



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Michael Welter
Director

Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts
Combined Oversight Committee
(Draft) Meeting Notes March 2, 2005

Members: Steve Langer, Tris Carlson, Roy Iwai, Peter Heidi, and Bryan Wilson
Alternates: Fred Michelson

Guests: Mark Fischer (Puget Sound Restoration Fund), Terry Hull (PSAT), Chris Hempleman (Ecology), David Hall, and Mike Pettit

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

1. Administration:
 - A. Introductions
 - B. Approved the Agenda
 - C. Approved the February 9, 2005 Meeting Notes
2. Updates:
 - A. TMDL:
 - 1) Nisqually – the SIS will be out for public comment in April. There will be a targeted mailing instead of a public meeting but will offer to meet with anyone that wishes.
 - 2) Henderson – a draft SIS for internal review will be ready in April with public review in May/June.
 - B. Community Shellfish Farm (CSF) – There are schedule many tours in the next few months with a planned harvest in September.
 - C. Low Impact Development – will be briefing the Board on April 25th at 3 PM.
 - D. TCD – will forward to the committee an email with the districts update.
 - E. Critical Areas Ordinance –The County is planning on a public hearing for the Planning Commission in late May.
3. Discussion of the proposed Septic System Operation and Maintenance Proposal for Henderson Inlet Watershed.
 - A. Discussed the three LIDAR maps 1) a map with a raindrop analysis, 2) a map with 2 foot contours, and 3) a map with LIDAR and 10 foot contours.
 - 1) The boundary will still be adjusted to better reflect the contour lines and will be field proofed.
 - 2) The time of travel for bacteria from the Martin Way Mall to the base of

Henderson Inlet is 2 hours and another 2 hours to about half way to Woodard Creek.

- 3) The assumption is everyone within the new boundary will be included in the proposed program.
 - 4) Add a soil and septic system layer to the map.
 - 5) If was suggested to use LIDAR when the time comes to expand the septic O&M program to the Nisqually area and to pay for it using Shellfish Protection Funds.
- B. Discussed the green handout titled “Boundary”:
- 1) Suggested to add a clause on why the lakes area was excluded.
 - 2) Suggested to re-evaluate developments in the eastern part of the district near the boundary to determine if surface water flows to Henderson Inlet. If they are found to not contribute to Henderson Inlet they should be removed from the program.
- C. Discussed pink handout titled “Funding formulas and billing mechanisms” with focused discussion items on incentives:
- 1) Pumping Frequency Schedule – comments include:
 - a. Consider setting up a different inspection cycle if it is demonstrated by the septic owner.
 - b. This incentive could be a problem when a septic owner has a growing family.
 - c. This incentive makes the program more complex.
 - d. May need to consider what the state code ultimately requires keeping in mind the local health officer could grant a waiver.
 - 2) Riser Rebate Program – comments include:
 - a. Thurston Conservation District could administer the program.
 - b. Would require developing a set of criteria on who would qualify and amount (%) provided.
 - c. Block grants may not be available from the Federal government as a funding source.
 - d. If grant shows a public benefit it may not be gifting.
 - e. Draft state code includes a requirement that risers be installed on new construction.
 - f. Some of the current legislation proposals include a grant program.
 - 3) Homeowner Inspection Program – comments include:
 - a. A suggestion was made to create Sludge Master Program or Septic Inspection Mast Program (e.g. Master Gardners).
 - i. This would be an intense education / certification program which would require passing a test and a renewal requirement using continuing education credits.
 - ii. This may promote the creation of small businesses that would just do the inspections.
 - iii. Certified inspectors could perform cycle inspections up to the highly technical systems that would require a third party inspector.

- b. Discussed on how to reduce abusing the program on self inspections.
 - i. These type of inspections would be included as part of the 10% follow-up quality assurance inspections by the county.
 - 4) Senior and disabled exemption – comments include:
 - a. Could be several hundred enrolled in this program for property tax reduction.
 - b. Board can determine who would qualify and the amount of rate reduction.
 - c. Other property owners would absorb this reduction by increasing their rates to make up the difference.
- D. Discuss possible timeline / schedule (brown handout):
- 1) April brief Board of Health on changes.
 - 2) April / May send revisions newsletter to those within new boundary and send postcards to those now outside the boundary to inform them they are now out.
 - 3) May another Open House.
 - 4) May / June public hearing.
4. Next meeting will be changed from April 13th to discuss the revised Stormwater Manual.
5. Adjourn

MS:ms/shellfish_05/meeting notes 3.2.05