

**Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts  
Combined Stakeholder Committee  
Meeting Notes November 15, 2016**

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

Guests: Kathleen Whalen (Thurston Conservation District)  
Lawrence Sullivan (WDOH)  
Donovan Gray (Ecology)  
Scott Collyard (Ecology)

County Staff: Allison Osterberg (SPD Coordinator - Long Range Planning)  
Jane Mountjoy-Venning (Environmental Health)

**1. Administrative**

- The committee approved the agenda
- The committee approved the draft, September 20, 2016 meeting notes

**2. Henderson TMDL Effectiveness Monitoring Study**

Scott Collyard gave a presentation on the results of the TMDL Effectiveness Monitoring study. A report summarizing the study and results will be out at the end of December. A draft version of the report was sent to SPD Committee members on December 1, with comments requested back by December 9.

- There are significant decreases in fecal coliform loading watershed-wide. Slight decrease in Woodard Creek, and a substantial decrease in Woodland.
- Almost all stations show improvement, but a few are increasing. The problem areas, as has been discussed previously, are: Sleepy Creek, Fleming Creek, Dobbs Creek, and Eagle Creek.
- Major improvement in managing stormwater – many stormwater outfalls have dramatically reduced their flows, except for huge rain events
- Report looks at projects that were funded in the watershed between 1990-2014, but only considers state grant funds, not work funded by the county or cities. There has been substantial investment in the watershed, with the heaviest spending in 2009-2014, \$15 million.
- Woodland Creek received 45% of funding and showed the most improvement
- This is one of the few effectiveness studies in the state that have shown reductions. Even though Henderson is not meeting water quality standards, the work invested in the watershed has led to dramatic improvement, even as the watershed has continued to develop.

- Long-term data from Thurston County's monitoring program was very important

### 3. **Work Plan Revision**

The group discussed how the results of the TMDL Effectiveness Monitoring should inform the Implementation Work Plan going forward. Key points:

- There have been watershed-wide improvements, but may need to tailor work plan to focus on continuing problem areas (Dobbs Creek, etc)
- May need to revise wildlife section to look at ways human intervention with wildlife is affecting water quality; look at landscaping to discourage waterfowl and raccoon
- Continued focus on onsite septic systems needed – this is supported by ongoing dry season exceedances
  - What quality control do we have for septic inspection program? EH follows up if reports look iffy, and overall on 10% of properties
  - Discussing options to have 1<sup>st</sup> inspection done by a professional and again every 9-12 years
- Targeted PIC program in Dobbs Creek

### 4. **Updates:**

- ***WDOH:***
  - Nisqually Reach data is looking great. Station 709 had historically been problematic, but is getting lowest results.
  - Henderson, station 189 is failing, and DOH is considering a downgrade. The area does not get great flushing. Station 212 is below the new line and 189, but is meeting standards
  - State is considering making Puget Sound a “No Discharge Zone” for boats. If that comes to pass, the area around marinas that are automatically prohibited will be reduced.
- ***Conservation District:*** The annual Native Plant Sale is coming up and online registration will open this week. The CD is also planning legislative tours highlighting work in the watersheds.
- ***City of Lacey:*** The StreamTeam newsletter is out. Lacey is planning a big MLK Day of Service planting event on 1/16.