

**Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts
Combined Stakeholder Committee
Meeting Notes January 16, 2018**

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

Guests: Lawrence Sullivan (WDOH)
Laurie Niewolny, Donovan Grey (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 December 19th, 2017 meeting notes

2. Dobbs Creek PIC Program Update (Jane Mountjoy-Venning)

- Ecology has approved the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for the sampling protocol.
- PHSS has gotten permission from the Pleasant Forest Campground to sample on site. The Camping Club has an approved septic system (OSS) for their comfort station, clubhouse, and kitchen, but less is known about how the individual campers are disposing of waste. Under the new rules for the Henderson OSS program approved by the Board of Commissioners, the Camping Club will be responsible for increased fees tied to each holding tank (rather than just one fee for the entire property), and they will require annual inspections. As part of the PIC program, county staff will do a resurvey of what is out there and compare with a similar survey from 20 years ago. RV tanks today are smaller and more portable, and what people are considering a “holding tank” for waste may differ from how DOH defines a holding tank. The county approved the style of tank commonly used at the campground in 1997.
- Campground consists of more than 400 sites – very small lots with RVS, mobile homes, tiny homes, and other dwelling sites – all need to be removable and have axels. When originally permitted, the site was not intended for year-round, permanent housing, but now residents are a mix of seasonal and year-round. A septic pumper comes around once a week, but pumping is the responsibility of the individual lot owner. In the long term, site might be a candidate for a LOSS (large on site septic system)
- PHSS staff will sample throughout the creek and as they get hot spots for bacteria, they will follow up.

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- Fleming Creek – mouth of this creek is now owned by Capitol Land Trust. There are some farms on the creek.
- Nisqually Tribe has orthogonal aerial photos, which may be helpful
- Sampling starts in January and plan to do 4-6 samples in wet conditions and 4-6 in dry
- Raccoon feeding may also be an issue, especially on Fleming Creek. Thurston County doesn't have an education program around wildlife feeding, but WDFW has some resources. Nisqually Tribe hasn't noticed that raccoons are a major issue on the beach.

3. Shellfish District Membership

- Since the committee is looking to expand its membership, timing is good to shore up general policies and procedures for the group, which haven't really been looked at since the group was formed. Members reviewed some draft materials and gave suggestions, including – removing requirement for designating alternates, clarifying membership, BoCC-appointed members will serve for 3-year terms, and can serve multiple terms, Tribe and Cities can send their own designees, and add a policy for unexcused absences.
- Revised Committee procedures will be brought to the March meeting

4. Updates:

- **WDOH:**
 - Nisqually Reach water quality is looking good, shoreline survey is wrapping up and no alarming new findings. Based on the results of the survey the prohibited area around Station 149 may shrink.
 - Henderson Inlet – Station 189 is failing and stations 187, 190, 191, and 195 are also struggling, and for the first time Station 197 is also inching up with a higher 90th Percentile. The change in Henderson is that sampling no longer shows big spikes in bacteria counts, but there is a steady increase over time. The lack of spikes is good news, but it means there are likely multiple, distributed sources, rather than one point source that can be addressed. To improve water quality, will need to address all the small sources. Unless there is marked improvement in Station 189 a downgrade is coming and would be finalized in May. DOH is still considering whether that would be a downgrade to prohibited status or some kind of conditional status.
- **Chair:**
 - The County's Shoreline Master Program is under review and draft chapters are under review. Can invite Brad Murphy to give a presentation at a future meeting.
- **Lacey:**

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- Had 219 volunteers for MLK Day of Service planting event at Woodland Creek Community Park
- Ecology:
 - Ecology still interested in supporting a communication effort for Henderson Inlet, but communication staff hasn't had much time. With new staff, they may have more time – would love to hear from group if they have ideas on how to assist with communication efforts.
 - The nonpoint program is expanding and looking to be more proactive than reactive.