

**Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts
Combined Stakeholder Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes March 19, 2019**

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

Guests: Ruth Piccone and Sheila Marcoe (Ecology), Dave Kangiser, (WDOH), Barbara Ann Smolko (Pierce County), Sarah Moorehead (Thurston Conservation District), Amber Fisher (The Evergreen State College).

Staff: Allison Osterberg, Brad Murphy and Andrew Deffobis (CPED), Art Starry and Jane Mountjoy-Venning (Environmental Health).

1. Administrative

- The committee approved the agenda, after adding a presentation from Barbara Ann Smolko of Pierce County.
- The committee approved meeting minutes from the January 15, 2019 Shellfish Protection District meeting.

2. Shoreline Master Program Update

- Brad Murphy provided an overview of the Shoreline Master Program update, including descriptions of proposed shoreline environment designations, and proposed aquaculture regulations.
- The Planning Commission is currently reviewing the draft SMP, and regular updates are being provided to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).
- The group discussed 'no net loss' requirements, whether permitting processes/requirements should vary by type of aquaculture, and what information in the update is specific to the shellfish protection districts.

3. Pierce County Update

- Barbara Ann Smolko of Pierce County provided background and an update on past grant awards. Pierce County had proposed to Puget Sound Partnership a near term action to implement action items from shellfish protection districts in Pierce, Thurston, and Mason Counties.
- The project was awarded \$1.2 million over a few funding rounds. The money is largely provided to County Health Departments and Conservation Districts to provide technical assistance in the field, and implementation of BMPs. Water quality reports have been generated by Pierce County for their Shellfish Protection Districts.

- Barbara Ann wants to begin focusing on Thurston County shellfish protection districts, and will return to future advisory committee meetings.
- Wants to create an informational insert for Thurston County publications regarding local water quality. The committee discussed the example handout provided.
- Some of the PSP funds may be able to be used for County staff work on shellfish protection district issues. At this time, there is limited capacity for staff to perform planning work.

4. Henderson Inlet Closure Response Plan

- The group discussed the draft Henderson Inlet closure response plan. Allison has prepared a Track Changes version that includes committee input.
- The committee voted to approve the report with the changes, pending minor edits to be submitted by Art Starry.
- The plan will need to be approved by the BOCC. Andy will seek a time for the Committee to present the plan to the BOCC.

5. Updates

- Washington Department of Health:
 - New water quality reports are out—good news in general.
 - Two areas in Henderson are threatened, two are of concern. Nothing major was found in the shoreline survey. No concerns for Nisqually Reach.
- City of Lacey:
 - There is a Water Resource Specialist position that still has not been filled in over a year, which means Lacey has limited staff capacity for stormwater outreach.
 - Event season is gearing up.
- Washington Department of Ecology:
 - DOE has funds for educational outreach, and wants to discuss how to get information out in Thurston County.
 - Listed sites of concern; currently tracking 8 sites.
- Thurston Conservation District:
 - TCD is rebuilding, navigating funding and staffing issues.
 - Rates and charges were approved for 2019, the first large installment will arrive in May.

- TCD will be hiring technical/grant writing staff, also will recruit for executive director.
- Work on 2020 rates and charges will begin in May.
- The TCD Board of Supervisors passed a resolution last year to close out the Shellfish Fund, and redirect those funds to other District business.
- This would provide approximately \$72,000 in gap funding for the District until May 2019, when additional funds are expected through the 2019 rates and charges.
- The committee voted to forward this resolution to the BOCC with a recommendation to approve the Shellfish Fund closeout and transfer of funds.
- Thurston County Environmental Health:
 - The BOCC has requested a water quality briefing. Art will let CPED staff know when this is scheduled.
 - Phasing out water samples – have enough data. Need to implement solutions to existing problems.