on the project website, on Jefferson County's website, and in the County's paper of record, the Port Townsend & Jefferson County Leader. The workshops were open to the public.

Over the course of the first three stakeholder workshops on March 16, May 25, and June 22, 2006, workshop participants and the consultant team reviewed and evaluated a comprehensive array of sewer system alternatives. The workshop participants identified their preferences for each component of the sewer system, including wastewater collection, treatment, effluent disinfection, effluent discharge/reuse, and solids handling/reuse. The consultant team used those preferences to help develop the technical recommendation.

At the fourth workshop on October 10, 2006, the consultant team presented the project cost estimate, potential financing strategies, and developments and design refinements to the preferred sewer system alternative. The consultant team took questions and comments and used stakeholder input to identify concerns to be addressed as development of the sewer facility plan moved forward.

Jefferson County anticipates hosting a fifth stakeholder workshop in Fall 2008 to present the completed sewer facility plan and to discuss next steps in the sewer planning process.

Written summaries of each stakeholder workshop, including questions, comments, and responses, were made available on the project website and in a project notebook at the Jefferson County Library in Port Hadlock. Copies of these summaries are included in Appendix B.

### **PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Jefferson County hosted two public meetings (and plans to host a third public meeting in Fall 2008) to provide information about the development of the sewer facility plan and to facilitate active public participation in the sewer planning process. Informational meeting notices were mailed to property owners in the sewer planning area, people who had joined the project mailing list, and representatives of business and community organizations and citizens who had been active previously in the process to establish a UGA. Notices of public meetings were posted at community locations in the project area (QFC, Hadlock Building Supply, the Grange, Tri Area Community Center, WSU Extension, and Jefferson County Library). Notices of public meetings were available on the project website, the County's website, and in the County's paper of record, the Port Townsend & Jefferson County Leader.

Each public meeting began with an informal open house period. Large boards were posted around the room with information about the sewer planning process. Public meeting attendees were encouraged to view the information and talk with members of the consultant team and County representatives. The open house period was followed by a presentation by the consultant team and a question and answer period. Input from the public was used to identify concerns to be addressed as sewer planning moved forward.

At the first public meeting on July 19, 2006, the consultant team presented and responded to questions about the alternatives for sewer system components and the rationale, from a technical standpoint, for the recommended alternative. The consultant team described next steps in the decision-making process and opportunities for public involvement.

At the second public meeting on October 25, 2006, the consultant team presented information on and responded to questions about the cost estimate, potential financing strategies, and progress on preliminary design for the preferred sewer system alternative. The consultant team described next steps in the decision-making process and opportunities for public involvement.

At a third public meeting to be held in Fall 2008, the consultant team will provide an overview of the final sewer facility plan and present information about next steps in the sewer planning process. The consultant team and County representatives will respond to questions and comments from the public.

Written summaries of each public meeting and of public comment and response were made available on the project website and in a project notebook at the Jefferson County Public Library. Copies of these summaries are included in Appendix B.

At the request of the Port Hadlock – Tri Area Chamber of Commerce, County representatives and members of the consultant team provided informational briefings to the Chamber during its regular meetings on September 26, 2007 and June 25, 2008.

## **PROJECT WEBSITE**

A project website, [www.porthadlocksewer.org](http://www.porthadlocksewer.org), was established to make information on the development of the sewer facility plan available to the public. The website was announced in a June 2006 mailing to people who had joined the project mailing list and representatives of business and community organizations and citizens who had been active previously in the process to establish a UGA. The website was announced in public meeting notices and stakeholder workshop invitations. A link to the project website was available on the home page and the Irondale & Port Hadlock UGA page of Jefferson County's website.

Notices of all public meetings and stakeholder workshops were posted on the website. Written summaries of each public meeting and stakeholder workshop were available on the project website, as were PowerPoint presentations used at those meetings. Interested parties were able to sign up for the project mailing list and submit comments via the website.

A hard copy notebook reflecting current information on the website was available for public review at the Jefferson County Library in Port Hadlock.

## **PROJECT MAILINGS**

In addition to the June 2006 mailing that announced the sewer facility plan project and the July 2006 and October 2006 mailings that announced public meetings, notices were sent in March 2007, June 2007, and June 2008 to all Irondale/Port Hadlock mailing addresses and other interested parties to report on the

status of sewer facility plan development and on next steps in the sewer planning process. E-mail notices were sent to interested parties who had provided e-mail addresses.

Additional notices will be sent to announce the third public meeting and approval of the final sewer facility plan.

## **COMMENT TRACKING AND RESPONSE PROCESS**

Members of the public submitted comments in a variety of ways. Stakeholders and members of the public were invited to ask questions and provide comments at all of the stakeholder workshops and public meetings. The consultant team and representatives of Jefferson County responded to comments and questions during those meetings. A summary of public comment and response from each public meeting was posted on the Frequently Asked Questions page of the project website. Summaries of stakeholder comment and response were included in the stakeholder workshop summaries, which were available on the project website.

The consultant team received the comments that were submitted via the website. The consultant team saved all comments for reference and forwarded the comments to County staff for their records. Some comments were intended to inform the sewer planning process and did not require a response. For questions and comments that did require a response, the consultant team responded by e-mail to simple, logistical questions. For more substantive comments, members of the project team typically discussed and agreed upon a response before a County staff member responded by e-mail.

All comments and questions from the public were referenced during sewer facility plan development and were used to help develop public presentations that were responsive to community concerns.

