

**Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts  
Combined Stakeholder Advisory Committee  
Meeting Notes May 21, 2019**

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

**Guests:** Sheila Marcoe (Ecology), Dave Kangiser, (WDOH), Barbara Ann Smolko (Pierce County)

**Staff:** Andrew Deffobis (CPED), Art Starry and Jane Mountjoy-Venning (Environmental Health).

**1. Administrative**

- The committee reordered and approved the agenda.
- The committee discussed and approved meeting minutes from the March 19, 2019 Shellfish Protection District meeting.

**2. Presentation: Water Quality Updates on Fleming Creek and Dobbs Creek**

- Jane Mountjoy-Venning presented. There is not much information on Fleming Creek, as it is dry a large part of the year.
- Mapping for Dobbs Creek is not totally accurate. There are several stations on the creek; more are added as areas of bacteria are found. Staff are not able to gain permission to access all areas of creek. Staff will work with Thurston Conservation District to see if they can perform sampling on their clients' sites. We do not have data for some areas north of Pleasant Forest; there are many tributaries.
- Testing is performed for E. Coli; testing to EPA standards. There is a pronounced issue in summer—lower flows produce higher bacteria concentrations. Several areas of high concentration within Pleasant Forest.
- EH staff will be meeting with Planning to discuss the land use aspect of the Pleasant Forest Camping Club. Many septic tanks were installed without permits; several are types that are no longer on authorized list. Staff are unsure of specifics of how septic tanks are pumped within Pleasant Forest.
- There are grants to do design work. Once options have been fleshed out, staff will reach out to Pleasant Forest.

**3. Discussion: Possible Updates to 2005 Joint Shellfish Protection Districts Implementation Work Plan**

- The recently developed closure response plan for Henderson Inlet is an updated element of the larger work plan. The work plan should be updated as many items are complete, or no longer relevant, and new projects and strategies could be included.

- The committee reviewed the matrix of water quality improvement strategies. It was decided that any update would be reformatted to match the format DOH now uses.
- The committee discussed various ways an updated document could be organized, and how the committee could collaborate on providing information for the update. At a minimum, status updates could be provided for the action items in the existing plan (e.g. marking what is complete, ongoing, obsolete, etc.).
- Thurston County staff will meet to discuss staffing availability for the update effort. Barbara Ann will bring examples of a plan she is working on.

#### 4. Updates

- Washington Department of Health:
  - Water quality is holding steady in both districts. Nisqually is not currently an area of concern. A few small areas of shoreline are labeled 'Prohibited', which could be due to drainages onto the beach.
  - Dave will review the shoreline survey for Nisqually Reach. There may be some action items that could be included in the updated work plan.
- City of Lacey:
  - The city has hired a new water resource specialist. They will take over water/waste water/reclaimed water issues so Emily can focus on stormwater.
  - Event season is in full swing.
  - Emily is planning stormwater outreach to Lacey stormwater utility customers later this fall which will most likely include a postcard and magnet.
  - NPDES permit comes out in July; city will be working with the Regional Environmental Education Partnership (REEP) to pool resources in order to meet new CBSM requirements and begin planning for the business pollution source control inspection program.
- Washington Department of Ecology:
  - Ecology is opening a request for proposals for nonpoint source (NPS) pollution grant funding. Applicants are encouraged to submit a notice of intent.
- Pierce County:
  - Pierce County will be working with Thurston County to publish a shellfish growing areas water quality report by June 2020. They would like to provide this information to Thurston County residents.
  - Could potentially use Environmental Health's mailing list for distribution; at a minimum, it would be sent to landowners in Thurston County's shellfish protection districts.
- Thurston County Environmental Health:

- Staff are working on an ordinance for the Board of County Commissioners to consider adoption of the Henderson Inlet shellfish closure response plan.
- Thurston County Community Planning and Economic Development
  - Staff are working on the appropriate legal instruments for the Board of County Commissioners to approve closure of the Shellfish Fund and transfer of the remaining balance to Thurston Conservation District.