



Septic Community of Professional Experts (SCOPE) Meeting Minutes

Date	04/24/2025	Time	9:00-10:00am	Location	Online (Zoom)
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Time	Topic & Presenter	Summary
9:00am – 9:04am	<p>Intro to SCOPE</p> <p>Andrea Pellham <i>Land Use Program Supervisor Snohomish County Health Dept.</i></p>	<p>Andrea provides brief overview of what SCOPE is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a forum to bring things to OSS professionals and discuss topics with the Health Department • The plan is to meet quarterly with set agenda items, but anyone can send in topics that they would like to be added
9:05am – 9:15am	<p>SCBHC Code Updates</p> <p>Hailey Fagerness <i>Healthy Communities Specialist Snohomish County Health Dept.</i></p>	<p>Hailey introduces herself as member of Health Department who works on regulatory components and code updates. She provides overview of plans to update wastewater code (see attached slides for full details):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating board of health code will be a multi-year process • The Health Department is researching concepts, coordinating with other departments, and seeking engagement from stakeholders in the community • Current focus is on wastewater code and addressing needs, providing clarity, updating outdated language, etc. • Current ways to stay updated include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SCOPE meetings ○ Code Update Newsletter (use red subscribe button) ○ Health Code Update webpage • Future opportunities to get involved with code updates will occur later this year. This may be in the form of an advisory group, listening sessions, etc. When these become available, the Health Department will notify all septic professionals. • Health Department staff involved in code updating includes Hailey Fagerness, Robert Evjue, and Ragina Gray, as well as Andrea Pellham and Lucas Larson. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health Department recognizes that septic professionals also have expertise and insight to offer, which is why there will be opportunities to participate in code updates to ensure new code will be feasible, technically sound, and work for everyone.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have ideas, questions, or comments, email SCBHC@co.snohomish.wa.us
<p>9:15am – 9:20am</p>	<p>WAC Revisions</p> <p>Corinna Ong <i>Environment Health Specialist III Snohomish County Health Dept.</i></p> <p>Brad Ball <i>Environment Health Specialist III Snohomish County Health Dept.</i></p>	<p>Corinna Ong introduces herself as the technical lead for the Health Department’s Land Use Monitoring & Maintenance program. She discusses the definition of minor repair as stated in the recently revised WAC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor repair is defined in the WAC as: <i>“the repair or replacement of any of the following existing damaged or malfunctioning OSS components except that the repair or replacement of a sewage tank, treatment component, or soil dispersal component is not considered a minor repair:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(a) Control panels;</i> <i>(b) Building sewers;</i> <i>(c) Any other portions of tightline in the OSS;</i> <i>(d) Risers and riser lids;</i> <i>(e) Sewage tank baffles;</i> <i>(f) Effluent filters;</i> <i>(g) Sewage tank pumps and lids;</i> <i>(h) Pump control floats; and</i> <i>(i) OSS inspection boxes and ports.”</i> Therefore, the Health Department has removed a section of wastewater board of health code that allowed an M&M specialist to replace 6ft of damaged dispersal line. We will still allow minor repairs for blowers, UV lights, membranes, etc. as they are seen as only as one part of an entire treatment component. If an entire ATU needed to be replaced for instance, that would require a permit. But if only replacing a blower, then a permit is not needed. <p>Brad Ball introduces himself as the permitting lead for Land Use with the Health Department. He presents on WAC revisions related to septic design.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the recent WAC revisions, the number of systems with timed dosing will increase. Therefore, the Health Department is asking designers to include specific information about timer control panels on septic applications.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrient document (Contaminates of Emerging Concern Technical Guidance) has been published by DOH. He recommends reading that first, then reading related sections of the WAC. • Other WAC revisions have been highlighted in recent Health Department Septic Contractor Newsletters.
9:20am – 9:32am	Open Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackwater Services asks: Was the 6ft repair eliminated entirely or just from M&M <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Corinna Ong replies: It was only in the M&M section, so it has been removed entirely. ○ Blackwater Services replies: Brings up more questions related to isolated repairs from storm damage and motor vehicle accidents. Would I get an NOV for capping a geyser made by a broken pipe in the drainfield? ○ Dustan replies: As an example, if a tree branch damages a drip tube we will need to walk away and let it continue to surface and not correct it with a coupling? ○ Andrea & Corinna reply: You can cap or couple something to prevent a public health hazard as a temporary fix. However, the permanent repair would need a permit (notify owner of need for permit). Please keep the Health Department informed during these types of situations. • Adminassistant3 asks: If a UV bulb is a "part" of the entire treatment unit, wouldn't then a drainfield lateral be a "part" of the drainfield? Which would then allow repair as the whole unit does not need to be replaced? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annie replies: We will reach out to DOH for clearer info on the minor repair definition for specific scenarios. • Apryl D asks: There are a lot of 900gallon tanks out there. For repairs with new code, are we allowing those 900g tanks to still be used? Or every one swap out for 1000 now? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brad replies: We would ask that they would be upgraded to new tank/swapped out. They haven't been manufactured for quite some time. Often times they are compromised and aren't watertight. We want to bring up to code to the maximum extent. • Adminassistant2 stated: Just for the purposes of explaining the difference to a homeowner; we have had a situation come up recently where it was difficult to explain the code.



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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apryl D asks: I want to be involved in these/other meetings if I can be added to the list? Before chat closes?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Hailey replies: We will reach out to you directly.• Andrea asks: Would September be a good time for the next meeting given summer is often a busy season?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Apryl D says: Sooner would be better IMO. |
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Updating the Snohomish County Board of Health Code



Presentation to Septic Community of Professional Experts (SCOPE) | April 24, 2025

Health Code Update Highlights

Why update the health code?

- Address evolving environmental health needs
- Enhance clarity of health regulations
- Reflect the diverse needs of SnoCo community



Tentative timeline

2025*	2026*	2027 and beyond*
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land use (OSS)• Fee schedule• Enforcement/appeals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General provisions• Solid waste• Food safety• Water recreation facilities• Drinking water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Illegal drug manufacturing/storage sites• School health and safety• Smoking and vaping• Camping facilities• Mobile home parks

Health Code Update Highlights

What's happening now?

- Researching concepts; coordinating with other SnoCo departments
- Cultivating community engagement opportunities

What to expect in the future

- Expect more advisory/input opportunities later in 2025
- Follow along! Health code webpage, newsletter, and inbox
 - snohd.org/1844/Health-Code-Update
 - SCBHC@co.snohomish.wa.us



Staff Roles & Responsibilities

Health Code Update Team



Ragina Gray
*Environmental Health Division
Director*



Robert Evjue
*Environmental Health
Policy Analyst*



Hailey Fagerness
*Environmental Health
Community Engagement Lead*

Subject Matter Experts – Land Use



Andrea Pellham
*Environmental Health
Supervisor, M&M*



Lucas Larson
*Environmental Health
Supervisor, Permitting*

Potential 2025 OSS Code Updates

- Require property transfer inspections
- Enforce inspection requirements
- Require inspections for high-risk clearance reviews
- Standardize reporting requirements
- Clarity on ADU permitting
- Streamline subdivision permitting
- Standardize wet season reviews
- Miscellaneous code clean-up



Stay Informed & Get Involved



Stay informed about code updates

- Subscribe to the code update newsletter
- Attend quarterly SCOPE meetings

Get involved with code updates

- Join advisory sessions (beginning Q2/Q3 2025)
- Provide feedback during comment periods
- Contact us to share additional code update ideas

QUESTIONS?

PUBLIC HEALTH
always working for a safer & healthier
SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Hailey Fagerness | SCBHC@co.snohomish.wa.us