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Director

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Health Officer

Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts
Combined Stakeholder Committee
(Draft) Meeting Notes September 17, 2013

Members: Tris Carlson, Bryan Wilson, Pete Heidie, Linda Malatesta, Sue Shotwell, and Matt Buldis

Alternates: None

Guests: Jule Schultz (WDOH)
Cindy James (Ecology)
Derek Rocket (Ecology)
David Hall (Thurston Conservation District)
Kathy Whalen (Thurston Conservation District)
Sarah Moorehead (Thurston Conservation District)
Stephanie Bishop (Thurston Conservation District)
Brian Allen (Puget Sound Restoration Fund – Henderson Community Shellfish Farm)
Mary Middleton (Pacific Shellfish Institute)

County Staff: Lawrence Sullivan (District staff-temporary)
Sue Davis (Environmental Health)

1. Administrative
 - a. Introductions
 - b. Approved July 16, 2013 meeting notes
 - c. Approved the agenda
2. Presentation of the 2014 Shellfish Protection Fund applicants – detailed information on each proposal can be found on the 2014 Shellfish Protection Fund Work Program.

Kathy Whalen gave an overview of the budget which brings in roughly \$140,000 annually. Additionally, the work program also has a working reserve resulting from cautious financial planning and carry-overs from previous years. The 2014 Work Program expenditures total \$174,455.44, which exceeds the expected annual revenue. The financial gap can be covered by the fund reserves.

***** The Committee agreed to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners approval of the final 2014 Shellfish Protection Fund Work Program*****

Comments/questions on the proposed work program (organized by applicant):

- a. Thurston County Environmental Health
 - i. Meeting attendees were pleased to see the source identification (sampling) component of the Thurston County EH proposal
 - b. Thurston Conservation District
 - i. The Clear Choices for Clean Water project should have a baseline to study success and also address the excess yard fertilization through neighborhood associations.
 - ii. The Committee was pleased to hear that farm plans can be designed to address specific water quality issues
 - iii. The Committee wanted to know if the Ecological Site Assessment work could map and address areas best suited for aquaculture. The focus will be on land farming.
 - iv. The group wanted to make sure the Ecological Site Assessment work would help improve water quality in the area and not just help agriculture.
 - c. Pacific Shellfish Institute
 - i. The Committee asked about work similar to the proposed microfiltration study that had been completed by Mason County and others in the Puget Sound region.
 - ii. There were also questions about site selection, which has not yet been determined.
 - d. Puget Sound Restoration Fund
 - i. The Committee was very pleased that the Henderson Inlet Community Shellfish Farm would be able to continue operating on the WSU site.
3. Updates:
- a. WDOH
 - i. Water quality sampling in Henderson Inlet in the summer has resulted in relatively poor results. There has been rainfall prior to sampling, but not enough to close the growing area.
 - ii. Stations 188 & 189 are currently failing the shellfish WQ standard and could require a change in management at the beginning of 2014 (lowering rainfall closure threshold to ½" from ¾"). Not technically a

downgrade yet, but the stations are struggling to keep their classification.

- b. Thurston County Environmental Health
 - i. The 5 year review for the Henderson Watershed Protection Area (HWP) Septic System Operation and Maintenance Program is posted on the Thurston County website.
 - c. Ecology
 - i. Starting effectiveness monitoring for the Henderson Inlet TMDL in 2014. Habitat and biology will be part of the study.
 - d. Nisqually Indian Tribe
 - i. The Tribe is building a new WWTP near the casino.
4. Adjourn

Future Meetings: January 21st, 2014