Camano Water Systems Association
Helping Small Water Systems Help Themselves

Water

What Can Islanders Expect In Water Resource Management
By: Dale Tyler, President

Puget Sound Partnership will lead the water resource policy in the greater Puget Sound watershed. This organization is political in nature and can be counted on for lack of technical and water professional qualities however they can call on those in the water management field to perform for them. Check out the PSP website (http://www.psp.wa.gov/)

Puget Sound Partnership Goals:

1. The Washington State Legislature created the Partnership (RCW 90.71.300) to restore and protect Puget Sound by striving to meet the following goals by 2020:
   - A healthy human population supported by a healthy Puget Sound that is not threatened by changes in the ecosystem
   - A quality of human life that is sustained by a functioning Puget Sound ecosystem
2. Healthy and sustaining populations of native species in Puget Sound, including a robust food web
3. A healthy Puget Sound where freshwater, estuary, near shore, marine, and upland habitats are protected, restored, and sustained
4. An ecosystem that is supported by ground water levels as well as river and stream flow levels sufficient to sustain people, fish, and wildlife, and the natural functions of the environment
5. Fresh and marine waters and sediments of a sufficient quality so that the waters in the region are safe for drinking, swimming, shellfish harvest and consumption, and other human uses and enjoyment, and are not harmful to the native marine mammals, fish, birds, and shellfish of the region.

We may experience difficulties with artificial recharge to the aquifer when politics are involved. There are many techniques available for water resource management uses. From Fresh Water Barriers to Injection Wells to Surface Water Runoff Recycle. Some of these mentioned are in our future. Just think San Diego reclaims sewer water and sells it back to the residence.

Water System Most Dreaded Word “COLIFORM”

What is this word and where does it come from?
Coliform is the name of a test adopted in 1914 by the Public Health Service for the Enterobacteriaceae family. It is the commonly-used bacterial indicator of sanitary quality of foods and water. They are defined as rod-shaped Gram-negative non-spore forming organisms.

- Non-pathogenic microbes found in fecal matter that indicate the presence of water pollution; are thereby a guide to the suitability for potable use.
- Bacteria of the species Escherichia coli, commonly occurring in the digestive tracts of animals; used as an indicator of the potential for disease-causing organisms in water.
- A group of bacteria that, if present in water, show that other pathogens may exist. Coliform bacteria are indicator organisms and are not harmful themselves.
- Bacteria which predominantly inhabit the intestines of warmblooded animals, including humans. The presence of these bacteria indicate the possible presence of disease causing agents.
- A group of bacteria present in fecal wastes. If found in water, the water is likely unsafe to drink, unless purified, because of the possible presence of disease causing bacteria.

Is it any wonder there is confusion then there is Total Coliform, E. coli, Fecal Coliform and Coliform.

Our April 20th meeting CWSA will host Edge Analytical on bacteria testing and take the confusion out of coliform. Bring all your board members. You won’t want to miss this meeting.

Next Meeting
Wednesday April 20th 6:30
Lost Lake Community Club
Edge Analytical: Coliform Testing
Getting There: Off East or West Camano Drive Take Monticello To Lost Lake. Keep to the right to the Club House.

Membership Doesn’t Cost it Pays
What Leque Island Has Taught CWSA

By: Dale Tyler & Ralph Ferguson

As a water purveyor you must protect your source water as required by law be it in the Safe Drinking Water Act or the State RCW’s and WAC’s and if you don’t you may be sued. However if a “Partnership” of State Agencies mainly WDFW, WSDOT, and WSDOE together with Ducks Unlimited dicided to develop a fish habitat adjacent to your systems aquifer, well your in trouble and your life isn’t your own. The above partnership has deliberately broken every rule in the book , twisted every geological opinion, and caused havoc with CWSA and Juniper Beach Water District in order to promote the conclusion of their project Plus thumbed their nose at the U S Safe Drinking Water Act.

CWSA started with a letter to the Director of WDFW in Nov 2009 to repair the breached dikes on Leque Island and stop the seawater contamination of the present groundwater and its recharge to Camano Island aquifer, until intensive studies were made to establish this fact and that the fish project would co-habitat safely with the local drinking water supply and be a good neighbor. CWSA thinks this is a reasonable request. After all the Hydrogeologist for JBWD called it a “Catastrophic” could be disaster for those wells in the northeast portion of Camano. Today the seawater continues to ebe and flow with it’s 11,000ppm chloride over the groundwater, CWSA last test of the groundwater indicated over 8,000 ppm chloride. Yap you gessed vertical seawater intrusion! Some hydrogeologist shake their heads at “vertical intrusion”. CWSA has proof.

Pollutions Control Hearings Board judge will not let us use the word FRAUD so we use MISSGUIDED however our Senior Senator from Camano uses CHRIMAL on TV to describe the Leque Island events. CWSA isn’t the only one in the ring there is the Farnborough and the Waterfowl group, each with strong reasons to be in this fight. The FB for destroying farmland and the WF for not complying with the covenants of the real estate contract to maintain all structures and recreation land now underwater.

Leque Island before WDFW was a heaven for migrant birds, a hunting grounds for eagles, a fishing spot, the storm watcher had there south end to watch incoming storms, the kayaker and the stroller to name a few what a wonderful entrance to Camano just traverse Leque Island and arrive on Camano.

There is claimer of hope we have a plan that would make all parties happy giving each exactly what is needed however we might be forced into court before we have a chance to present it.

Membership Doesn’t Cost It Pay’s

Quest For Leque Island is All About Safe Drinking Water Not Salmon Habitat

Not once has CWSA in the quest for Leque Island mentioned Salmon Habitat its all in proving there is not going to be contamination of the drinking water supply of the northeast portion of Camano Island. CWSA has from November 19th 2009 requested that full in depth intensive studies be done to determine the groundwater contamination and if westward flow of the groundwater is a significant factor to the recharge of Juniper Beach Water District and those wells getting water in the northeastern part of Camano.

Not many hydrogeologist understand contamination and how it will cause flow. However take two bodies of water side by side one pure clear fresh water the other colored blue contaminated water in a flat glass tank with a removable barrier with equal pressure on each side of the barrier and carefully remove the barrier one will witness the blue contaminated water flowing into the pure clear water. This is called “Exosmoses” the flow is rated by numerically by the rate of flow. Seawater is rated very low.

EPA designated “Solo Source Aquifer” gets enforcement ONLY when federal funds are used in a project that is a threat to the source water quality. Now get this no federal funding and EPA says nothing they can do. That’s scary. Somebody goofed!

CWSA ventured to WSDOE and tried to get help in defending our request for a full blown study but DOE said they wouldn’t defend their “Anti-Degradation” policy because it didn’t fit their model. We figured because DOE was in the partnership to fast track the Leque Island habitat they couldn’t be bothered, and said we were wrong. Wrong in wanting a study? That was the same for your Island Commissioners at that time prior to the recent election. It amazed Ralph and I that the COUNTY and that’s all those including the Janitor think we are wrong to ask for a study when those hydrodologist hired by Ducks Unlimited give opinions without substantiation that make us wrong to request a study particularly when so much is at stake. I would think the Island Commissioners would want to protect the county’s asset resource drinking water regardless if they favor fish habitat. The county held high level meetings to establish strategy to overcome CWSA’s efforts in obtaining test and stopping the contamination. Its going to be hard to defend a stand on fish over drinking water when the county’s water is finite

QUESTION: Where do you go to kick the tires on drinking water? Join the members of CWSA and lets talk water, we’re all about water and if your interested in water you too can be a member..
Island Water Resource and User Responsibilities Are More Evident With State & County Lack of Funds

The current economic conditions have resulted in the Health Departments of the State and County to rid Drinking Responsibilities of some kind or another, which this conservative hails as a good deal. We need a Water Resource Division, in the state as well as in the county, especially with the coming water crises. Don’t get me wrong I don’t have heart burn for the PUBLIC HEALTH but the water system operations and the distribution there of is not a public health function, yes I agree that delivering safe drinking water at the tap is the public health issue. Some day it will come but the power play that goes on over who will run the water systems in government in Washington State goes on. Other States as well as municipalities have separate water operations from the public health department, of which there is a good reason for it.

Island County was given in 1982 a coveted distinction by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. That the aquifers in the county were “Sole Source” for the drinking water being supplied from deep within the ground. It is the only source of drinking water Camano has. The county at this time has no policy for drinking water sustainability and can not consider one iota if Camano runs their aquifer dry. Why is this? Because it isn’t written in the charter of any one county department. A “Water Resource Department” could have such responsibility if the people would see to it’s happening. Once this disclosure is made one can see the limitations of health and ecology departments without the legislature providing such water resource management for sustainable water.

The world water crisis has not hit the northwest however we are experiencing near drought conditions east of the mountains but we don’t know if it’s a cycle or a coming trend. A health department will look at this and say it doesn’t pose a health threat yet and dismiss it however a water resource management department would start monitoring such conditions and track the static levels gathering weather data to forecast water sustainability for the area. We on Camano will have such operations in the future.

The evidence of the county not caring for the 1982 EPA protected aquifer resource is the lack of not supporting CWSA in our request for an in-depth study of the groundwater contamination of Leque Island if I were Commissioner Homola or Price-Johnson for the sake of the hundred of wells and water systems in the northeast portion of Camano and their owners I would support such a study regardless of opinions of others who have no stake or risk. CWSA needs the scientific facts with a study of the area to prove westward flow of ground does or does not move toward Camano Island. Currently the groundwater on Leque Island is above 8,000 ppm chloride according to groundwater test taken by CWSA. The overflow is 11,000 ppm chloride.

System Tid-Bits
By: Jerry Purdum

HELPFUL NOTES ABOUT WATER VALVES:

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS:
Never leave any water valves in the hard open or closed. In time they will "freeze" in that position from water hardness or manganese. It is a good policy to back-off all valves from the hard position 1/4 turn. This applies to supply, pump house, distribution and service connections.

HOME: Do not forget your home valves to sinks, toilets, refrigerators and hot water tanks.

King 5 News Reports
Bainbridge Island Running Out Of Water

This will be interesting for CWSA to follow up on and get back to our members. We knew that USGS were doing studies on the Island over the past two years, however we have not been told of any problems yet about this.

I took a little time to research Bainbridge Island’s water loss. Here is a link for your looking also:

It gives me heart burn to see communities installing sewer treatment facilities such as they are doing on Bainbridge. The start of the same is happening on Whidbey. The village of Clinton got in the sewer business ten years ago. I asked the question back then what are you going to do about recharge?

The question is necessary and any community considering sewers needs to do an in-depth study in order to answer any questions about the depletion of the groundwater source drinking water. It appears on the surface Bainbridge is off loading their drinking water recharge through the sewer system into Puget Sound. Continue page 4.
Alf Tells Of The Early Drinking Water Wells On Camano

Bainbridge island Water Loss, Cont.

The biggest Public Works “Boon Doogal” Was the Long Island New York Sewer Treatment Installation some years ago. No consideration was given to the drinking water source groundwater and over ten years the sewers greatly depleted the drinking water. See attached link: http://regentsearth.com/Projects/LI%20aquifers%20(Hofstra).pdf

The Bainbridge Island has the glacial make up as Camano with perched aquifers, I believe the density is much higher because this is a Seattle bedroom community. However Camano could learn a great deal from their situation. Like wise we can learn what's going on with south Whidbey's water problems. The quicker Camano organizes a Water Resource Management Committee to address such issues before they impact our Island Environment the better.

The mainlanders come to the island and right away they want sewers. Its not like on the mainland where surface water is abundant. We have groundwater. THE POINT IS SEPTIC WATER IS RECHARGE! Its to bad that this is never talked about. However if you fail to not put this in the recycle program for water recharge then your going to be short. There is a septic calculation that the average house hold septic returns 70% of its waster water to recharge.

A Groundwater Management Committee or Council would work good on Camano. First there has to be an education process so the Islanders can understand the total spectrum of water and how come we drink groundwater. By the way groundwater if the finest in the world, far safer than surface water.

When one looks at the Bainbridge Island Water Element, mind you these elements were made-up of citizens and these estimates are the worst in BEST AVAILABLE SEIENCE in my opinion. Don't you just love BAS? However this gives one a base to start comparing. The element was put together in 2007 it looks like but that could be when the report was entered on the internet. One can do a lot with septic and on site waste disposal. The quicker the community gets involved with waste water and how to use it the quicker we on Camano will be able to get involved with our own water issues and solve them with success and not trial and error.

Water is a serious business and we should operate our water resource that way. Before I close we have the opportunity to become expert in water resource operations, why because there are very few who live on the subject as Camano Islanders. I would want policy to come within the community of our neighbors then, let say" Puget Sound Partnership”. Who will be deciding for us on artificial recharge in our aquifer and we won’t be able to if we don’t have the knowledge and backup to do our own drinking water programs for sustainability. DT
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