

**Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts
Combined Stakeholder Advisory Committee
DRAFT Meeting Notes November 15, 2022**

Members: Margaret Homerding (Nisqually Tribe), Linsey Fields (City of Lacey)

Guests: Marguerite Abplanalp (Thurston CD), Scott Chernoff (WDOH), Alena Reynolds (Ecology) Barbara Ann Smolko (Pierce County), Cody Rebh (Taylor Shellfish)

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

1. Administrative

- Introductions were made.
- The agenda was approved.
- Minutes from the March 2022 meeting were approved. Minutes from the July 2022 meeting will be posted but marked as unofficial given a quorum was not present at that meeting.
- The committee approved the agenda.

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

- TCEH staff will be briefing the Board of Health on options to re-enact the Nisqually Reach Shellfish Protection District, including potential changes to the O&M program. The briefing will also highlight program successes and provide an opportunity to refresh BOH members on the program, and bring new BOH members up to speed.
- The Nisqually Reach district program was adopted 11 years ago, and modeled on the Henderson Inlet program to address fecal coliform pollution of shellfish growing areas.
- The Nisqually Reach program is set to expire at the end of 2023, including the program that performs dye testing and requires landowners to maintain septic systems and provide documentation to TCEH. The Henderson Inlet program expires at the end of 2027.
- TCEH plans to discuss options to improve and strengthen the PIC program.
- There have been no downgrades, and 130 acres have been re-opened since the PIC program was implemented. Compliance with septic maintenance and monitoring has been approximately 90%.
- Art asked the committee for feedback. He will distribute meeting materials when they are ready.
- There are 3 levels of fees for Nisqually Reach landowners: upland properties are a \$73 annual cost, community systems are \$168 each year, high risk/shoreline properties are in the middle, and are dye traced every 6-9 years.

3. Discussion: Topics for January 2023 Meeting

- The group discussed potential topics for the next SPDAC meeting, which may include the following:
 - An update from Art regarding the 12/13 BOH briefing on the Nisqually Reach SPD.
 - A discussion of Henderson Inlet water quality, and updates on Eld and Totten Inlet water quality. Stuart will provide the latest water quality information on Henderson Inlet for Andrew to provide to the group.
 - How to share water quality results with the public
 - From Pierce County: Discussion of the South Sound Strategic Plan and how Thurston County waterways fit into that.
 - Further conversation about the direction and make-up of the committee.

4. Updates (as time allows)

- **Department of Health:** Henderson Inlet: with last data that's gone through QA/QC, have been watching station 190, it has come down since last annual reports. Is at 29.3, would probably still be considered threatened, it used to be over 30 (over 30 is threshold for threatened, 43 is failing). Stations 187 & 189 have gotten worse. Other 4 are failing, prohibited.
- When sorting for conditions on stations 187 and 189 (related to significant rainfall events), results look better. So the conditions are working to pull out bad data.
- Several stations have had net increase in [FC] since last year, some have decreased.
- Stations 187, 189, 190: this area is now conditionally approved.
 - Margaret: What's causing it? Stuart: Some areas are problematic, such as Dobbs Creek. Unsure of FC sources on Fleming. Pleasant Forest Camping Club has hired a septic designer.
- Nisqually Reach: Station 235 was failing last time, now is meeting standard. Station 876 (far shore) is at 23 samples. Getting closer to 30 samples. 2 stations have had >3 FC decrease. Sites 235 and 234 look good, but will not be reclassified because of known FC impacts based on vicinity to wildlife refuge.
- Eld Inlet: Station 849 is threatened – 37.4 FC (this station monitors outlet of one of the drainages). Is 6 below failing but is well in threatened realm.
- **City of Lacey:** 6 months ago, Edgewater installed community LOSS system, entered into ULID agreement to convert to sewer. Not sure of any updates past that point.
- Staff are working on 2022-23 Stream Team workplan. Program shouldn't be changing too much. But next year, interlocal agreements need to be redone so there could be changes then.
- **Department of Ecology:** Annual Terry Husseman grant pot is generally not available this year due to low revenue levels. Anticipated to reopen Jan 2024. It is

still available for applicants to address environmental emergencies. For example, heavy rains caused several manure lagoons to overtop in Whatcom County; operators were able to get funds to help address.

- Ecy staff continue to work on identifying sites of concern along with county code enforcement & TCEH staff.
- **Thurston Conservation District:** TCD has hired a new farm planner with sustainable small farms experience, previously worked at Mason CD and WSU Extension. Hoping to reduce technical assistance wait list.
- TCD was awarded some last minute funding through VSP, 5 projects awarded funding. One is a tributary to Dobbs Creek (exclusion fencing, access road to decrease sediment movement). One is close to Woodard Bay (20 acres historically in hay production, now replanting, silvipasture, diverse farming including livestock). Will be doing heavy use area protection, subsurface draining away from animals' concentrated area, 3-bay waste storage facility/manure curing. 2 other projects in Chehalis and 1 in Deschutes. Projects must be done by June 30, 2023.
- **Nisqually Tribe:** Tribe is in process of removing flip-farm structure at farm to increase water flow. Farm has been closed since first rain of the fall.
- **Thurston County Environmental Health:** Staff are briefing Board of Health on December 13 to discuss Nisqually SPD renewal.
- Ongoing PIC efforts, will bring back more information at next meeting.
- Also water quality data from streams they're sampling—will send that out.
- **Pierce County:** If anyone has proposals for projects that could be implemented in the next few years (~\$250,000 ballpark), let her know by Thursday, 11/17.

5. Adjourn

Next Meeting Date: January 2023