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Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts
Combined Stakeholder Committee
(Draft) Meeting Notes November 19, 2013

Members: Tris Carlson, Peter Heide, Sue Shotwell, and Matt Bulldis

Alternates: None

Guests: Jule Schultz (WDOH)
Amy Georgeson (WDOH)
Betsy Dickes (Ecology)
Scott Collyard (Ecology)
Cynthia Taylor (City of Lacey)
Kathy Whalen (Thurston Conservation District)
Derek King (Puget Sound Restoration Fund – Henderson Community Shellfish Farm)

County Staff: Lawrence Sullivan (District staff-temporary)
Sue Davis (Environmental Health)
Jim Bachmeier (Water Resources)

1. Administrative
 - a. Introductions
 - b. Approved September 17, 2013 meeting notes
 - c. Approved the agenda
2. Discussion of Upcoming TMDL Effectiveness Monitoring Study. Scott Coyallard

Scott Collyard from the Washington State Department of Ecology presented initial ideas for the upcoming Henderson Inlet TMDL Effectiveness Monitoring Study. The intent of the study is to determine whether or not the water bodies evaluated during the original TMDL have improved following TMDL implementation. The effectiveness project will document what implementation activities have occurred since the TMDL was completed and also determine if those implementation activities have resulted in water

quality improvements. The study should guide adaptive management of the TMDL implementation.

Scott gave a brief description of the Effectiveness Monitoring program and then discussed some initial ideas for the Henderson study. Field work for the project is expected to begin in the summer of 2014 and cover one season of dry weather sampling (June-Sept) and one season of wet weather sampling (Nov-Jan). The sampling could be extended if needed and will include storm event sampling. The project is very early in the design phase and Scott did not have an initial study design to present. The sample sites have not been selected and it is not known how many will be needed. Scott stated that he intended to document what clean-up actions have occurred since the TMDL began and evaluate if there were water quality impacts by sampling at the original sample locations. Scott also said that new sites and parameters may be evaluated to assist with source identification tracking. The effectiveness monitoring project could also include aquatic macroinvertebrates and metals data. The data collected could be used as a new baseline for future work.

There was strong concern from the group about the intent and design of the effectiveness monitoring study. Henderson Inlet is threatened with a downgrade in its shellfish classification and the group is very focused on addressing bacterial pollution to the inlet. There is a strong desire from the stakeholder committee that the effectiveness study should assist in finding the bacteria sources.

Millions of dollars and much work have gone into implementing watershed clean-up activities following the TMDL. The stakeholders want to know if these implementation activities have worked or if changes need to be made. There was concern that not enough time has passed since implementation activities have occurred and that it would take more time for the actions to show improvements.

There was also considerable concern from the group that the effectiveness monitoring study would expand the original intent of the TMDL by sampling for new parameters. The stakeholder committee stated clearly that the effectiveness study should focus on the parameters in the original TMDL. The effectiveness study should not create new implementation requirements on parameters not addressed in the TMDL. Ecology will work to develop the study design during spring 2014. The study design will be brought to the shellfish protection districts again in late spring for more feedback.

3. Updates:

a. WDOH

- i. Water quality sample results in Henderson Inlet in September were not good. There has been rainfall prior to sampling, but not enough to close

the growing area. October sampling in Henderson and Nisqually was much better.

- 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"). Some other stations in the growing area are close to failing the water quality standard and will be listed as Threatened in 2014.

b. Thurston County Environmental Health

- i. Dye test season is starting in January for Henderson and Nisqually. The sewer conversion project in Woodland Creek Estates is complete. The project did not cost neighborhood residents any out-of-pocket money.

c. Puget Sound Restoration Fund

- i. The Henderson Inlet Community Shellfish Farm will be starting to sell product at George and Sons Fruit Market on Lilly Rd.

d. Thurston Conservation District

- i. Orders for the native plant sale are due November 25th, 2014.

4. Adjourn

Future Meetings: January 21st, 2014