

**Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts  
Combined Stakeholder Committee  
Meeting Notes January 19, 2016**

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

Guests: David Hall (Thurston Conservation District)  
Jean Snyder (WDOH)  
Derek King (Puget Sound Restoration Fund)  
Stephanie Zurenko (Department of Ecology)

County Staff: Jane Mountjoy-Venning (Thurston County, Environmental Health)  
Allison Osterberg (SPD coordinator – Thurston County, Long-Range Planning)

**1. Administrative**

- The committee approved the agenda
- The committee approved the draft November 17, 2015 meeting notes with corrections

**2. Advisory Group 2016 Work Program and Membership**

- Sue Shotwell has taken a position with Seattle Shellfish and will no longer be the Nisqually Tribe representative on the work group. Allison will reach out to the new contact there, as well as contacts at the city of Olympia and National Shellfish.
- Before recruiting new members more broadly, the group would like to revise the implementation plan and identify what work needs to be done. This will be helpful for framing the discussion when the Henderson area must either be renewed or sunset in 2017.
- The group reviewed a matrix of the recommendations from the 2005 Work Plan. The recommendations are broken into categories: Septic Systems, Stormwater, Agriculture, Land Use, Wildlife, Adaptive Management, and Governance.
- Some additional pollution sources that were not considered in the original plan include pollution associated with recreational use and homeless camps. These can be called out in the updated plan.
- Pierce County has a Strategic Plan for its SPDs that could provide a good model. They break their objectives into three categories: prevention, identification, and correction (fixes). Oakland Bay and Portage Bay also have plans that can provide examples.
- A marine policy fellow with the Department of Health is working on developing an analysis of trends in the SPDs to create graphs that can be used for these discussions, including with elected officials. The next step in this research is to correlate water quality results with actions that have been done on the ground. These visuals would also be helpful for education and outreach, as well as for new members.

- When it is time to recruit new members, the shoreline surveys can be a good opportunity to invite citizens in the watershed. Other ideas were to put a notice in the Stream Team and Talkin' Trash newsletters.

### 3. Updates:

- **DOH:**

- Nisqually Reach: Water quality looking good overall and great at Luhr Beach. Shoreline surveys are starting in March/April; staff will be knocking on the door of every shoreline parcel to verify septic information. DoH is hoping to be able to upgrade part of the Prohibited area around Mill Bight (station 251). The area around 249 will remain closed because of Zittel's Marina.
- Henderson Inlet: All the stations in the Approved and Conditionally Approved areas are meeting standards, but station 188 is barely under the threshold. Stations 201 and 195 in the Approved area are also registering higher numbers. DoH is not sure that rainfall is the best measure of pollution conditions – they see high bacteria numbers in both the winter and summer, which indicates that pollution is not only peaking after storm events. Water quality in Henderson has improved and may be stabilizing, so conditions will bounce back and forth. The higher summer numbers are concerning because previously, Henderson did not have high bacteria in the summer, which is why the rainfall amount has been used as to trigger closures in the Conditionally Approved area. They may consider going to a seasonal closure.
- By March, DoH should have enough samples to classify the area around Fishtrap, which was requested by Taylor Shellfish for potential geoduck harvesting.

- **Ecology:**

- The TMDL effectiveness study should be available by the end of January. Scott Collyard has created a story map with some of the data.
- A landowner on Eagle Creek has agreed to work with the Conservation District and will put up exclusionary fencing and plant a riparian area to prevent livestock accessing the stream.
- Shared information on the Governor's Shellfish Initiative

- **PSRF Community Shellfish Farm:**

- Had great representation at the Turn of the Tides Festival – 50-100 people, and has more work parties coming up

- **Thurston Conservation District:**

- Native Plant sale is coming up on March 5; pre-order deadline is January 30
- TCD is holding elections at the plant sale. Call the Thurston County auditor to get a ballot. There will be food and voting at the plant sale.

- **Lacey:**
  - Held a holiday tree planting event at Woodland Creek Community Park and planted 65 trees
  - Held another large planting event on MLK Day of Service
  - WIN Program. Schools and community groups that sign on to the WIN program complete 40 hours of service and receive a small monetary grant for their program.
- **TC Environmental Health:**
  - Dye testing is ongoing; staff have found 20 failing systems, and all have been repaired. Derek suggested giving out coupons for shellfish when doing the dye tests.
  - Several public meetings have been held on the On Site Septic Management Plan, with one more coming up in February. TCEH has received 45 pages of comments. They are hoping to have a decision in March or April from the Board of Commissioners on which option to pursue.
  - They will be holding 4 general septic education classes this year – these are 2-hour classes. These are different from the 5-6 hour class that is required to get certified in inspecting your own system. Instructors hand out shellfish coupons as a reward for getting the certification.