

**Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts
Combined Stakeholder Committee
Meeting Notes December 19, 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)
Jane Mountjoy-Venning (Environmental Health)

1. Administrative

- The committee approved the agenda
- The committee approved the draft October 3rd, 2017, meeting notes, but wished to note that the chicken farm that had been closed in October now has chickens again.

2. Shellfish Fund and Conservation District Update

- At the October meeting, the Committee recommended approving all proposals for the 2018 Shellfish Fund. However, since that time, the financial situation at the Conservation has changed – the proposal for rates and charges was not approved, and neither was an assessment, so the TCD will go into 2018 without a base funding source.
- The Shellfish Fund, which typically is allocated 28% of TCD's assessment will not receive the funding that had been anticipated for 2018. There will still be some amount in the fund, approximately \$150,000, due to carryover from past years and funds that are not spent on projects approved for 2017.
- The Committee members determined that they would like to make a revised recommendation, prioritizing applicants for 2018 funds.
- The Committee members agreed to the following criteria for prioritization, ranking as top priority those projects:
 - That would have a direct impact on health and safety
 - Are ongoing programs, with proven track record of success, rather than new efforts
 - Have no alternative source of funding (to our knowledge)
 - Are likely to reach the greatest number of people (for education projects only)
- Based on those criteria, committee members identified the following three projects as top priority and recommended full funding in 2018:
 - Homeowner Septic Grant Program - \$13,500

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- Technical Assistance and Conservation Planning - \$74,817.55
 - SPD Cost Share Program - \$10,000
 - Committee members identified the following three projects as second tier priority, and recommended partial funding in 2018:
 - South Sound GREEN: Nearshore and Watershed Exploration and Enhancement
 - Oyster Bed Restoration, PSRF
 - Clear Choices for Clean Water
3. Membership and Work Plan for 2018
- Two people submitted applications to join the group, based on the recruitment effort that was sent out in October.
 - The SPD Committee lacks official policies and procedures, so it is not clear how to appoint new members.
 - Allison will bring back some draft policies for the group to consider at the January meeting.
4. **Updates:**
- **WDOH:**
 - Nisqually – WQ data is looking great. There will be a report out in late 2018, as sampling is wrapping up. There is a geoduck farm currently being permitted in the prohibited area near station 251. Any upgrade in that area will likely be minimal, as there are some suspect areas.
 - Henderson – DOH staff handed out a draft map of the proposed downgrade. Station 189 is failing the geometric mean standard; this means there is a pattern of high counts, and not isolated events. Stations 187 and 190 are also very close to failing the standard. There is no obvious pattern causing the higher numbers. There are likely a lot of little sources. Water quality at stations 188, 212, and 186 is also declining. Thurston County EH staff have been following up with a dye test on Johnson Point near a potential agricultural source of bacteria. They have also been following up at the Pleasant Glade park on Dobbs Creek, which is a site of concern. The park was permitted in the 1960s, and didn't have to meet the standards of full-time residential areas. Currently, it is a low income community – the County is looking into the potential for Block Grants in 2019. The Community has contracted with a contractor to do pumping. Ecology staff may be able to help with taking samples.
 - **Ecology:**
 - Ecology is proposing a Near Term Action, in the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda to bring on additional nonpoint staff. Derek Rockett has moved on to a new position, so there will be new

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staff working in our area on nonpoint issues.

- The outreach effort around Henderson has stalled due to a lack of capacity at Ecology, and Donovan requested some feedback from the group about how best to move forward. Other jurisdictions are also struggling with capacity. The committee would like to revisit these priorities at the next meeting.