



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Cathy Wolfe  
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District Three

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

*Creating Solutions for Our Future*

Scott Clark  
Director

Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts  
Combined Stakeholder Committee  
Meeting Notes January 19, 2010

**Members:** Tris Carlson, Linda Maletesta, Erin Keith, Bryan Wilson, and Pete Heide  
**Alternates:** Fred Michelson  
**Guests:** Cindy James (Ecology), Lawrence Sullivan (WDOH), and Mark Fischer,  
**County Staff:** Mark J. Swartout (District staff), Linda Hofstad and Sue Davis (Environmental Health)

1. Administration:
  - A. Introductions
  - B. Approved the November 17, 2009 Meeting Notes
  - C. Approved the Agenda
2. Discuss the development of a septic operation and maintenance program in the Nisqually Shellfish District:
  - A. Provided handout "Nisqually Septic Operation and Maintenance Project Summary."
    - 1) Complete project by the end of 2012.
    - 2) Task 4 - Program Implementation is an added task from the original Henderson Project.
    - 3) Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> staff is having a Board briefing to approve the list of advisory committee members.
    - 4) Add to the advisory committee the following interests:
      - a. It was a desire to have someone represent the Nisqually Tribe.
      - b. Should have 3 shellfish growers.
        - i. Matt Buldis - National Shellfish (Oyster)
        - ii. Tris Carlson – Geoduck Grower
        - iii. Brian Phipps or Diane Cooper – Taylor Shellfish
      - c. Nisqually Wildlife Refuge – Jean Takakowa
      - d. Nisqually Nature Center – Daniel Hull

## Combined Shellfish District

- e. Marinas – perhaps someone from Zittles Marina
- f. PSP – Roma Call
- g. Realtors – contact Washington Association of Realtors
- h. HOA – contact the Beachcrest president
- i. Septic professional – Randy Jackson and someone that is a pumper.

### 5) Past Obstacles that have been overcome:

- a. The upgrade of Henderson Shellfish areas reduces any doubt that failing septic systems are a source of nonpoint pollution.
- b. County now has a program that tracks a large volume of data.
- c. There are adequate fees to cover the cost of the program.
- d. There is an adequate mechanism to collect the fees. Having it on the property tax statement makes it very successful.
- e. There has been no resistance to private property access.
- f. The incentive programs have been exceedingly popular and there is an 80% compliance rate to the program. Almost 2,000 certified self-inspectors have received their training. Compliance for high-risk system is probably due to the equitable nature that everyone will be tested not just those that volunteer.

### 6) Anticipated Challenges:

- a. Nisqually watershed is large – therefore setting the boundary is a challenge.
- b. Creating a public outreach program to help shape the outcome is a challenge.
- c. By having Reach, which is different from having an inlet be a challenge for developing sense of place.
- d. Water quality issues are not as dramatic as Henderson.
- e. Geoduck farming will be a significant issue.

### 7) Positive elements:

- a. Committee has been very successful before.
- b. The outcome of the Henderson Septic O&M program is proof that it works and has received public support.
- c. Past obstacles have mostly been resolved.
- d. Henderson's 5-year review will enable adaptive management or program elements.

### 8) Not meeting on February 16

## 3. Updates

### A. Chair:

- 1) The Chair provided a letter of support for the County's application to the EPA Watershed Grant program for sewerage Woodland Creek Estates. The grant will cover design and engineering.

## Combined Shellfish District

- B. Thurston County: No report
- C. Henderson Inlet Community Shellfish Farm:  
The Farm continues to harvesting shellfish and selling to the Olympia Seafood Company about every 2 weeks. Proceeds go for the operation of the Community Shellfish Farm.
- D. WDOH/Ecology:  
Ecology will hold a Nisqually adaptive management meeting in the next month.  
WDOH update:
- 1) Handed out latest sampling results for the Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet. Sampling results show no major change.
  - 2) Henderson upgrade effective 1.27.10.
  - 3) WDOH will be sampling south of the Puget Marina, just above station 251, already in a Prohibited area.
  - 4) When there is over 2-inches of rain in 24 hours there is an automatic shut down for seven days.
  - 5) Discussed the Prohibited area south of Mill Bight. Results of the water samples are complex. There are probably some failing septic systems but testing the drainages has not found any point source or poor agricultural practices.
  - 6) Please let Lawrence know of any tributaries that we would like sampled.
- E. Thurston Conservation District:  
TCD will provide the annual reports from each project at the next meeting.
- F. Shellfish Project Updates:  
EHD – 2010 project include a newsletter to both shellfish districts that will include articles on all the projects. Tris will write an article for the SPD stakeholder group. Lawrence will write one for DOH. Erin will write one for Lacey. Mark F. will do one for the Community Shellfish Farm. Also, an article on the Nisqually Reach septic O&M program development will be included.
- G. City of Lacey:  
Erin – Lacey is experiencing a problem with dogs using regional stormwater facilities and causing bacteria problems. The City is planning on doing public outreach and developing no dog zones at these sites. The outreach program will continue to private stormwater facilities in the future.

4. Adjourned.

Next Meeting: March 16, 2010