



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Scott Clark  
Director

*Creating Solutions for Our Future*

Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts  
Combined Stakeholder Committee  
Meeting Notes May 15, 2012

**Members:** Tris Carlson, Bryan Wilson, Matt Buldis, Kathy Whalen, and Sue Shotwell  
**Alternates:** None  
**Guests:** Jules Schultz (WDOH)  
Cindy James (Ecology).  
**County Staff:** Mark J. Swartout (District staff)  
Art Starry (Environmental Health)

1. Administrative
  - a. Introductions
  - b. Approved March 20, 2012 meeting notes
  - c. Approved the agenda
2. Announced the Health Champion Award by the Washington State Public Health Association to Tris Carlson by recognizing his leadership in improving the marine water quality in Henderson Inlet and the Nisqually Reach.
3. Discussed the official notification from the State Department of Health with the upgrades in Henderson that will become effective June 12, 2012.
4. Discussed developing an Adaptive Management Work Plan.
  - a. The focus of the Adaptive Management Work Plan will be review of the future effectiveness monitoring performed by Ecology. The monitoring will test the waters in the same locations as the TMDL. This will allow us to compare the earlier results with the current results and identify sub-watersheds that need additional work.
  - b. WDOH discussed the prohibited area that stretches for a mile south from the Puget Marina. DOH recently sampled the small stream south of the Puget Marina and the results have shown significant improvement. The most obvious source of fecal coliform in this small watershed is a horse farm with a willing owner that is working with DOH to improve their operation. The water quality of this stream is what caused a portion of the prohibited area and will be

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reevaluated in June. If the coliform levels are still low this could result in a portion of the prohibited being upgraded.

- c. Cindy will apply for the effective monitoring work at the end of the year and if granted would begin in June or July of next year.
- d. DOH has annual reports of their results of marine water quality testing. DOH will report to the Stakeholder Committee areas of concern so actions may be identified and taken to improve water quality.
- e. Once sub-watersheds are identified as not meeting water quality standards the Adaptive Management Work Plan will be developed with goals, objectives and actions for each area.
- f. The effectiveness monitoring will be done in Henderson first after the O&M program has been implemented.
- g. The effectiveness monitoring will be done in the Nisqually reach after the O&M program has mostly been implemented. The program begins to be implemented in January 2013. One sixth of the systems are tested in the marine shoreline each year.
- h. Below are answers to the questions related to agriculture from the last meeting.
  - i. Can the Conservation District develop farm plans in areas where the water quality monitoring shows there is a problem? *YES, though regulatory assistance would make us more successful, as some farmers in problem areas have been reluctant to work with us and ignored our previous outreach efforts.*
  - ii. The Shellfish District's original report and recommendation include the following provision. "Develop a program that would assist non-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? *The Conservation District has a manure brokering service. Farmers can request to be put on the list, which is utilized by those residents seeking manure for gardens, fields, etc. The list is available on our website or by contacting our office. We'd like to work with Solid Waste about having a place at the Hawks Prairie facility for folks to bring excess manure with bedding.*
  - iii. Is it possible to find out what percentage of farms having farm plans in both watersheds? *Yes, with some GIS work, this could be determined.*
  - iv. Is there a way to honor those that do good farm practices? For example awards at the County Fair. *The district does have a Landowner Recognition Program. Awards are presented at the District's Annual Open House and good farming sites are visited (if landowner is willing) during the District's annual Legislative Tour. We tried presenting awards at the fair before, but have had more folks attending the open house.*

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- v. Is there a way to reward those farmers that are actively implementing their farm plan? For example free oysters. *This could be done, perhaps in cooperation with the Community Shellfish Farm. We also have "pasture sticks" that are popular with farmers, though our quantities are running low.*
- vi. Discussed the 4-H program. *We are periodically invited (at least 3-4 tx/yr) to speak on manure management and other good farming practices during 4-H events. A couple years ago, we targeted 4-H groups with a Horse-keeping Education series.*
  - 1. Is there a way to include good land stewardship including proper land management, livestock densities and waste management practices? *Yes, we include all of these in our presentations*
  - 2. Can there be a shellfish program in the 4-H program? *Need to talk to Emily Kileen at the Washington Extension Service.*

### 5. Updates:

- a. Chair – all the positions on the Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board are filled.
- a. Thurston County
  - i. The Thurston County Shellfish Website is now revised.
  - ii. The Health Department is looking for a citizen member of the financial assistance loan committee that works with the County's low interest septic loan program.
  - iii. The Environmental Health Division has received a grant from DOH. One element of the grant will allow us to follow up on last year's Septic Summit and develop strategies to identify areas in the Urban Growth Areas and the cities where septic systems need to convert septic to sewer.
  - iv. The pressure mains are installed in the Woodland Creek Estates and Covington sewer project. The next phase is to connect 61 homes this summer.
- b. Henderson Inlet Shellfish Farm – none
- c. Ecology will provide two watershed maps by our next meeting.
- d. WDOH – the department has authorized the expansion of the geoduck beds in Henderson Inlet. They are also creating a new recreational shellfish website by the end of the year.
- e. Thurston Conservation District – the district is installing a 232 square-foot rain-garden in the Nisqually Highlands development on 58<sup>th</sup> Street. Construction and planting should be complete by the 1<sup>st</sup> week of June.

### 6. Adjourn

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Future Meetings: **July 17<sup>th</sup>, September 18<sup>th</sup>, and November 20<sup>th</sup>.**  
shellfish\_12/meeting notes 5.15.12