



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 July 14, 2004

Nisqually Shellfish Protection District present:

Members: Bryan Wilson, and Tris Carlson.

Alternates: None

Henderson Inlet Protection District present:

Members: Lisa Dennis-Perez, Roy Iwai, Peter Heide, and Steve Langer.

Alternate: None

Guests: Mark Fischer (Puget Sound Restoration Fund)
Stuart Glasoe (PSAT)

County Staff: Mark J. Swartout, Tom Clingman, Sue Davis, and Linda Hofstad.

1. Administration:
 - A. Introductions
 - B. Approved the Agenda
 - C. Approved the June 9, 2004 Meeting Notes
2. Updates:
 - A. TMDL – Nothing more to report except Ecology will provide a TMDL work plan at a future meeting.
 - B. Community Shellfish Farm (CSF) – Mark Fischer provided an update of the activities of the CSF.
 - 1) In June a Geoduck project where 6,000 seeds were placed in kiddie pools.
 - 2) Several group tours are planned for August and September. The groups include several conference attendees; and local and regional government officials.
3. Environmental Health Department discussion:
 - A. Results of the Nisqually Reach Pollution Source Identification Study (bacteria DNA).
 - 1) A Powerpoint presentation was given with a handout for reference.
 - 2) The report has been sent to the printer, and will be available soon on the County website.
 - 3) Using a map staff showed the sampling locations.
 - 4) Highlights of the presentation not included in the handout:
 - a. There was an 89% match of DNA finger prints from the samples to the DNA library of known sources.

- b. Coliform bacteria can survive for up to a year depending on location, i.e. mud, cow pie, etc.
 - c. The DNA results provide insight into the types of sources contributing to bacterial pollution, what sources are present at each , but cannot be used to determine a percent contribution by each source .
- B. Update on the Risk Based O&M Septic Program:
 - 1) Staff briefed the Board on June 16 but was only able to get about half way through the topic.
 - 2) Another briefing has been scheduled for August 11th from 2:30 to 4:00 PM. The stakeholders were encouraged to attend.
- C. Description of the bacteria loading in Woodland Creek:
 - 1) The context of this topic is that the stakeholders at their June 9th meeting was considering a proposed recommendation – Establish criteria for shifting from septic to sewer or neighborhood-wide treatment options in communities with high septic system failure rates.
 - 2) Handout “Pollution Source Investigation Along Woodland Creek”, which was used for their discussion.
 - 3) Highlights of the discussion:
 - a. In this stretch of Woodland Creek there is a thin layer of top soil, with about 10 feet of clay below, with sand / gravel below the clay.
 - b. The sand / gravel layer intersects Woodland Creek.
 - c. Many of the septic systems have deep trench systems where they have dug their drainfields through the clay. The fill in the trench can be gravel and or sand. Therefore, it is suspected that the effluent from the septic drainfields is being carried down-gradient in the underlying sand / gravel layer to Woodland Creek.
 - d. While the deep trench septic drainfields at higher elevations along 15th Avenue are not failing, those deep trench drainfields at lower elevations closer to Woodland Creek appear to be more effected by shallow groundwater moving through the sand/gravel layer causing septic system to fail on the surface in Woodland Creek Estates..
 - 4) Handout “Tanglewilde, Thompson Place, and Bicentennial Inventory” was used for discussion. While this area may not be experiencing a high rate of surfacing septic system failures, there is evidence that septic effluent reaching shallow ground water and influencing Woodland Creek quality.
 - 5) Handout with excerpts from Thurston County Sanitary Code, Article IV, On-Site Sewage System Regulations and County and Olympia and Lacey sewerage policies was used for discussion.
 - a. Discussed the Health Department authority to require correction of failing OSS including connection to sewer when within 200 feet.
 - b. In the sanitary code, “areas of special concern” and “geologically sensitive areas” provide the authority for the County to adopt additional standards for on-site sewage system where necessary to protect public health and prevent water pollution.
 - c. Some criteria that might be helpful in determining when conversion from individual on-site sewage systems to some other form of sewage

management to protect public health and prevent water quality include:

- i. Septic system repair rate within a geographic area or neighborhood;
- ii. Evidence of surface and/or ground water pollution
- iii. Soil type.
- iv. Density of existing septic systems (lots too small according to today's standards)

- 6) Handout from DOH "Rule Development Committee Issue Research Report – Lot Size (Minimum Land Area).
- 7) Handout "On-Site System Conversion Issue: The Funding Conundrum". The outcome of the discussion is that the most successful funding source for a large scale conversion would probably need to be a federal appropriation.

4. Discussed the issue of County regulations that apply to pet waste – handout included in packet.
 - A. There was general agreement that enforcement of a pet waste regulation was difficult and there was a lack of resources to do so.
 - B. There was general agreement that it would be helpful if educational signs regarding pet waste could include reference to a regulation.
 - C. The group agreed that staff would proposed minor wording change to the non-point ordinance so it could be used as reference, with the understanding that there is a lack of staff resources to actively enforce a regulation requiring pet owners to pick up their pet waste.
 - D. Staff would provide to the committee information on whether pet license fees can be increased in the shellfish protection district to help pay for increased enforcement of pet waste infractions.

5. Adjourn

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