

**Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts
Combined Stakeholder Advisory Committee
DRAFT Meeting Notes September 21, 2021**

Members: Tris Carlson (Chair), Margaret Homerding (Nisqually Tribe), Emily Watts (City of Lacey), Mary Catherine McAleer

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

Staff: Art Starry (TCEH), Tamara Cowles (TCEH), Andrew Deffobis (CPED)

1. Administrative

- Introductions were made.
- Minutes from the July 2021 Shellfish Protection District meeting were approved.
- The committee approved the agenda after removing Item 2 (Introduction of Meyer's Point Property Manager).

2. Environmental Health Update: Pleasant Forest & Progress of PIC Program

- Tamara Cowles shared high hits off 79th and Marvin that she has been investigating. The source is a seep/spring with numerous animal tracks. Staff are collecting a series of wet and dry samples, and outreach will begin soon. Additional sampling was done to the south of this area.
- Staff are working with a landowner on elevated FC levels, and will dye test soon. Also working with several neighbors to ID the source of FC. Staff are aware of a property off Marvin & 63rd with a leaking tank that was repaired. There is a lagoon in that area that has waterfowl. More wet sampling to come. Staff will coordinate with Ecology, who are working in the same area.
- Pleasant Forest: Staff are working on a NEP agreement that is being implemented by Pierce County. There is funding to contract for a septic system design, and staff are trying to secure a septic designer. It is a complex project and is moving slowly, no specific timeframe. Sampling occurred this past summer. The authorizing agreement to extend the NEP grant will move forward to the BOCC for approval.

3. Environmental Health Update: Current Status & Data for Septic Systems in Henderson/Nisqually Operation & Maintenance Program Jurisdiction

- 90% of Henderson and Nisqually systems have current inspections. Staff completed dye tracing. BOCC is working to shift monitoring resources to other areas of Puget Sound, to focus on higher risk areas. They are also discussing programs for lakes.

- The Chair asked if failure rates or other stats EH collects could be made available to the public on an annual basis. Art Starry stated this could be done, and that he would work with Jane Mountjoy-Venning.
- Large and complex septic systems also have O&M programs, but not all systems do. Out of 54,000 septic systems in the County, 15,000 are under an O&M program. Complex systems are pumped every year. Simple systems are pumped every three years.

4. Updates

- **Chair:** Tris Carlson asked about a paving project at the County Fairgrounds that there have been rumblings about. Art Starry shared what he heard at a recent BOCC meeting—the concern is street sweepings/vactor waste that may be stored by the lake by Public Works. Alena Reynolds said she could look into it further or would communicate with Art. Art will look into this further.
- **DOH:** Data for Nisqually looks good through July 2021. Station 235 is failing (a lot of wildlife in area). Station 876 doesn't have 30 samples yet, but the trend so far is very low. Station 876 is south of Mill Bight and is used to monitor ambient conditions offshore.
 - There is a Taylor Shellfish harvest request adjacent to the prohibited area. DOH is analyzing the data and conducting modeling to see if the data supports amendment to the area covered by the prohibition. Staff are working on a reclass report to upgrade 1 acre.
- Staff reviewed Henderson Inlet data through August 2021. Station 187, which holds the sanitary line, is threatened. Other stations have high numbers. The established prohibited/restricted areas are still failing. Station 189 is failing.
- **City of Lacey:** Online events and Stream Team events are ongoing. Nothing major to report.
- **Ecology:** Staff are working to coordinate efforts across watersheds. Staff are performing windshield surveys and aerial image analyses on Henderson Inlet, and use DNR LIDAR. Staff are attempting to fill in for areas that TCEH does not have the time/resources to cover.
- Work is ongoing to connect landowners with resources for pollution sources on their properties. Staff would like to send a mailer regarding what Ecology looks for when they do watershed assessments.
- Ecology has recently filled 2 positions.

- **Thurston Conservation District:** Staff will be assisting landowners with the second NTA grant through September 2022. The first grant has been finished. Staff are working with six landowners now and have worked with 23 to date. Work has included engineering and implementing 25 water quality BMPs on 5 approved projects. TCD was awarded 3 shellfish cost share grants – two on Eld Inlet and one on Henderson.
- **Nisqually Tribe:** Limited shellfish harvest will start soon. Large oyster kills were not observed this year at the Nisqually Farm site. The Tribe is working on a sovereign food program. Staff are working with a SeaGrant on yessotoxin work.
- **Pierce County:** Project funding has been extended through September 30, 2022. Thurston Health staff are working with the Pleasant Forest Camping Club to come up with designs for sewage treatment improvement. The South Sound Shellfish grant will provide cost share. Pierce County is creating a South Sound Strategic Plan by integrating all south sound shellfish closure response plans with Department of Health guidance.