

Pleasant Harbor Master Planned Resort, Brinnon

By Andrea Mitchell of the Brinnon Group

HCEC is assisting the Brinnon Group, in opposing a Master Planned Resort that was approved for the Black Point area, on the Hood Canal. The Statesman Group, a Canadian developer, has received unanimous County approval for a massive, 890 unit golf course resort on the shores of Hood Canal in spite of what has been characterized by the county as about 50% opposition from community members and significant opposition by various experts on environmental grounds.

In size, the resort would cover 256 acres of land, include a 60,000 sq foot resort center, 3000 sq foot golf restaurant, championship 18 hole golf course, 200 seat community center, 16,000 sq foot commercial development on the shores of Pleasant Harbor, and increased use and development of the existing Pleasant Harbor Marina. The 890 dwelling units would be spread between condos on Pleasant Harbor and surrounding areas, and the golf course.

A legal appeal has been filed in Clallam Superior Court and to the Western Growth Hearings Board through Olympia attorney Gerald Steel. Jefferson County has opted to treat the decision as if there were no appeal. The County and the Developer are drafting their development and zoning agreements at this time. Timing on the "project level" Environmental Impact Statement is said to be May or June. It will help to have intense public scrutiny of this document. It will be available on-line: http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/Brinnon_MPR.htm . Public meetings will be held in Brinnon during this time frame and attendance then will be very helpful.

More from Brinnon Group on page 2

The Puget Sound Partnership Needs Actions To Save The Canal

During the 2007 legislative session, Senator Jay Rockefeller (D) 23rd Legislative District Kitsap County, named last year by Washington Conservation Voters as Legislator of the Year, was the principle author for the legislation that set up the Puget Sound Partnership, a broad coalition now working to restore the health of Puget Sound.

Now across the entire Puget Sound region the Puget Sound Partnership is asking communities and organizations to come together and work together to create a comprehensive agenda of actions to restore Puget Sound.

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HCEC was invited to participate in a workshop to gather input on the way forward as the Puget Sound Partnership participants crafts a strategy to apply specifically to the restoring of Hood Canal. HCEC Board Member Vern Rutter attended.

The workshop was convened by the Hood Canal Coordinating Council and included representatives from each of the counties of the canal's watershed as well as the tribal governments, People for Puget Sound, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. It remains to be seen how effective this new initiative will be; public input sessions are scheduled. Check your local paper(s) for dates and times. The PSP website, www.psp.wa.gov , can also be accessed for more information."

More Opposition to Fred Hill's Pit-to-Pier Proposal

In an October, 3, 2007 letter from the United States Navy to the Jefferson County Planning Department Captain R.S Tanaka, Commanding Officer, Naval Base Kitsap expresses major concerns about the potential impact of the proposed Fred Hill pit-to-pier project would have on the Navy's mission and requests that these concerns be considered in the scope of the analysis of the proposed project. Broadly the U.S. Navy's concerns are: Vessel traffic safety; Potential for great damage; Environmental balance; Potential for environmental damage; Encroachment noise; Access encroachment.

In February of 2008 Congressman Jay Inslee joined Congressman Norm Dicks and Senator Maria Cantwell in opposing the Fred Hill Materials pit-to-pier project that would destroy Hood Canal. In so doing Inslee states, "the proposed project is not in my congressional district. However, because my district shares the same narrow channel of Hood Canal where the proposed project would be located, and because of the concerns expressed by a significant number of my constituents, I feel it is important to express my opposition to the project."

"I have spent two years studying this proposal and listening to my constituents' views regarding the impacts of this project, both positive and negative. First, although proponents have done very extensive work to try to minimize the environmental impact of this project, the scenic splendor and unique beauty of Hood Canal are at risk of being seriously jeopardized. The impacts that will be associated with these industrial activities cannot be ignored - Hood Canal's unique character as a national treasure is put at serious risk by the pit-to-pier proposal. Second, concerns about the potential impacts on many U.S. Navy operations are legitimate and should not be compromised for this project."

Brinnon Group

In the belief that knowledge may help on many different levels-within the community, as well as with their appeal, and in accessing the EIS/Development Agreement.(see article on page 1) the Brinnon Group continues to research environmental, economic, and social matters.

Group members attended a recent Randall Arendt Conservation Development seminar in Union at the Harmony Hill. Mr. Arendt is the country's most sought-after speaker on the topic of creative development design as a conservation tool.

Arendt has designed "conservation subdivisions" for a wide variety of clients in 21 states. He works with county planning departments, developers, and those who oppose development, to demonstrate how the goals of each are not mutually exclusive. <http://www.GreenerProspects.com/index.html>

Locally Arendt is assisting in the development of Richert Ranch in Mason County. Conservation development seeks to save resource land in perpetuity while giving the developer the same number of units as he/she is allowed under current zoning, and at the same time creating more

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workable, community living situations. In this particular case, the ranch will continue to be hayed as it has for many years, while also becoming a housing development.

Learning about waste handling has been another area of education for the group. An Oregon firm, Orenco <http://www.orenco.com/> has earned a lot of interest.

Orenco's residential systems offer low power usage. At 8 cents/kilowatt, the system is estimated to cost \$1.15-1.48 per month to run. Fixed media or "packed bed" biological filtration technology removes as much as 70% of the nitrogen and up to 99% of fecal coliform from effluent. Checking with the company, it was learned that in Oregon cost estimate for tanks plus drainfield is close to \$12-17,000 for a 4 bedroom design. The system works for intermittent (vacation) as well as full-time use.

Great Peninsula Future Festival August 2nd & 3rd in historic Port Gamble WA

By Gene Bullock

Last October some 60 community leaders from all over Kitsap County got together to talk about sustainability. The occasion was a CoLab workshop led by Larry Seaquist, state representative for the 26th District. Their assignment was to develop a shared vision for a more sustainable Kitsap and to come up with a few workable strategies for getting there. CoLab is an innovative problem-solving approach Larry has used in other communities in the U.S. and abroad.

Kitsap County Commissioner Steve Bauer was so impressed with the level of interest in sustainability, he started thinking about ways to build on the workshop.

"That night I talked about the workshop with my sister, Sandra, who is an experienced event planner. She was one of the original organizers of the Oregon Country Fair," Steve recalled. "By the time we were done, we were talking about a large event on sustainability the next summer, and Sandra was willing to organize it."

"This seemed like an opportunity to develop a Sustainable Kitsap program that would educate our community and help us pursue a more sustainable path for our county," he added. "Many groups are doing good work with programs that range from promoting biodiesel to buy local campaigns. We know we need to continue to educate people about the steps needed to preserve and protect our world – both things they can do themselves and things they can insist be done as part of the community."

Steve was convinced that educational outreach could be interesting, fun, vibrant and intriguing. He proposed a two day sustainable Kitsap festival in early August. Jon Rose of Olympic Property Group generously agreed to donate the use of Port Gamble for the event. The plan was to mix the message with entertainment, food, and fun and turn it into an annual event.

"People will come for the party and give us a teaching moment," said Steve. "We could have working models and interactive displays to engage the public. At the same time, there would be music and family entertainment to attract people to the event."

The next step for Steve was to invite other community leaders involved in the CoLab workshop to join him in planning the festival. The planning council now includes leaders from Stillwaters Environmental Center, Washington State University's Kitsap Extension, Kitsap Audubon Society, Poulsbo Farmers Market, Washington State Farmers Market Association, Kitsap Community and Agricultural Alliance, Sustainable Bremerton, West Sound Conservation Council, Kitsap Conservation Voters, Kitsap Citizens for Responsible Planning, Sustainable Solutions and New Old Time Chatauqua.

The **Great Peninsula Future Festival** has since taken on a life of its own. Kingston Lumber and Kitsap County are major sponsors, and more than 20 vendors and exhibitors have signed up. The Poulsbo Rotary has made contributions and several organizations have agreed to sponsor events, including Port Madison Enterprises and Pollen Collection and Sales.

Planners are now accepting applications from organic and locally produced food and crafts vendors, as well as green businesses and environmental education and conservation groups.

According to Sandra, the Great Peninsula Future Festival will become the "place to be seen if you're green."

For information about becoming a program partner, exhibitor, sponsor or volunteer, visit the GPFF website at www.GreatPeninsulaFutureFestival.org, or contact Sandra Bauer at 425-788-7496 or Sanbauer@aol.com.

HOOD CANAL ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL YEARLY MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

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HOODSPORT- SKOKOMISH WASTEWATER PROJECTS

By Donna Simmons

The Mason County Public Utility District #1, the Skokomish Indian Tribe, and Mason County are partners in a special inter-governmental effort to design and construct wastewater management projects to serve the more densely populated areas along southwest Hood Canal. The Hoodsport Rural Activity Center, the Potlatch Bubble, and the Skokomish Core Indian Reservation have been identified by the group as the three areas needing advanced wastewater treatment as part of the larger effort to improve water quality in the canal.

The Tri-Party group's plans include construction of three decentralized Membrane Biological Reactor (MBR) treatment plants. The advanced technology plants will create Class "A" reclaimed water. The projects would serve approximately 400 residential equivalents or 1200 people in homes and businesses along the canal's shoreline. The group estimates that the cost to provide sewer service to the Hoodsport-Skokomish area will be approximately \$20 million. Through the efforts of U.S. Representative Norm Dicks and the Washington State legislature, approximately \$9 million has been raised so far.

At a recent public meeting held in Hoodsport to discuss the projects, local citizens were told that there should be sufficient resources to complete the final design and begin working on the Potlatch Bubble project and to complete final engineering design on the Hoodsport and Tribal core activities. However, unless grant funding becomes available, the two remaining projects will not move forward at this time.

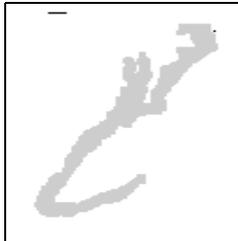
In response to questions from Hoodsport residents and others attending the public meeting, Mason County Emmett Dobe stated that the costs to individual property owners to decommission their septic systems and hook up to the new sewer system would be over \$8,000, with monthly charges anywhere between \$86 and \$100. Not surprisingly, the majority of those attending were opposed.

Although well intended, large centralized sewer systems can sometimes lead to undesirable environmental impacts, e.g. increases in developments and changes to the natural aquifer recharge. For this reason, the Hood Canal Environmental Council (HCEC) will continue to participate in the public process as plans for these wastewater treatment systems move along. New information and updates will appear in future HCEC newsletters. For more information, call HCEC Board Member Donna Simmons at (360) 877-5747.

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