



THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Cathy Wolfe
District One
Diane Oberquell
District Two
Robert N. Macleod
District Three

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts
Combined Oversight Committee
Meeting Notes November 13, 2003

Nisqually Shellfish Protection District present:

Members: Tris Carlson Linda Malatesta Bryan Wilson
Alternates: Fred Michelson

Henderson Inlet Protection District present:

Members: Lisa Dennis-Perez Mark Sloan Steve Langer
Alternate: Roy Iwai
Staff: Mark J. Swartout
Art Starry
Linda Hofstad

Guests: Mark Fischer (Community Shellfish Farm Project)
Kirk Robinson (Thurston Conservation District)
Terry Hull (Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team)

1. Meeting called to order by Mark Swartout.
2. Updates:
 - A. TMDL – Henderson preliminary data for bacteria is completed and will be presented to the committee at a future meeting.
 - B. TCD provided a handout “Report of Progress” as an update on the activities of the Nisqually grant.
3. Discussed how to integrate the Henderson grant task of the Risk Based On-site Sewage System Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Program, the O&M recommendations of the Committee, and the Board assigned task to develop an implementation work plan.
 - A. An explanation was provided that these efforts can be integrated. The Committee’s recommendations provide the framework while the grant tasks will identify how to implement them.
 - B. Past efforts to establish a Risk Based O&M program has met with several obstacles including:
 - 1) How to keep track of all of the data needs? This has been answered with the new permit tracking system (AMANDA).
 - 2) Inadequate resources to develop and implement the program. How much will it cost?
 - 3) How to collect the fees to pay for the program?
 - 4) Doubt that failing septic systems were contributing to bacteria loading. The

Henderson DNA report identified human bacteria.

- 5) Is there public support to implement a Risk Based O&M program?
 - 6) How to get property access to do the necessary inspections and testing?
 - 7) How to enforce the program for those property owners who fail to abide by the requirements?
 - 8) What should the boundaries of the area be?
- C. A technical committee is needed to help provide solutions and an infrastructure to overcome these obstacles.
- 1) The committee would need to meet four times.
 - 2) The committee would need to include residents of the districts; and staff from WDOH, PSAT, County EHD, cities, and the Prosecuting Attorney's Office; septic industry representatives including designers, installers, and pumpers.
- D. The response by several members concerns about the project only applying to Henderson Inlet was:
- 1) The outcome of the technical committee would provide the framework to apply the program in any area of the County.
 - 2) It appears to apply to Henderson because the Henderson grant is paying for the development work but the real outcome will apply anywhere in the county.
- E. Concern was raised that the program only included those septic systems along the shoreline. Response: the technical committee will help decide how to determine the various levels of risk and what activities would apply each level.
- F. The committee felt all septic system owners need to be accountable for the operation of their systems.
- G. Outcomes of the discussion:
- 1) The shellfish stakeholder group will provide the basis for the technical committee.
 - 2) Others will be added to the group to provide adequate representation.
 - 3) The technical committee will meet on the same dates in December and February. There will be two meetings in January the 7th and the 28th.
 - 4) The stakeholder group will meet from 6:30 to 7:00 PM then the technical group meeting will be from 7:00 – 9:00 PM>
4. Administration:
- The group chose Steve Langer as Chair and Tris Carlson as Vice-Chair.
5. Discussed work the committee would like the county to begin:
- A. In addition to the work items submitted committee members added:
- 1) Integrate the current efforts of the county in developing Low Impact Development standards with the committee's task of submitting an implementation work plan.
 - 2) The committee asked the county to identify more specific work items for the land-use recommendations.
 - 3) The 2004 Shellfish Work Plan the committee reviewed and approved at the October meeting is also a first set of work items to be performed.
- B. Boundary changes were discussed. The work of the Technical Committee will be to review and make recommendations on boundaries changes.
6. Adjourn