

**Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts
Combined Stakeholder Committee
Meeting Notes January 17, 2017**

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

Guests: Amy Hatch-Winecka, Robin Buckingham, Nora White (Thurston Conservation District)
Jean Snyder (WDOH)
Mary Middleton (Pacific Shellfish Institute)
Derek King (PSRF)

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 November 15th, 2016 meeting notes
- Peter Heide announced he is resigning from the group, and this will be his last meeting. He congratulated the group on the work it has accomplished.

2. 2016 Shellfish Work Program Review

Recipients of 2016 Shellfish Funding reported back on the work accomplished over the past year. Briefly:

- TCD's Clear Choices for Clean Water program has committed people to take 279 actions to date. Their goal for 2016 was to add 25 participants, and they have added 26 participants.
- TCD held several shoreline owner workshops, including in the Beachcrest neighborhood. In 2016, they targeted neighborhoods near Long Lake, Tolmie State park, and Johnson point, and had 28 participants. This resulted in 6 follow-up site visits. They observed many interesting solutions to erosion. They would like to set up a time to meet with county planners to get a better idea of shoreline regulations. The group was curious about how the district tracks the effectiveness of these workshops – for example, by doing follow up surveys on behavior.
- TCD's Working Lands Preservation program has hosted 6 workshops and worked with 81 participants. Group members were interested in getting some spatial statistics about the amount of agricultural acreage in the SPDs.
- TCD has been working on several conservation plans – in total 429 practices have been implemented in the SPD. In 2016, TCD worked with 5 landowners; 2 in Woodland basin and 1 in Woodard, and were working with 2 in Nisqually

reach. The plans have recommended 17 BMPs. The TCD follows up by phone with those who do a plan to help with follow through. The TCD has limited capacity to do additional farm plans each year – even if they were granted a little additional funding, it would take a lot more to hire additional staff to work with landowners. One possibility might be bringing in resources from other CDs.

- TCD's cost share program only had one person enrolled so far in 2016 – this was to get fencing. They have had interest from some additional folks. Farmers that are not owners may utilize the program, as long as they have the owners' permission.
- The South Sound Green program has done a lot of education outreach; they estimated there was 80% knowledge gained in at least 3 categories, based on before and after surveys they use. Working with the Nisqually River Education Project out at Luhr Beach they have worked with over 2,000 students since 2006.
- Pacific Shellfish Institute's pet pollution outreach work resulted in handing out new materials at three events, and giving a bacterial contamination presentation to Chambers Prairie Elementary. Over the past 10 years they have given information out at 41 events and have received 450 pledge signatures. They target vet clinics as a key place to reach the desired audience.
- The Henderson Inlet Shellfish Farm in 2016 hosted 8 shellfish "experience" events, bringing 83 community members out to the farm for work parties. They held 6 night low tide work parties with 18 volunteers, and were able to participate in several education events. Their shellfish gardening program reached 15-20 people. They are not likely to continue manning the farm stand – although they are able to inform some new people through the stand, it isn't proving worth the time investment.
- TCD's LID pilot project at South Bay Grange is set up to infiltrate runoff from the parking lot, and the irrigation is now hooked up, though planting has taken longer than anticipated.
- Environmental Health's cost share program has been used by 22 people in Henderson and 13 in Nisqually so far in 2016. The Riser Rebate has been used by 82 folks in total – this is fewer than in past years. Staff are not sure if this is because they need more outreach about the program, or if we are reaching a saturation point in Henderson after so many years of the program.

3. Shellfish NTA Discussion

- Environmental Health received notice that a Near Term Action they sponsored in the Puget Sound Action Agenda to implement the SPD's work plan will be partially funded. Because the funding is limited, the group discussed how best to direct the funds. It was agreed to use the funds to do a pilot Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) program focusing on Dobbs Creek, which has been returning high fecal coliform levels and

Shellfish Protection District Combined Advisory Group
January 17, 2017 Meeting Notes

threatening shellfish areas in Henderson Inlet. The scope of work may not be settled until later in the spring, and the work would take 2-3 years.

4. **Updates:**

- ***WDOH:***
 - Annual Reports are being prepared for all the shellfish areas. Nisqually Reach will be getting Shoreline and Sanitary surveys in 2017.
 - Nisqually Reach data is looking good.
 - Henderson is seeing some changes to its classification. Northern parts of the inlet are being classified by points 825 and 767. Station 189 is failing and bacteria counts at stations north of 189 are also creeping up.