



## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Cathy Wolfe  
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District Three

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Michael Welter  
Director

### Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts Combined Oversight Committee Meeting Notes February 9, 2005

**Members:** Steve Langer, Tris Carlson, Christine Buckley, Roy Iwai, Lisa Dennis-Perez, and Bryan Wilson

**Alternates:** None

**Guests:** Mark Fischer (Puget Sound Restoration Fund), Kathy Whalen (TCD), Seldon Hall (WDOH), Terry Hull (PSAT), David Hall, Jerry Bennett, Steve Kaleneous, Robert Miller, and Mike Pettit

**County Staff:** Mark J. Swartout, Linda Hofstad, and Art Starry

1. Administration:
  - A. Introductions
  - B. Approved the Agenda
  - C. Approved the January 12, 2004 Meeting Notes
2. Updates:
  - A. TMDL – No update
  - B. Community Shellfish Farm (CSF) – Nothing new to report
  - C. Low Impact Development – will be briefing the Board on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM.
  - D. TCD:
    - 1) Watershed Pledge Project kick-off meeting Feb. 16 from 7 to 8:30 at the Expo Hall at the Fair Grounds.
    - 2) Native Plant Sale this Saturday (2/12) at the TCD Office.
  - E. Critical Areas Ordinance –The County is hoping to pass their CAO by mid-year.
  - F. The SPD will be briefing the Board on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 3 PM and will be presenting their Implementation Work Plan.
3. Discussion of the proposed Septic System Operation and Maintenance Proposal for Henderson Inlet Watershed.
  - A. Staff discussed the response to all of the questions that have been provided from various sources such as the public workshop, emails, and website. The group was asked for any response to the answers, which there were none.
  - B. Staff discussed the Board briefing held on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3 PM major outcomes were:

- 1) Board approved having the committee review and make revisions to the proposal particularly the boundary and incentives.
  - 2) Brief the Board again in March to get direction on what to do next.
- C. Discussed possible improvements to the public outreach program for the future:
- 1) Expand the outreach and education to schools.
  - 2) Continue the use of multiple tools e.g. written information, TV, oral presentations, etc.
  - 3) The group recognized that it is a real challenge in getting homeowners to accept a septic system O&M program so need to educate owners on the **benefit** of the program.
- D. Discuss who should be in the program:
- 1) Option 1 would have all septic system owners within the Shellfish District boundary be included in the program.
    - a. This has a philosophical underpinning where preventing pollution in general to all surface and ground water is a benefit to everyone not just shellfish growing areas.
    - b. Not scientifically based c. This options would be of more holistic general environmental benefit.
    - d. Current proposed annual fee structure is \$17 / \$50 / \$60 plus \$25 certificate renewal fee every three years.
  - 2) Option 2 – include those septic system owners north of Long Lake
    - a. This uses scientific information from a 1994 stormwater study, which shows surface water drainage to Henderson Inlet. Travel time would enable viable bacteria to enter the inlet.
    - b. Proposed annual fee structure is \$22 / \$50 / \$60 plus \$25 certificate renewal fee every three years.
    - c. The accuracy of the mapping of those areas that will drain surface water to Henderson Inlet can be enhanced by the use of lidar and the raindrop analysis.
  - 3) Option 3 – Include those septic system owners that are on tight soils 4, 5, and 6 based on a USGS soil survey map that was provided.
    - a. Discussed the lack of accuracy of the soils map.
    - b. Comment was made that this would be hard to explain why one property owner is in the program and a neighbor wasn't.
  - 4) General discussion:
    - a. Can the program be phased in with highest risk first or highest risk sub-basin first?
    - b. The group agreed by consensus that Option 2 was preferred.
      - i. Perfect the map by using the latest technology..
      - ii. Everyone in the program must have an operational certificate, therefore keep the proposed low and high risk categories.

4. List of information distributed at the meeting to aid in discussion:

A. Citizen letter from David Ginther

2000 Lakeridge Drive, Bldg. #1, SW, Olympia, WA 98502 (360) 786-5490 / FAX (360) 754-2939  
 TDD (360) 754-2933 Website: [www.co.thurston.wa.us/permitting](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/permitting)

- B. Map of Soil Types for Henderson Inlet Watershed
  - C. Thurston County Health Code Article VI showing the different loading rates based on soil type.
  - D. A table of soil texture classifications with descriptions and the risk assessment matrix on the flip side
  - E. Draft estimated budget comparing the costs and fees for Options 1 and 2.
  - F. State WAC 246-272-15501 – Operation and Maintenance – The main point is that scum and solid levels need to be measured once every 3 years.
  - G. Septic System information:
    - 1) “Septic Tank Pumping” by A.R. Jarrett, Professor, Agricultural Engineering, PennState.
    - 2) “Septic Tank Pumping Frequency” – recommends pumping frequencies based on various inputs from the home.
    - 3) ‘Protect Your Water and Septic Sytem” from the Georgia HOME-A-SYST Program
5. Next meeting will be changed from March 9<sup>th</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
6. Adjourn

MS:ms/shellfish\_05/meeting notes 2.9.05