

**Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts
Combined Stakeholder Committee
Meeting Notes July 18, 2017**

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

Guests: Jean Snyder (WDOH)
Donovan Gray (Ecology)

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

1. Administrative

- The committee approved the agenda
- The committee approved the draft March 16th, 2017 meeting notes
- A member requested that the meeting time be changed to better accommodate schedules. The members discussed holding future meetings earlier in the day, and agreed to evenings from 5:30-7pm. The new time can be reconsidered once new members are on board. The coordinator will send out a poll to look at availability.

2. Status and Next Steps for Henderson Inlet Program Reauthorization

- The Ordinance that authorized the Henderson Inlet O&M Program has a sunset clause that discontinues the program at the end of 2017, unless reauthorized by the Board of Health and the Board of County Commissioners.
 - Ordinance 13470: <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/wl-boccpublish8/DocView.aspx?id=3023116&searchid=d6c256a1-75c9-4a67-9151-aa77ebf91054&dbid=0>
- The Board of Health needs to reauthorize the code.
- The Board of County Commissioners (who are the same elected officials as the Board of Health) need to approve the continuation of funding.
- The Board is supportive of reauthorizing the program. There will be at least 1 public hearing.
- Even if the Board chooses not to reauthorize the program, the District itself, and the Stakeholder Group are not disbanded. This is only reauthorization of the rates and fees that fund the septic monitoring and maintenance program in Henderson.
- This funding is separate from the funding gathered through the Conservation District's assessment that funds annual programs to improve water quality in Henderson and Nisqually.

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- Environmental Health staff are considering some changes and options for improving the program, including a slight increase or change in fees, removing the sunset clause, extending the schedule for dye tests out to 9 year intervals to save time and money, investing in a Pollution Identification and Control (PIC) program, requiring that every 3rd inspection cycle be completed by a certified professional (rather than homeowner).
- The support from other agencies (Ecology, DOH, Conservation District, SPD Advisory Group Members) has been helpful in conversations with the Board. The StoryMap created by Ecology around the results of the TMDL Effectiveness has been very well received. The message comes through that the success that has been seen in Henderson is due to different groups coming together and working together. Citizens can feel good about the investments made, because they see results.

3. Membership Drive:

- With Peter Heide's resignation, there currently are no citizen representatives from Henderson, and it is a good time to recruit some new members.
- County staff will work to get a write-up that can run in the StreamTeam Newsletter.
- The deadline for applications from interested residents in the Henderson or Nisqually watersheds will be October 31.

4. Updates:

- ***Ecology***
 - Positive results in Henderson are beyond those seen anywhere else in the state – it is time for celebration and also to learn from that success.
 - Coordinating with the county and other agencies on a communication strategy to get the story out. There has been a meeting with stakeholders and the message is to celebrate the good news and also focus on what still needs to be done to improve and maintain water quality.
 - Outreach effort may include flyers, a short video that could be broken into even shorter messages and built into a school curriculum.
 - The video could possibly be showed during previews at local movie theaters to reach out to different audience
 - Next steps – Ecology would love to get any historic photos of shellfishing in Henderson
 - Suggestions from the group included: looking at old BLM maps from the Bush Callow Act that show cut-ups of oyster leases; contacting

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Jerry Yamashita; Menard Family; looking into a Navy survey of South Puget Sound from 1943, and looking into the archives at National Fish & Oyster.

- Anyone with ideas, old photos, or thoughts about people who might be good to interview and feature in a video, contact Donovan Gray at Ecology.
 - Group suggested Peter Heide may be a good contact, as he was an original SPD group member and often spoke for the group at meetings
- Another next step is to develop a communication plan, identifying the audience, such as elected officials, waterfront property owners. There will be different messages for urban and suburban residents, rural residents, and waterfront property owners.
- Shellfish Fund could potentially fund some of the outreach
- **WDOH:**
 - Nisqually
 - WQ looking good at all stations.
 - Seven stations have been removed from regular sampling, as of May to reduce costs, since wq is looking so good there. DOH is looking for such efficiencies across its Puget Sound program.
 - Continuing shoreline survey; pollution counts have been low, although they did catch a heavy rain event on one outing
 - DOH coordinates with County staff to try to ensure that folks who have just been dye tested do not also get a shoreline survey
 - If a No-Discharge Zone is approved for Puget Sound, the closure around Zittel's marina could shrink.
 - Henderson
 - Shoreline surveys will be due for Henderson in 2020, so will start in 2019.
 - There were a lot of questions from the Board of Commissioners about the red areas, some of which are prohibited for reasons other than WQ. DOH is working with DNR to change areas such as Woodard Bay to show they are closed for conservation purposes, rather than pollution
 - Station 189 is failing, and will be failing through the end of the year, even under the best-case scenario. Classification around this area will be changing.
 - Stations 187 and 190 are also on the edge – it will only take one big count to put them over the limit. High counts are coming across all different months of the year, so it is not a

seasonal trend – this indicates nonpoint sources for the pollution.

- A member has noted more geese in the Inlet.

- ***Thurston County Environmental Health***
 - Staff are developing a work plan for the PIC program, using Kitsap County's program as a model. They want to develop a protocol that will work in other areas as well.
 - Staff may give a longer presentation on that project at the November meeting
 - There is a chicken farm with 200-300 chickens that is coming up on their year to meet their farm plan – they have reduced the number of chickens.
- ***Lacey***
 - The city is recruiting two new Americorps members. There is no longer a 25 or under age requirement.
 - Watering parties continue
 - Storm cleanup is still ongoing in some Lacey parks.
 - The city has lots of Pet Waste stands, including one that is being given to the Grateful Dogs pet groomer and doggy daycare center
- ***Nisqually Tribe***
 - The shellfish farm is closed for vibrio.
 - The tribe is looking at management structure of the farm, and hiring a farm supervisor.
 - Their oysters are going to be featured in *Bon Appetite*
- ***Chair***
 - Tris took Commissioner Hutchings out on a tour of shellfish facilities – they toured Sandy Point and Tolmie Park.