



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Cathy Wolfe  
District One

Sandra Romero  
District Two

Karen Valenzuela  
District Three

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**Nisqually Reach  
Septic System Operation & Maintenance Project**

Advisory Committee

February 15, 2011

Sherri McDonald, RN, MPA,  
Director  
Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH  
Health Officer

**Members present:**

Gene Brown (Homeowner Association), Tris Carlson, David Hall (Conservation District alternate), Randy Jackson (Septic Professional), Cindy James (Ecology), Lynn Schneider (DOH), Lawrence Sullivan (DOH), Kathleen Whalen (Conservation District), Bryan Wilson.

County Staff: Art Starry, Sue Davis, and Linda Hofstad (Environmental Health)

**Agenda**

- Approved Meeting Notes from January 18th
- Debrief from Open House
  - Between 180 and 200 in attendance
  - Committee members were pleased with open house
    - Well planned
    - Went smoothly
    - Respectful
    - Those at listening posts were kept busy until presentations
    - Listening posts received some inquiries after presentation, but not as many as anticipated
    - Presentations were clear
    - Question and answer time allowed lots of questions to be asked
  - Most attendees were asking questions and looking for information
  - Discussed memo an attendee had sent to his neighborhood
    - Beachcrest owners haven't received any follow-up to the memo

- Review Q&A document
  - 21-page document
  - Mailed to 55
  - E-mailed to 69
  - Answer to #6 should be added to Question #2—better explanation.
  - Impact from Pierce Cty and Joint Base McChord Ft Lewis
    - DOH is doing a circulation study again as part of a Solo Pt Treatment Plant outfall extension
    - Env Hlth Director will talk with Pierce County Health officials about their projects
  - Env Hlth needs to review web page 'Septic Do's & Don'ts'
  
- Discuss changes to proposal
 

Concerns heard at open house ... any changes needed?

  - Why are upland properties included?
    - Shared responsibility
    - Fairness issue
    - Practically unable to determine which upland systems would flow to drainage if failing and which wouldn't
  - Water quality has improved so why do this?
    - Problems remain
    - In absence of O&M program, problems worsen, i.e. Eld Inlet
  - Fee creep
    - Program would contain same language as Henderson that defines how much a rate can increase and the prescribed formula for doing so.
    - Henderson rates have stayed the same for the last 3 years.
  - When does it stop?
    - The proposal has a sunset clause of 10 years.
  - Will dates be adjusted due to military deployment?
    - Definitely
  - What about senior citizen on limited income?
    - Proposal contains the incentive of deferring the annual rate for all seniors and disabled citizens who are part of the Treasurer's Senior / Disabled tax exemption program.
  
- What's Next?
  - Brief Board of Health – likely to be March
  
  - Discussed hosting another public open house
    - Recommend to Board of Health
    - Board of Health will decide
    - If held, do so before Memorial Day
    - Location: River Ridge, Steilacoom fire hall, ???
    - Have more maps available
    - Refine the boundary on the south if possible before next meeting

2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Bldg 4; Olympia, Washington 98502-6045  
(360) 867-2500 FAX (360) 867-2659 TDD (360) 867-2603 TDD(800)-658-6384  
[www.co.thurston.wa.us/health](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health)