



## 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 March 8, 2006

**Members:** Tris Carlson, Roy Iwai, Bryan Wilson and Lisa Dennis-Perez

**Alternates:** Fred Michelson

**Guests:** Mark Fischer (Puget Sound Restoration Fund)  
Stu Glasoe (Puget Sound Action Team)  
Ann Mills (Thurston Conservation District)  
Calder Russell (Student)  
Kyle Murphy (Student)  
Heidi Perry (Teacher)

**County Staff:** Mark J. Swartout, Sue Davis, and Scott Clark

1. Administration:
  - A. Introductions
  - B. Approved the Agenda
  - C. Approved the January 11, 2006 Meeting Notes.
2. Updates:
  - A. TMDL – Chris’s email was sent with meeting material.
  - B. Community Shellfish Farm (CSF)
    - 1) On March 25<sup>th</sup> at the County Courthouse there will be training on how to grow your own shellfish.
    - 2) There will soon be a website with education material on how to grow your own shellfish. There will be a link from the Puget Sound Restoration Fund’s website.
  - C. Thurston Conservation District:
    - 1) There are currently two cost share programs.
    - 2) There has been one completed Conservation Plan.
    - 3) There are three Conservation Plans in progress.
    - 4) On May 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a Watershed Pledge kick-off meeting at the Boston Harbor Fire Station.
    - 5) Soon there will two programs broadcast on TCTV the SSGREEN education program and the Watershed Pledge program implementation sites.

D. Puget Sound Action Team:

The members of the Shellfish District stakeholder committee were invited to attend the South Sound Inlet Forum on water quality issues on April 29<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Olympia Center.

E. County Environment Health Division (EHD) project updates (Sue Davis):

- 1) Septic Survey along Nisqually Reach for about a mile southeast of Mill Bight.
  - a. EHD is dye testing 33 properties – 11 have been completed – 5 other property owners have given consent – 9 property owners have not responded to phone messages, door-hangers and letters – and 6 property owners have refused.
  - b. If property owners refuse to have their systems tested samples will be taken from any discharges on the beach. If the samples have elevated levels of bacteria and there is evidence there is a high likelihood of it coming from a septic system, staff will provide that information to the owner and request permission to do a dye test. If the owner refuses, staff may seek a search warrant through the court to gain access for testing.
  - c. EHD is working with Thurston Conservation District to get best management practices on a property with livestock in this same area.
- 2) Woodland Creek Pollutant Load Study grant project:
  - a. Contract was just signed in January.
  - b. An Interlocal Agreement with Lacey is in progress.
  - c. Currently working on RFPs to request a consultant to do the work.
  - d. Goal is to have the consultant on board by end of June. Project should last about 18 months once the consultant is hired.
- 3) Implementation of the Septic System Risk Based O&M program:
  - a. Currently working on a list of properties that will be included in the program. Need list by end of April when letters will be sent to all affected property owners notifying them of their status in the program.
  - b. Discussed how it is determined whether properties along the watershed boundary are in or out. If any portion of the home or septic plumbing is in they will be considered in the boundary.
  - c. Each parcel needs to be designated as high or low risk. Based on soil type and nearness to surface water conduit (e.g. streams).
  - d. GIS layers of streams are inaccurate, which create challenges.
  - e. Currently working on the procedures for “request for consideration” when property owners want to appeal the decisions on whether they are low or high risk systems or whether they are in or out of the boundary.
  - f. Developing training for the homeowner certification program for self inspections.
  - g. Developing training for professionals to do dye testing of systems.
  - h. Developing the small grant programs, which will provide up to \$500 for minor repairs of septic systems? People who qualify have household incomes of \$40,000 or less or are enrolled the County’s Senior / Disabled property tax program. The property owner needs to contribute 25% by in-kind or cash share.

- G. County land use issues update: Mark provided an update of the various land use activities. See Agenda for an outline of the update.
3. Stormwater Manual Update (Scott Clark):
- A. The County is currently working on updating the County's Stormwater Manual to be at least equivalent to the Western Washington Stormwater Manual.
  - B. The goal is to brief the Board in June.
  - C. Staff would like to come back to the Shellfish stakeholders at their May meeting to provide more detail.
  - D. The new manual will provide better erosion control, less impervious surface, and more vegetation on developed sites.
  - E. Stormwater systems in poor soils don't reduce bacteria loading; systems in good soils reduce bacteria due to more infiltration of stormwater. Therefore, to reduce bacteria loading development needs to be discouraged in areas with poor soils.
  - F. Once the Stormwater Manual is approved there will be a challenge in implementation at the current staffing level due to more field inspections.
  - G. The Manual will be more mandatory than Olympia's recently adopted manual.
  - H. The target for adoption is August.
4. South Sound GREEN – Students, Shellfish and Shorelines student presentation.
- A. Calder Russell and Kyle Murphy (Heidi Perry – teacher). The students provided a powerpoint presentation showing observations from their two marine waterfront homes. One lived along Nisqually Reach and the other in Henderson Inlet.
  - B. Observations during the time they have lived there included less fish to catch, fewer otters, fewer seagulls, more crows. Bacteria counts taken by the student on the Nisqually Reach site were 60, 40, 5, 5, and <5 with a high at Tolmie Park of 104. Bacteria counts taken by the County near the Henderson site were an average of 31.78.
  - C. Ann Mills provided a powerpoint presentation on:
    - 1) The field trip to the Community Shellfish Farm. There were 4 stations:
      - a. What are you growing? Mostly about the biology of shellfish.
      - b. What's in the water? The focus was on pollution including plankton and bacteria and how they relate to shellfish closures.
      - c. What's in the mud? The focus was on critters in the mud such as blood worms, barnacles, shrimp and crab.
      - d. What's out on the water? Using binoculars the student identified various birds.
    - 2) Salt Water Monitoring trips on the Langer and Harmony Farms properties:
      - a. Woodard Bay – every two weeks.
      - b. Henderson Inlet – tracking surf scooters
5. Future Agenda Items:
- A. January and March - Oversight of the Implementation Work Plan beginning in January with Land Use and Stormwater.
  - B. TMDL – each month updates
  - C. May - Begin discussion on process Shellfish Protection Fund 2007 Work Plan
  - D. May – Enforcement

- E. Stormwater Manual update
- F. July - Shellfish Protection Fund 2007 Work Plan
- G. September – discuss and approved Shellfish Protection Fund 2007 Work Plan
- H. Article VI enforcement and review of revisions.
- I. When it becomes available update on Cluster and LID progress.

6. Adjourn

MS:ms/shellfish\_06/meeting notes 3.8.06