

**Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts  
Combined Stakeholder Committee  
Meeting Notes May 17, 2016**

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

Guests: Jean Snyder (WDOH)  
David Hall (Conservation District)  
Kathy Whalen (Conservation District)  
Derek King (PSRF)  
Stephanie Zurenko (WDOE)

County Staff: Allison Osterberg (SPD Coordinator - Long Range Planning)  
Art Starry (Environmental Health)  
Natalie Sahli (Long Range Planning)

**1. Administrative**

- The committee approved the agenda
- The committee approved the draft, January 19, 2016 meeting notes

**2. Work Program Membership Criteria**

The districts have an original work plan, which was updated in 2008. The Stakeholder Committee is updating the plan this year. Currently the plan is comprised of sections with actions on potential causes of pollution. Similar format will be kept for new plan and the subject matter will be worked through progressively at this and upcoming regular meetings.

Recommendations for stormwater: The existing work plan makes a number of references to creating LID requirements for new development. By the end of 2016, Thurston County, Lacey, and Olympia will update their regulations and stormwater manuals to be in compliance with Ecology's guidance (minimize impervious surfaces, vegetation, etc.). Many of the LID recommendations in the work plan will be complete at the end of 2016, so there is not a need to push LID forward in work group.

Pilot projects assessing the effectiveness if LID may be a meaningful investment. As may encouraging green roof implementation along with LID. Group could recommend rain gardens and green roofs in rebate programs for commercial buildings.

Recommendations for land use: Some changes to zoning were made in the wake of the 2005 work plan, but no additional zoning changes are planned by the County at this time. The County did a study that wrapped up in 2015 that focused on Woodard Creek basin and found no evidence that changing zoning to reduce future

density had any benefit to water quality because much of the basin is already subdivided into parcels of 5 acres or smaller. Similarly, one recommendation in the work plan refers to requiring certain development standards for a development in Hawks Prairie. The time for changing anything that would apply to this development is long past.

The county is beginning to update its comprehensive plan. The work group could recommend activities to fold in to this update and to the shoreline master program, which is also being updated. Staff can come to a future meeting to update the group on the SMP update.

Thurston County updated its CAO in 2012 with strict guidelines and the other jurisdictions already had these standards – so this recommendation can be removed. There may be an opportunity to provide support through this work program to the voluntary stewardship program, which will enable individuals to maintain economically viable agriculture operation while remaining environmentally conscious is now underway at in a county workgroup. Keep in plan as a support/watch item.

Question: How does the county act outside city limits for supporting smaller community developments and older stormwater systems? Currently, there are inspections in these areas. However, some facilities fall in between county supervision, HOA, and stormwater facility responsibilities.

Lacey, Olympia, and Thurston County are meeting on managing HOA's and are interested in making city and county checklists more similar for landowners. More education to HOA groups and more funding to failing HOA's, such as older subdivisions, which don't have treatment/flow control infrastructures. Recommended: study on updating failing HOA infrastructure.

Findings in Pierce County point to illicit discharge into ditches. To address this problem in Thurston County, private ditching and culverts should be integrated into mapping, as the contents often end up in county ditches.

Education and outreach activities will be kept in the revised implementation plan. Educating homeowners and other users about pet waste has been successful in the city of Lacey. Distributing information wider to offices and pet stores may provide for effective outreach. Currently it is an issue for the county to keep up with all stations. Finding revenue to continue to support the program may solve the issue. A list of unmaintained stations will help define the need. County struggles to find staff for the program, so relying on stewardship from citizens groups may be a reasonable option. The neighborhood program has been successful and therefore will continue.

The stormwater stewards program uses a volunteer base to assess properties with drainage concerns in rural areas and recommend LID or other approaches to dealing with stormwater. Continuing this program is dependent on funding, and currently the cities have not been able to provide support, though it continues in the county. The cities may re-evaluate this in the future depending on

whether the success of the stormwater stewards program is documented. A recommendation to support this program can be added to the work plan.

3. **Updates:**

- ***Thurston Conservation District:*** CD offering Clear Choices incentive based program. The “Dive into Watershed” tour resulted in a better understanding of water quality issues after the tour. About 30 people signed up for the tour, with half of those who signed up attending. Working lands grant is ongoing and well attended. The last topic was pasture management; the next will be goat owners and land management. The South Bay LID project design phase finished last year - Bioretention/infiltration trench is underway now. Rain garden implementation will continue.
- ***WDOH:*** Water quality in Nisqually Reach looks great. Annual inventory report was finished in April. Three threatened stations remain in Henderson, but only far up the Nisqually river are stations failing. Other stations are not near failing. The WDOH hired two new shoreline staff. Hopefully areas near 250/251 will be approved septic-wise. The department is awaiting dye tests. The three threatened stations in Henderson no longer meet rainfall conditions, yet are not threatened with downgrade. Stations were rainfall driven the past 5-10 years. However, due to work by the county, any continued contamination is from a consistent source. WDOH hopes to upgrade these stations from conditional to approved. If there continue to be issues, which can't be identified, stations may be prohibited. Need to focus on non-stormwater-related sources.
- ***Environmental Health:*** Wrapping up with dye testing. On-site sewage management plan update: the department held three community workshops, and about 300 people attended the workshops. There will be a public hearing on June 14 at courthouse- expecting a large crowd. People most concerned that the proposal to extend the fee for operation and maintenance program countywide is a tax grab.  
Urban septic project: This is a separate, but related program; if the OSS plan went into effect then systems in older neighborhoods should be better maintained. In addition, conversion of septics in urban areas to sewers is a priority. ID highest risk neighborhoods and convert those to sewer. Must reach an agreement in the region on funding (20-30,000 per home). Need to develop ordinances for why conversion is necessary. Chicken Farm on S. Bay improved. Environmental Health to hire another Environmental Specialist 1.
- ***City of Lacey:*** Hosted a water quality table as part of a Nearshore field trip. Will start watering party at Woodland Creek- bucket brigade. At Lacey Fun Fair weekend, May 21 and 22, there will be pet waste outreach.
- ***Puget Sound Restoration Fund:*** Education program is in full swing. Three trips to Henderson Inlet. Day of service and near shore education with

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Komachin middle school. Working with Pioneer. About 20-25 people attended most recent work party. People starting to attend from oyster giveaway. Sales cut off end of May. Oyster workshop is 2-4 days of education.

- **Ecology:** Stephanie will be transitioning to a new position at Ecology, out of nonpoint and on to water rights – new contact for our program will be Derek Rockett or Chris Montague-Breakwell. Rivers throughout the state are already seeing low flows. There will be a curtailment on Jr. rights water owners. More difficult for water quality with low flow and high temperatures. Most melt-out already occurred. Henderson effectiveness monitoring report is almost finished and will be presented at the next meeting.
- **Nisqually Tribe:** Attended “Slurp” event. 50,000 oyster seed put in at the farm.
- **Other:** Regional loan program for septic repairs almost entirely through at Environmental Health. Craft 3 can work to better finance those with poor credit. Craft 3 has been very successful in other counties.