



Lake Whatcom Homeowner Incentive Program

June 25, 2019

Surface Water Work Session

Today's Discussion

- Brief overview of HIP
- HIP 2.0 Update
- Interlocal Agreement with City of Bellingham
- Answer questions

HIP Overview & History

- Program Goals:
 - Reduce phosphorus from areas that cannot be treated with capital projects
 - Promote watershed stewardship
- No mechanism to make homeowners retrofit properties; therefore, an incentive program
- Public benefit; NOT a homeowner benefit

HIP 1.0 “Pilot”

- Ecology grant funded 2011-2015
- City of Bellingham led, interlocal agreement with Whatcom County for grant reimbursement
- Significantly different than HIP 2.0
 - Program area = city limits + Silver Beach Creek subwatershed
 - Majority of projects within city limits
 - Staff design and permitting
 - 153 projects completed
 - More information in final grant report

HIP 2.0 Development

- 2015-2016
- City of Bellingham-led program evaluation
 - Focus groups: homeowners, businesses, staff
 - Survey of HIP 1 participants
 - Survey of target property owners (e.g., shoreline)
 - BMP design stakeholder input
- Information used to develop HIP 2.0

HIP 2.0 Overview

- Rolled out June 2017
- Significant program changes
 - Doubled program area: 2,700 eligible properties (70% Whatcom County/30% City of Bellingham)
 - Transition to Whatcom County lead
 - Neutral third party “face of HIP” = Whatcom Conservation District
 - Professional certification program (Utilize private sector services)
 - Cookie cutter engineered designs to simplify design & permitting and allow calculation of P reductions

HIP 2.0 Overview

- Two-tier program
- Target: most phosphorus benefit
 - Shoreline, creekside, large lawn
 - Maintenance agreement **with easement**
 - \$1.30/square foot treated with no limit
 - Materials + design & labor reimbursable
 - 5 best management practices (BMPs)
 - Step 1 = site visit

HIP 2.0 Overview

- Do-It-Yourself Native Landscaping
 - All other properties
 - Maintenance agreement **without easement**
 - \$1.30/square foot treated with \$6,000 limit
 - Materials only reimbursable; homeowner responsible for all labor
 - Native landscaping only
 - Step 1 = attend a workshop

HIP 2.0 Update



- Two full years of implementation
- Whatcom Conservation District support:
 - 1 FTE HIP Project Coordinator for target program
 - Native plant expert for DIY program support
 - Critical areas expert for target program support
 - Program administration/outreach support

HIP 2.0 Update

- 2017-2018 focus on establishing program and engaging homeowners
 - Professional trainings
 - DIY native landscaping workshops
 - Website
 - Outreach/advertising
 - Developing processes
 - Troubleshooting BMP designs
- 2019 focus building on work completed in 2017-18

Tired of mowing your lawn?

HIP can help.



Become a



HIP

Homeowner!

Find out more!

www.lakewhatcomHIP.org

Join your neighbors.

Protect Lake Whatcom.



This property is



Find out more!

www.lakewhatcomHIP.org



HIP 2.0 Stats June 2017-May 2019

	DIY	Target
eligible properties (approximate)	2,000	700
# workshops held	9	n/a
# households attending a workshop	115	n/a
# households requesting initial site visit	n/a	52
# projects in process (permit review, permitted, construction)	10	3
# projects in the ground (closed out or phased)	8	3
area treated to date (square feet)	26,682	34,111
reimbursement to date (\$)	\$20,815	\$44,344
P removed to date (pounds/year)	0.655	0.838

Program Changes

- Cooperative program between City and County
- Any changes need to be done through ILA
- Ecology approval necessary if we want credit under TMDL
- Lake Whatcom Policy Group
 - Part of Lake Whatcom Management Program
 - Currently working on next 5-year work plan

Current COB Interlocal Agreement

- 2017-2019 (December 2016)
- Linked to 2017-2018 budget
- Purpose
 - Spells out each jurisdiction's responsibilities
 - Outlines agreed to program rules & structure
 - Whatcom County pays first \$100,000/year (Flood Fund)
 - City of Bellingham pays remainder (Lake Whatcom Watershed Acquisition Program)

New COB Interlocal Agreement

- Continue with same terms with minor administrative updates
 - Extend through 2020 to synch with 2019-2020 approved budgets
 - Update to reference 2019-2020 funding
 - Minor edits to match current implementation

	2018 Expenses	2019-2020 Budget
WCPW	\$100,000	\$100,000
City of Bellingham	\$100,000	\$320,000
TOTAL	\$200,000	\$420,000

Questions