



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT

Creating Solutions for Our Future

Scott Clark
Director

**Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts
Combined Stakeholder Committee
Draft Meeting Notes September 16, 2014**

Members: Tris Carlson (Nisqually SPD), Kim Benedict (City of Lacey), Peter Heide (Henderson SPD)

Alternates: None

Guests: Stephanie Bishop (TCD/South Sound GREEN)
Sadie Gilliom (TCD/Clear Choices for Clean Water)
Sarah Moorehead (Thurston Conservation District)
Kathy Whalen (Thurston Conservation District)
Donovan Gray (Ecology)
Jean Snyder (WDOH)
Derek King (Puget Sound Restoration Fund)

County Staff: Allison Osterberg (SPD coordinator – Long-Range Planning)

1. Administrative

- The committee approved the agenda
- The committee approved the July 15, 2014 meeting notes

2. Shellfish Protection Fund Applicants

- Kathleen Whalen noted that billings on the current year's projects are due to the Conservation District by January 15.
- The Shellfish Protection Fund represents 28% of the Conservation District's assessment, and is used to fund projects that improve water quality in the two Shellfish Protection Districts, according to the work plan. The general policy in past years has been to carry over the balance from the first year of the program, around \$140,000. The projects applying for funds this year total more than in past rounds (\$198,873), but Kathy Whalen indicated that part of the annual funds remain unspent each year, so this should not be a problem for the long-term health of the fund.
- Applicants to the Shellfish Protection Fund each gave a presentation on their projects – detailed information on the proposals can be found in the 2015 Shellfish Protection Fund Work Program.

- TCD – Clear Choices for Clean Water. This project will build on work from past years and will expand evaluation of the program. They will be choosing one park to survey for pet waste pick up, by flagging dog waste. They will also organize a watershed tour in either the Henderson or Nisqually area.
 - Members commented that the flagging activity is a great way to call attention to the pet waste issue and educate park goers, while doing the evaluation.
 - Kim Benedict asked whether a park had been selected for 2015; it had not, but they are open to suggestions.
- TCD – South Sound GREEN. This project will continue to provide watershed education for students in grades 4-12, including by bringing kids out to the nearshore environment and showing them the connections between freshwater and Puget Sound.
 - Members asked for clarification on the connection to the Pacific Education Institute (PEI) learning objectives. Stephanie Bishop explained that the program works with PEI, and supports the Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards.
- TCD – Beachcrest Community Natural Resource Inventory and Outreach. This project is a new approach to respond to requests for technical assistance from landowners in the Beachcrest Community near Luhr Beach on Nisqually Reach, who had questions about best practices on steep slopes in the wake of the Oso Landslide.
 - Members liked the approach to working with a small neighborhood community.
 - Allison Osterberg suggested that the project sponsors connect with a landslide risk assessment the County is doing.
- TCD – Technical Assistance and Conservation Planning, and Cost Share Program. This proposal would continue support for the existing program, which helps farmers develop farm plans, and helps remove the cost barriers from implementing best practices like fencing and manure storage.
 - The program has a waiting list, and members wondered if it could be expanded to meet the interest. Kathy Whalen indicated that the budget was scaled to allow funding for all of this year's applicants – this fund is not the only source of funding for the program, and the TCD also looks for other grants and fund sources.
 - Jean asked whether farmers who are referred to TCD get access to the program. Kathy noted that referrals automatically get bumped to the top of the list.
- TCD – Stormwater Remediation Using LID. This project would develop a stormwater retrofit design for two properties around South Bay Elementary School. The projects would provide a high-visibility education site for Low-impact Development practices.

- Members wondered whether the sites identified are actually a concern for stormwater pollution; there is some hesitation to spend money on a site that is not as effective. The project proponents indicated that though there would be some benefit in pollution reduction, the greatest benefit of the project would be in drawing public attention to LID practices.
- TCD – Water Quality Protection Through Working Lands Preservation. This program will conduct workshops and farm tours to help encourage and support the new generation of farmers.
 - Members liked the focus on young farmers, since this demographic shift is a concern throughout the region, but wondered how the classes are structured to educate farmers about the rules and regulations, without overwhelming them, so that it seems do-able. Kathy Whalen noted that the education can be a first step in a long-term relationship with the CD. Word of mouth and farm tours are key.
- Pacific Shellfish Institute – Dog Waste – Doing Something about It. PSI will continue outreach related to pet waste to target parks that are the worst for dog waste.
 - Attendees noted that this project could be coordinated with the Clear Choices program, and South Sound GREEN. It would be good to be able to compare across the different efforts.
 - Kim noted that the city of Lacey had done a follow-up flagging project in Woodland Creek Park, and had not found much waste, so PSI may want to re-evaluate their list of “poopiest parks.”
- Puget Sound Restoration Fund – Community Shellfish Farm. PSRF would like to expand their farming program, even as they reduce the amount of funding they are asking from the Shellfish Fund. In 2015 they plan to expand their oyster giveaway program and facilitate more nearshore education work, while bringing on more interns and volunteers.
 - Members asked how many oysters are harvested from the farm; Derek indicated they seed around 60,000.
- Thurston County Environmental Health Homeowner Septic Grant and Riser Rebate Program. This proposal would continue funding for two popular cost sharing programs provided by the County.
- **The committee agreed to recommend the 2015 Shellfish Protection Fund Work Program for approval by the Board of County Commissioners.**

3. **Updates:**

- DOH: All stations in Nisqually Reach are looking good, including 709 – there are no immediate concerns for the area. In Henderson, the June results showed some moderate numbers at conditional stations that were not associated with rainfall, which was disconcerting. DOH is using a new database that makes sorting and showing the

data easier. There will be more information available closer to December. Derek wondered if it had been a drier year than usual. Jean responded that it had been hotter, but rainier.

The Shellfish Protection Library is available online:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Shellfish/GrowingAreaRestoration>. DOH will also be unveiling an online GIS platform focused on commercial growers and stakeholders and partners. On the site, viewers will be able to see all marine stations and growing areas. Jean will give a presentation on the site at the next meeting.

- Ecology: Donovan Gray is the new TMDL coordinator for Ecology. About a month ago, they reviewed the QAPP for effectiveness monitoring. Jean noted that there has been sampling – about half the sites are on dry, perennial streams. They have sampled above and below the campground on Dobbs Creek and have seen some high and low numbers and a few higher numbers on Fleming Creek.