1. **Call to Order**

Chair Bower, followed by introductions of Planning Commission members, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

   a. **Attendance**

   Members Present: Bob Bower, Tom Cole, Liz Lyman, Thomas Smith, Brian Fagernes, and Mark Lovrien

   Members Absent: Janet Reiner, Barbara Frost, and Peggy Paradise

   Staff Present: Jennifer Hayes, Fred Knostman, and Sandy Norton

   Guests: Mark Swartout, Water and Waste Management and Tim Ransom, Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team

   b. **Approval of Agenda**

   The agenda was approved as submitted.

   c. **Approval of Minutes**

   Commissioner Lyman moved seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the minutes for September 5, 2001. Motion carried.

2. **Public Communications**

None.

3. **Briefing/Update: Thurston County Shellfish Response**

Mark Swartout, Natural Resources Program Manager for Thurston County, provided an update on the County’s ongoing efforts to respond to shellfish bed closures in Henderson Inlet and Nisqually Reach. Mr. Swartout stated that shellfish beds were downgraded last October/November in Henderson Inlet and Nisqually Reach where McAllister Creek flows out, and in addition several hundred acres of shellfish beds were again downgraded in June of this year in Henderson Inlet. Mr.
Swartout stated that the County is required to create a shellfish protection district within 180 days to determine the boundaries of that district and a work program to address the contamination. Mr. Swartout stated that public workshops have been held to educate the public on the issues and to allow the public an opportunity to express their concerns.

Mr. Swartout handed out a matrix identifying what was heard at the public workshops and the County’s outreach efforts in a two-phased approach. Phase 1 involves correcting known sources of fecal coliform using existing program funding and regulations, testing, and continued public involvement. Known sources include failing septic systems, stormwater, agriculture, and other land uses. Phase 2 will involve action based on the results of Phase 1, including development of funding sources. The next public workshop has been scheduled for October 1, 2001, Thurston County Fairgrounds, Heritage Hall, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to discuss this phased approach.

A discussion followed.

4. **Briefing/Discussion: Shellfish and Stormwater Issues**


Mr. Ransom spoke briefly on the following handouts:

*Response Strategy for Shellfish Growing Area Downgrades in Henderson Inlet and the Nisqually Reach*

Mr. Ransom used the handout to highlight information on the state’s closure response strategy developed in response to the downgrades at Henderson Inlet and Nisqually Reach and the objectives by which the tasks were organized. Mr. Ransom stated that the entire strategy and the task matrices (referred to in the handout) for the Henderson Inlet and Nisqually Reach is available on the Internet at [www.wa.gov/puget_sound/Programs/shellfish/Shell_quality.htm#Clo](http://www.wa.gov/puget_sound/Programs/shellfish/Shell_quality.htm#Clo).

*South Puget Sound Area Water Quality Study Phase 1 – September 2001 Draft*

Mr. Ransom stated that Department of Ecology has put this study together based on the question of “What are the cumulative impacts of increased nutrients to the South Sound?” He noted that Chair Bower had posed this question in a previous meeting. Mr. Ransom provided overheads and a brief summary of the study, the potential impacts of increased nutrient loading, and point and nonpointe
sources. The study is divided into two phases, which are:

Phase 1 – described in the present report, includes analysis of historical data, data collection, and initial development of coupled three-dimensional hydrodynamic and water quality models of South Puget Sound.

Phase 2 – will refine the models and fill in gaps in understanding necessary to evaluate future conditions and recommend management strategies.

Mr. Ransom stated that the full draft report would be available on the Department of Ecology web site in one week at www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0103029.html.

Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan 2000 – Stormwater and Combined Sewer Overflows Program

This handout provides the problem definition to stormwater and combined sewer overflows as well as the institutional framework, program goal and strategy, and the elements of the program. Mr. Ransom provided an overhead and spoke briefly on the three sources of guidance and what a comprehensive stormwater program shall include. Mr. Ransom also provided staff with a CD on low impact development practices. Review of the CD is available upon request.

Discussion

Commissioner Bower handed out several items, which include:

1) Excerpt from Washington State Fisheries Bulletin titled “The Rise and Decline of the Olympia Oyster.” Commissioner Bower stated this document shows that within about four years 60 percent of the Olympia Oysters being harvested disappeared when the state approved sulphite waste liquor to be dumped into the water. Commissioner Bower referred the Commissioner to 4 and D of page 125. Commissioner Bower stated that this activity contributes to some of the pollution being dumped in Budd Inlet.

2) Streamside Livin – quote from a recent EPA study.

Commissioner Bower stated that he has yet to read an article from any government or state official that says are problem, or a portion of the problem is coming from urban areas. Commissioner Bower stated that failing septic tanks and livestock from farmers seems to always be the blame. If we are going to clean up Puget Sound we need to address all of the problems and part of the problems from Puget Sound is coming from sewage treatment plants and the urban areas.

3) Excerpt from Thurston County Water & Waste Management Division, Cooper Point
Facilities Plan which addresses monitoring in Budd Inlet and nutrient/bacteria impacts. Commissioner Bower stated that it is known nutrients are not good for Puget Sound but yet we are spending millions of dollars to study how much more we can put in.

4) Quote from Bob Woolrich, Department of Health Office of Shellfish Programs dated June 11, 1998

5) Summary from Draft 1991 Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan

Commissioner Bower asked the Commission for their thoughts on direction or possible solution.

Commissioner Lyman stated she would be interested in an assessment of the measures taken and success of other established shellfish protection districts in the Puget Sound.

Commissioner Cole stated that more information is needed and Commissioner Bower presented reasonable evidence that there are other areas that could be contributing to the problem and we need answers to questions being posed.

Mr. Swartout stated that their public outreach effort is giving people an opportunity to help develop the program. Mr. Swartout also stated that downgrades that have happened in the urban areas have not been upgraded and one of the issues found is that stormwater is the toughest one to try and figure out how to correct fecal coliform and our facilities are not designed to treat fecal coliform. Mr. Swartout also stated that the County is trying to come up with a set of realistic goals that was socially, politically, technically, and financially acceptable.

Mr. Ransom stated that there is a real distinction historically and currently between rural watersheds and urbanizing watersheds. We have already given up on the urban water in Puget Sound. There are permanently closed areas set by State Department of Health around the major urban watersheds in Puget Sound.

Commissioner Lyman stated that she does not agree with giving up. We should be able to try to implement measures, because these places will get redeveloped. During the redevelopment process we can retrofit certain things based on the technology available at that time.

Mr. Swartout stated that when we tried to establish a set of goals for Henderson Inlet the approach was not to give up but rather to try to figure out what had happened and to maintain and to improve the water quality before it gets downgraded.

Commissioner Bower stated that at one time he was trying to get the Olympia Oysters listed as in endangered species to try and get the Act to try and address problems that other people will not address. Now that salmon is accepted as endangered species it may be worth the effort to get the Olympia Oyster native to these waters listed as an endangered species, which would force some of
these problems to be addressed. Commissioner Bower also stated that based upon what he has learned he has proposed a regional approach to Commissioner O’Sullivan. Everybody south of Tacoma Narrows, three Counties, and Fort Lewis should be invited to the table to figure out the ten largest point sources of pollution and ten largest nonpoint sources. Commissioner Bower stated that a cycle could be developed where systems are constantly evaluated by businesses and people in the industry as much as possible rather than have County staff to accomplish the task. If a system were in place that would take care of the entire South Sound we would not need emergency approaches.

Commissioner Lyman expressed concern with all the hazardous substances in Puget Sound and the impact on shellfish. Mr. Ransom stated that shellfish are not carriers for heavy metals. There is a certain amount of shellfish tissue monitoring that goes on. The ambient levels of PCB’s/heavy metals/shellfish tissue are at safe levels throughout the Sound. Shellfish are siphoning water and not eating sediment. Up to this point there have not been alarms for active commercial shellfish sites for those kinds of chemicals.

5. Planning Commission and Staff Updates

Letter from David Burns, City of Lacey

Jennifer Hayes handed out a letter from David Burns, Principal Planner for City of Lacey. The City is requesting the County’s participation during their Comprehensive Land Use Planning process and is requesting Planning Commission members to sit in on their meetings and discussions. The City feels the coordination of efforts would be beneficial to both the City and County.

Several Commissioners expressed interest in participating, however, they needed to look over their schedules prior to committing. Commissioner Smith, Lyman, and Cole requested to receive materials from the City prior to the meetings. Ms. Hayes stated that she would have them added to the City of Lacey’s mailing list and she would email each of the Commissioners the City’s Planning Commission work program to provide the Commissioners with immediate information to base their decisions on.

Lakeside Industries Board Appeal

Mr. Knostman stated that the Board overturned the Hearing Examiner’s decision and that Lakeside Industries is likely to appeal the Board’s decision to Superior Court.

Development Services Department Director Position

Mr. Knostman stated that the position has been advertised and the closing date is October 19, 2001.
Cooper Point Wastewater Facilities Plan

Mr. Knostman stated that the Court of Appeals upheld the Growth Hearings Board decision against the extension of a 4” sewer line into the rural area on Cooper Point. The Prosecutor’s Office is looking to see if the County wishes to appeal to Supreme Court.

Low Impact Development

Commissioner Lyman asked the Commission if they would be interested in being organizers of a forum on low impact development. Commissioner Lyman stated that she and Commissioner Paradise feel there are issues that have not been addressed about LID and thought it would be interesting to have a forum where the Commission would invite a variety of people who are involved or impacted by low impact development to exchange information and ideas. We would start out with one meeting and the goal would be to educate people on low impact development. Planning Commissioners discussed the possibility of such a meeting, and what the goals might be. Commissioner Lovrien stated that he thought low impact development was not feasible in Thurston County. Commissioner Cole asked for clarification about the goal of the meeting. Commissioner Lyman said she had talked with County Commissioner Oberquell, who supported the idea of having a forum for an exchange of ideas and information, hopefully with local developers who had done LID and could provide insights into its possibilities or limitations in this area.

6. Calendar (Tentative)

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Bob Bower, Chair
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE OF REQUEST</th>
<th>ISSUE/REQUEST</th>
<th>AUTHOR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/24/01</td>
<td>What percentage of SEPA projects were in the UGA last year?</td>
<td>Bower</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/18/01</td>
<td>How much money are the cities paying to the County for Parks?</td>
<td>Bower</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/06/01</td>
<td>Is a Planning Commissioner prohibited to testify as a member of the public on issues before the Commission if they are not acting as a member of the Planning Commission?</td>
<td>Lyman</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/05/01</td>
<td>Amount of funds diverted from Roads and Transportation to the Sheriff’s Office Traffic Safety Unit.</td>
<td>Bower</td>
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