



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Michael Welter
Director

Nisqually Reach and Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection Districts
Combined Oversight Committee
Meeting Notes September 18, 2007

Members: Tris Carlson, Linda Maletesta, Bryan Wilson, Peter Heidi, Jerry Yamashita, and Vince McGowen

Alternates: Fred Michelson

Guests: Mark Fischer (Puget Sound Restoration Fund)
Jeff Swotek (NRCS)
Mary Middleton (Pacific Shellfish Institute)
Ann Mills, Mike Kuttel, David Hall (Thurston Conservation District)
Sheila Edgerton – Nisqually River Education Project

County Staff: Mark J. Swartout, Sue Davis, and Rachel Donnette (Thurston County Environmental Health)

1. Administration:
 - A. Introductions
 - B. Approved the Agenda
 - C. Approved the July 10th Meeting Notes with correction.
2. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Jeff Swotek
 - A. Presented an overview of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which provides technical and financial assistance to address a wide variety of locally identified resource concerns.
 - B. Presented an overview of the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), which provide technical and financial assistance to address locally identified wildlife resource concerns.
3. Discussed the proposed 2008 Work Program – included in the meeting packet were the proposals. The meeting notes will add to the information included in the packet.
 - A. Background:
 - 1) Mark explained that the Conservation District Assessment is in the process of being renewed for an additional 10 years and still includes the 28% provision to be set aside into the Shellfish Protection Fund.

- 2) Beginning in 2008 the District will be administering the funds and the program rather than the county.
 - 3) The proposals should implement the recommendations from the Shellfish District's Report and Recommendations and the Septic System Operation and Maintenance committee.
 - 4) The 2008 Shellfish Protection Fund Work Program needs to be mutually approved by the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners and the Thurston Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
- B. Puget Sound Restoration Fund – proposes to continue funding the Henderson Inlet Community Shellfish Farm (CSF). **\$20,000**
- 1) The CRS has had over 450 students and teachers visit the site this year.
 - 2) There are about 600,000 oysters at the farm.
 - 3) They continue to plant shellfish gardens on private property in Henderson Inlet.
- C. Thurston Conservation District:
- 1) The Shellfish Pledge program: **\$14,0048**
 - a. The Pledge program continues to be popular and implements many actions to improve the water quality in Henderson Inlet and the Nisqually Reach.
 - b. In 2008 the program will enlist the help of a focus group to recommend a new name and cover to their booklet.
 - c. The program seeks participants in the worst areas.
 - 2) Cost Share: \$ 25,000
 - a. The TCD tries to add additional funds to this program from other sources such as NRCS. However, the TCD Cost Share program is in greater demand because of less red tape and quick availability of funds.
 - b. One of the criteria to be eligible for this program is to be developing or have a Conservation Plan.
 - c. It was agreed to increase the amount to \$25k.
 - 3) Students, Shellfish & the Shore – education: **\$14,647**
 - a. TCD besides the various education components is looking to have students work on improving 2 riparian or shoreline habitat and water quality sites.
 - b. It was suggested to coordinate with the Nisqually River Education Project coordinator to have a student presentation at a Board meeting.
 - 4) Riparian / Shoreline Project Maintenance: **\$8,000**
 - a. Used as a grant match to maintain a minimum of 5 planting sites.
 - b. There is a lack of resources to follow up on maintaining riparian plantings.
- D. Thurston County Environmental Health:
- 1) Small grants program: \$8,000
Demand for this program will continue to grow as the program in phased in.

- 2) Septic O&M incentive program: \$28,000

This program will also continue to be popular as the program is phased in.

- 3) Shellfish Pledge Project: \$11,026

Cooperative program with TCD

- 4) It was suggested for a new proposal that would provide \$17k to help fund another instructor for the septic system certification training, which has become extremely popular.

E. PSI Pet waste Education 2008 \$4,051

- 1) Continuation of program from 2007 with brochure distribution.

- 2) New Bus signs to be run for 2 months

F. Nisqually River Education Project \$ 2,950

School based bacteria monitoring in Nisqually and Henderson SPD

G. Outcomes of discussion:

- 1) The stakeholder committee agreed to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners and Board of Supervisors approval of the proposed 2008 Shellfish Protection Fund Work Program.

- 2) There was a discussion on how to evaluate the effectiveness of the various education activities in the work program in changing behavior.

- 3) Estimated 2008 fund \$158,286.00, Proposal expenditure \$152,722, \$3564 left to distribute

4. Next meeting: The annual report and a presentation on the Woodland Creek Pollutant Reduction Report

5. Future meeting: Someone to provide additional information on NPDES Phase 2 and how it applies to the Shellfish Program adaptive management.

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