



Big Lake Water Quality Action Plan
Facilities Tour + Community Discussion
November 1st, 2010
FINAL Meeting Notes
Facilitated by Shelly Wade, Agnew::Beck Consulting

Facilities Tour Overview:

- Community and agency representatives (see page 9 for complete list of tour participants) toured key Big Lake boating/recreational facilities including: Big Lake North State Recreation Site, Burkeshore Marina, Big Lake South State Recreation Site and Mat-Su Borough South Big Lake Boat Launch. All sites, with the exception of the Mat-Su Borough launch (not one of the testing sites), have tested above acceptable petroleum hydrocarbon levels (see attached map). During the tour, participants were asked to consider the feasibility of the following draft community action items (priority actions from the draft community action plan matrix):
 - Under “Director’s Order Requests”
 - No refueling at launch areas
 - Requirement for watercraft to be a specific distance from launch ramps before plug removal
 - Create bilge pump out station with a tank to collect/dispose of dirty bilge water
 - Monitor bilges and check for pads before allowing launch or refueling
 - Use booms to contain spills but not as daily solution
 - Under “Legislative Request”
 - Employ launch hosts that can inspect watercraft at launches (i.e. implement/monitor actions above)
 - Clean Boating + Fueling Education Campaign

Community Discussion Highlights (please see the Action Plan Matrix for more detail on each of the following):

- State Park’s Feedback on Community Priorities: DNR State Parks Director James King stated that a Director’s Order is really more of a stop gap measure used only for emergencies. It is the step in between no regulation and fully developed, passed, enforced regulations. The regulation process usually takes 1.5 years. Therefore, it is State Parks’ opinion that the Director’s Order is not feasible, nor is instituting new regulations. Parks believes neither action would be well accepted by the community. Both are difficult to enforce. State Parks is committed to the following actions:
 - Work with the concessionaire, Holly Petersen, to researching the feasibility of the launch host idea.
 - Review draft DMV boat education and fueling insertion and include it in materials packet folks receive when they get a launch pass.
 - Work with engineering section to review the community’s idea for a bilge pump. The idea is a sloped ramp design that would capture bilge run off with some sort of passive treatment mechanism (e.g. vegetative swale or rain garden at bottom of ramp).

RESPONSE FROM THE COMMUNITY: The community is still in support of the Director’s Order and/or a regulatory device that will help them reduce the amount of gasoline entering Big

Lake. The community is ready for a stronger tool to ensure the lift of the impaired water body status. One community equated the need for a stronger regulatory tool to having house rules: “When you visit our house, please take off your shoes.” In other words: “When you visit Big Lake, please follow these rules and respect the lake and its residents. Help us keep our lake open for you.” If this doesn’t happen, some community members would entertain the extreme action of shutting the lake down. In other words, the community is ready for action that will improve Big Lake water quality.

- Budgeting Process - Director King and Representative Neuman provided some clarification on the budgeting process and made recommendations to the community on how/when they can submit their priorities. Key steps include:
 - Operation + Maintenance: In July, State Departments begin preparing their operating budgets for the governor. The governor submits their budget to the legislature. The legislature reviews and passes or modifies the budget and it goes back to the governor for their final approval. At any point in the process, the budget can be modified. This may mean, for example, that State Parks can receive less money than they asked for, meaning less money to cover basic operational and maintenance costs. NOW: It’s too late to submit requests to DNR.
 - Capital Projects: The community has an opportunity in the fall to submit their wish list of capital projects to their legislators in the fall. Right now, would be a good time for Big Lake to draft a list of needs for water quality improvement.
- Education Campaign - There is still a lot of community support for developing an effective education campaign. Key points from the meeting:
 - A draft insert for DMV is complete. State Parks will review and consider passing out with launch pass materials.
 - Representative Neuman said he would work with Director King to provide Parks with additional funding for signs and other educational materials.
 - There are a few grant opportunities that the community should move on including:
 - Mat-Su Health Foundation
 - DEC Alaska Clean Water Actions Grant (grant application generally begins in early Jan.)The community may be able to work with Wasilla Soil + Water Conservation District to apply for and manage the grants.
 - Ideas for distributing educational materials:
 - Launch host
 - Community volunteers
 - Boy Scouts
- Other
 - One community member was interested in knowing if there has been any testing at Fish Creek Park, especially since Big Lake drains into the creek and kids play and swim near there.
 - Mat-Su Borough is expanding the South Big Lake Boat Launch parking lot. There may be a possibility to explore redesign of launch area to incorporate ideas from the water quality meetings that will decrease possibility of gasoline run-off.

Next Steps:

- Refine action plan matrix; distribute notes
- Present update to Big Lake Community Council at Wednesday, November 10th, 2010
- Take action on immediate next steps
- Winter, Summer + Fall Check-Ins (January + May 2011) - Assess progress to date; provide technical assistance
- Summer 2012 - Retesting begins if sufficient progress has been made on action items

Action	Rationale - Pollution Sources, Location, Timing	Timeframe for Implementation; Long-Term Solution (yes/no)	Responsible Party + Contact Information	Cost + Resources Needed to Implement	Immediate Next Step
<p>I. Develop a clean boat launch campaign (would cover a number of issues, including most of other solutions the community has recommended). Some ideas:</p> <p>a. Encourage boaters to not top off when fueling - refuel at 80% capacity</p> <p>b. Provide education on 2-stroke engines and incentives for upgrading to newer less polluting technology</p>	<p>Add to existing signage at launches, marinas, boat manufacturers, Tesoro Station, condo association materials, DMV boat licenses, ADF+G fishing licenses, DNR Launch Passes</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All partners – public + private - Holly Petersen to coordinate work group and make contacts with the right media folks - BLCC as grantee for future grants to do education campaign - DEC 	<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?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Talked with DMV reps to distribute education materials with licensing info (Complete) -Establish meeting time with Water Quality Work Group to establish baby steps (October 2010) - DEC will work on the inset for DMV; the group work group can use that as model for other campaign components (Complete) - Research Mat-Su Health Foundation grant opportunities for developing/implementing education campaign (Paul) - State Parks will review draft DMV insert for inclusion in launch pass materials

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<p>2. Request a State Parks Director's Order that includes the following actions for Big Lake:</p> <p>a. No refueling at launch areas</p> <p>b. Require plugs to be removed only after the watercraft is required distance away from launch ramp</p> <p>c. Create bilge pump out station with a tank to collect/dispose of dirty bilge water</p> <p>d. Monitor bilges and check for pads before allowing launch or refueling</p> <p>e. Use booms to contain spills but not as a daily solution</p>	<p>North + South launches, marinas</p> <p>During busy weekends</p>		<p>- BLCC will compose letter to Director King</p> <p>- State Parks, Parks Contractors, Marinas</p>	<p>- Bid document overhaul; build in monitoring activities into bid documents</p>	<p>- Investigate possibility of Director's order (Holly P. will do this) (Complete)</p> <p>- Invite and have a discussion with Director King about Big Lake facilities, water quality challenges and proposed actions (Jody S. is doing this; will happen some time in late October/November 2010) (Complete)</p> <p>- State Parks will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss bilge pump design with engineering section 2. Work with concessionaire to research launch host idea 3. Consider additional funding needed to help BLCC with education efforts

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3. Evaluate grant opportunities for action			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BLCC - MSB (Frankie) + State Parks as pass through entities in the case where BLCC cannot directly receive grant funds - Wasilla Soil + Water Conservation can also be potential pass through 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frankie will look at funding opportunities and share back with BLCC as they arise - Follow-up on Mat-Su Health Foundation grant opportunity - Follow-up on DEC ACWA grant opportunity

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<p>4. Draft and submit a policy request letter to legislative representatives to include the following recommended statewide policy changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Encourage no refueling policy on the water except at the marinas + mandatory haul out for refueling jet skis (for impaired water bodies?) b. Institute a boat inspection program that includes a prevention checklist c. Employ launch hosts that can inspect watercraft at launches d. Ban use of dish detergent as a dispersal agent 			State Parks, Marinas, Coast Guard Auxiliary		<p>- Draft letter with capital project needs (including all applicable action items) and submit to Senator Huggins and Representative Neuman.</p>

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5. Place absorbent pads in bilge; dispose of pads; encourage Big Lake stores to sell bilge pads	North + South launches Mile 8.2 Marinas All of the time; good practice	Short-term (May 2011); long-term (within 2 years)	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	
6. Install good signage	Launches, marinas	May 2011	State Parks, Marinas, MSB launch		Holly has signs for both boat launches and will erect in summer of 2011 after approval of sign plan
7. Educate marina staff on clean boating and how they can help implement specific actions			Marinas		DEC met with marina operators; Need feedback from marina's on what changes they can make to reduce impact
8. Support and recognize the marinas through the Clean Harbor Program			Marinas		DEC has provided information to the marinas; need to get feedback from marinas on their interest level and what they can do

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9. Develop a fueling ramp for jet skis with a containment mechanism			Marinas		
10. Establish a Lake Association		Long-term	BLCC (perhaps the Lakes + Trails Comp Plan implementation committee as the initial group of folks that looks at the options)	Information on forming a lake association: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/lakes/LakeAssociation.html www.nalms.org	
11. Follow up hydrocarbon sampling after actions are implemented		Long-term (will need 2 years of demonstrated action implementation and “clean” data to remove “impaired” status).	DEC		DEC will conduct community check-ins to assess progress on action plan and if the community feels they have made significant progress, DEC will retest

Attendees:

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