



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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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 March 20, 2012

Members: Tris Carlson, Bryan Wilson, Matt Buldis, and Sue Shotwell
Alternates: None
Guests: Mark Fischer (Henderson Community Shellfish Farm)
Cindy James (Ecology).
County Staff: Mark J. Swartout (District staff)
Sue Davis (Environmental Health)

1. Administrative
 - a. Introductions
 - b. Approved November 15, 2011 meeting notes
 - c. Approve the agenda
2. Discussed the proposed upgrades in Henderson Inlet.
 - a. The northern boundary will extend around Johnson Point for Geoduck harvesting.
 - b. The area between stations 201 and 190 will be upgraded from Conditionally Approved to Approved.
 - c. The area between stations 190 and 187 will be upgraded from Prohibited to Conditionally Approved.
3. Discussed the Nisqually Septic O&M program.
 - a. The Board adopted the various ordinances to put the new program in place.
 - b. The staff's goal is to provide the Treasurer the tax roll by September.
 - c. Homeowner/inspector certification classes will be offered this year for those properties whose operational certificate due dates will be within the first six months of 2013.
 - d. In January 2013 staff will begin sending the first notices to properties that will need to get an operational certificate two months before their due dates.
 - e. The first certificates will be due beginning in March 2013.
 - f. Staff will send GIS layer of the Shellfish District and the septic O&M boundaries to the Nisqually Tribe.
4. Discuss developing an Adaptive Management Work Plan.
 - a. Henderson Inlet.

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- i. Meyer, Sleepy, Dobbs and Goose creeks all flow directly into Henderson Inlet.
 - 1. Dobbs Creek had water quality sampling performed in 2009 to identify the sources of pollution. There were high hits near the model farm. The farm has taken many steps to reduce their contribution to pollutants.
 - 2. Effectiveness monitoring needs to be done to these creeks to measure water quality and whether they meet the State Water Quality Standards.
 - 3. If any to these streams do not meet the Water Quality Standards the testing can be used to identify the most likely pollution sources.
 - ii. Fox, Jorgansen, Palm, Quail, Eagle, and College creeks all feed into Woodland Creek.
 - 1. Past sampling indicate that fecal coliform reductions were needed on all of these streams in order to consistently meet the water quality standard for fecal coliform.
 - 2. These streams are not part of the County's ambient water quality monitoring program.
 - 3. These streams need effectiveness monitoring by Ecology to determine if there has been a change in the water quality conditions of these streams and what actions may still need to be taken if target fecal coliform reductions have not been met..
 - 4. County staff is currently working on their 2011 water quality monitoring report. They found that Woodland Creek met water quality standards for the first time in a long time.
 - 5. The current sewerage project in Woodland Creek Estates will also benefit water quality in Woodland Creek.
- b. Nisqually Reach
- i. Many of the recommended actions from the TMDL for McAllister and Medicine Creeks have been completed but they still do not meet water quality standards. Ecology will need to do effectiveness monitoring again to try to identify pollutant sources.
 - ii. County staff suggested delaying effectiveness monitoring in the Nisqually Reach area until 2015 after the newly adopted septic O&M program has been in place since the program purpose is to improve water quality.
 - iii. The Nisqually Tribe is building a new sewer treatment plan and will plan to produce Class A reclaimed water.
- c. Agricultural actions
- i. Can the Conservation District develop farm plans in areas where the water quality monitoring shows there is a problem?
 - ii. The Shellfish District's original report and recommendation include the following provision. "Develop a program that would assist non-

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commercial farms that have livestock, but limited acreage and manure storage. This program would have a pickup service that would take the manure to a centralized composting area.” Can we look for ways to enhance this program?

- iii. Is it possible to find out what percentage of farms have farm plans in both watersheds?
- iv. Is there a way to honor those that do good farm practices? For example awards at the County Fair.
- v. Is there a way to reward those farmers that are actively implementing their farm plan? For example free oysters.
- vi. Discussed the 4-H program.
 1. Is there a way to include good land stewardship including proper land management, livestock densities and waste management practices?
 2. Can there be a shellfish program in the 4-H program?
- d. Staff will provide the 2009 Shellfish Implementation Report for everyone to refer to at the next meeting.
5. Updates – no updates due to running out of time.
6. Adjourn

Future Meetings: **March 20th, May 15th, July 17th, September 18th, and November 20th.**