

**Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts
Combined Stakeholder Advisory Committee
DRAFT Meeting Notes January 17, 2023**

Members: Margaret Homerding (Nisqually Tribe), Mary Catherine McAleer

Guests: Marguerite Abplanalp (Thurston CD), Scott Chernoff (WDOH), Alena Reynolds (Ecology) Barbara Ann Smolko and Emile Ancelet (Pierce County), Tris Carlson

Staff: Art Starry (TCEH), Stuart Whitford (TCEH), Andrew Deffobis (CPED)

1. Administrative

- Introductions were made.
- Minutes from the November 2022 Shellfish Protection District meeting were approved.
- The committee approved the agenda.

2. Update: Nisqually Reach Shellfish Protection District Re-enactment

- The Nisqually Reach watershed protection area (O&M program) is set to expire this year unless re-enacted.
- On 12/13/22, TCEH staff briefed the Board of Health about program. Both BOH & BOCC need to take action to renew the watershed protection area.
- BOH had good questions and was pleased with the program and its results.
- Staff will return with more information to talk more about what a renewed program may look like, possibly in April 2023. Topics will include more detail about what program could look like, whether it should be a continuation of the current program, or potentially incorporate more PIC work.
- This item will come back to SPDAC at the March 2023 meeting to allow for input from this group before returning to the BOH.

3. Water Quality Updates for Henderson, Eld, and Totten Inlets

- The Totten Inlet shoreline survey is complete. Progress was made on investigating hot spots. Eld Inlet is half done, a lot of progress is being made on hot spot investigation. Have confirmed 4 failing septic systems between both inlets.
- Have created an interactive map of hot spots nearby water quality stations where data can be found. The map will likely be made public – TCEH is trying to increase web presence of ambient water quality monitoring data.
- TCEH coordinates with the state, both on data sharing and surveying, to reduce the interval between surveys.

4. South Sound Strategic Plan: Relationship to Thurston County Waterways

- Barbara Ann walked through the organization of the document.
- Goal is to be a one-stop shop for information, which can help support grant applications and provide a list of work done to date. Also to help all partners be on the same page for what they want to see happen in the area, and what the priorities are.
- Barbara Ann discussed the vision statement the development group came up with. Acreage targets came from Alliance for Healthy South Sound LIO.
- Pieces of the strategic plan were adapted from different sources. Plan objectives were informed by DOH & their requirements for closure response plans.
- The plan has a list of actions by water body. There are entries for Henderson & Nisqually, which come from existing closure response plans.
- The plan also has suggested program elements that would help support a fully functioning program.
- Mary Catherine asked what is the level of outreach to realtors? Barbara Ann said some occurs, and there could be more. Would need to develop an engagement strategy, including level of commitment and ongoing costs.
- The plan contains a detailed spreadsheet that shows costs of various strategies, which can support budget requests and help prioritize actions in the face of limited funding.

5. Potential Topics for March 2023 Meeting

- Members are encouraged to send Andrew Deffobis any potential meeting topics ahead of the March 2023 meeting. He will also send a call for agenda items ahead of the meeting.

6. Updates (as time allows)

- WA Dept. of Health – Nisqually end-of-year (EOY) data is in. DOH will start EOY reports this month, including downgrade/upgrades. There will be no downgrades for Thurston County this cycle. There are lots of low numbers; highest is 10.4 in the approved area. (43 FC is 90% standard – anything from 30-43 is threatened.) Station #876 only has 25 samples, but nothing higher than 2 so far. For prohibited area: one due to marina (249), other 3 are wildlife refuge—these cannot be upgraded. Area south of Mill Bight is eligible for upgrades; DOH is having discussions on whether change in status is appropriate. 2 stations have had 'significant' changes since last year, both are decreases.
- Henderson Inlet: Generally has gotten better; nothing new failing. Had been worried about Stations 190 & 195; if they failed the closure area would expand. Station 190 is down to 20.7, 195 is down to 21.2 (both dropped bad data). Conditionally approved stations (187-189) are still failing when unsorted. But when pulling out rainfall condition, they come down below threatened. Prohibited stations are all still

failing. Comparing to last year: Station 190 has seen a sig decrease, Station 191 has gone up. Station 195 has gone up, 199 has gone down. Stations 200/202/208/724 have decreased. For conditionally approved area: Station 189 has seen a significant decrease. For prohibited area: 2 have had increases, 2 have had decreases.

- Looking at Stations 187/189/190: 190 had been down, came up into threatened, came back down again. 189/187—which were failing—have come down because bad data fell off.
- Department of Ecology: Staff have coordinated with Tamara while she's transitioned out of TCEH, and with Tristan while they move into that position.
- Thurston Conservation District: TCD was able to get a final VSP contract signed today for a farmer in Dobbs Creek. Includes an animal walkway, reduced soil compaction, some watering facilities and fencing along waterways (exclusion fencing). Another landowner who signed last year is working on their BMPs, and reached out to do more conservation through Sustainable Farm and Fields grant. They will need another sponsor, as TCD cannot sponsor that particular project.
- Nisqually: No updates
- TCEH: Haven't interviewed for Tamara's position yet. Submitted Shellfish Initiative Action Team application for NEP funding. This is related to an RFP for work on behalf of the Pleasant Forest camping club (design, and a portion of the installation). For Totten Inlet (where Summit Lake/Kennedy Creek drain): TCEH will issue a RFP for phase 1 cyanobacteria management plan for Summit Lake.

7. **Adjourn**

Next Meeting Date: March 21, 2023