



THURSTON COUNTY
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SINCE 1852

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OFFICE OF PROGRAM AND BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

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Nisqually Reach Shellfish Protection District
Stakeholder Group
Meeting Notes of August 7, 2002

Present: All members were present with the exceptions of Christine Buckley and Donita Zblewski. Fred Michelson, the alternate for Ms. Buckley, was in attendance.
Staff Present: John Tennis (Thurston County)
Guests: Tim Ransom

- I. Introductions were made; the agenda was approved; Meeting notes of July 26th were approved.

- II. Eric Hielema of the City of Lacey presented information regarding storm water runoff, storm water policies and regulations and the impacts in the McCallister Creek, Nisqually Basin area. Some of the key points were-
 - a. Storm water runoff, created by impervious surfaces needs storage and treatment. In most cases soils in the area are well suited for infiltration.
 - b. Storm water can be a conveyer of fecal coliform contamination. The fecals can come from a variety of sources including pets, birds, wildlife, septic systems, etc.
 - c. Major storm water outfalls exist in the area, especially from the Hidden Forest development.
 - d. Current "Best Management Practices" do not provide for storm water facilities to account for fecal contamination.
 - e. Large commercial developments in the area, such as Target and Home Depot distribution warehouses will have on-site settling ponds for run off. Some new housing developments (Nisqually Bend and Nisqually Bluff) will either have on-site settling ponds or the runoff will be piped to a lower area to avoid saturating the hillside and running the risk of landslides.
 - f. The City of Lacey works in tandem with the County on proposed development in the Urban Growth Management Area. The city reviews storm water treatment proposals and provides comments for the county to consider when negotiating with project proponents. Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater and Thurston County are working together to update the storm water design manual to meet new Department of Ecology standards. Draft revised chapters of the manual are available on the county website and comments are welcome. The manual revisions should be completed by next year.

- III. Fred Knostman and Jennifer Hayes of Thurston County presented the group with

information regarding zoning and land use practices in the area. A few major points were:

- a. Zoning for the county started in 1980. The first Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1988. The current plan was adopted in 1995. County planning functions are required under the 1990 State Growth Management Act including a 6-year capital facilities plan, zoning and land use designations, housing, utilities, rural area and critical areas protections, roads and transportation and establishment of urban growth boundaries.
- b. Zoning districts and densities in the Lacey urban growth area are similar to those in the City of Lacey. The city cannot extend urban level services to areas beyond the urban boundary. The zoning and boundaries are based on a 20-year projection of population growth.
- c. There are no special regulations for protection of shellfish harvest areas. The Nisqually Group could put forward such language to potentially be contained in revisions to the county comprehensive plan, which is currently undergoing revisions.
- d. Jennifer mentioned that the natural resource lands policies and critical areas ordinances are being updated right now and revisions could possibly be made to include shellfish language. She said it could also be important to designate shellfish harvest areas on maps so planners and developers would be aware of them.
- e. There was also a discussion of when it might be appropriate to require existing homes (on septic) to connect to sewers, which is required in certain, limited, cases in the urban growth area but not outside those boundaries.
- f. There was a discussion of whether it made sense to designate shellfish areas as critical areas, which could limit their use. Alternatively, designation as natural resources areas, with flexibility for future land use, might be more appropriate. In either case, what standards to attach to these designations remains a question and on what scale. (Watershed? Basin? Etc.)
- g. Question – Were Shellfish beds considered in the current zoning of the Nisqually Reach area? Answer – No. *At the time we started the review in 1990 the Nisqually area was down zoned from RR1/1 to interim RR 1/5 and then in 1993 was zoned to the current zoning pattern, which included different Rural zones. The primary consideration was keeping the Shoreline in a low density, which was consistent with the existing development and Shoreline Master Program. The Public Preserve zone was established for the Nisqually Delta area. At the time in early 1990's the shellfish issue was not a topic of much discussion. The County was more interested in low density and rural character.(Fred added this.)*

IV. Discussion of administrative issues.

- a. The revised ground rules were adopted by the committee.
- b. No new alternate group members were reported.
- c. Lisa Dennis-Perez gave an update of the activities of the Henderson Inlet Group. The Nisqually Group requested she give a short update of the Henderson activities at each meeting,
- d. The draft news release was approved for release to the media.
- e. The D O H letter of July 12 was passed out to the group. They also received the Natural Resource Lands Update fact sheet and the Natural Resource Lands Open House notice from Jennifer.

V. The Group discussed the work plan and time line.

- a. Group members are to consider their priorities for action as listed under the Response

- Strategy and come to the October meeting ready to compare the priorities and create a consensus list.
- b. Group members at that time may create sub-committees who would do in-depth study of some of the priority areas and would then report to the entire group.
- VI. Agenda for the September 4th meeting – Linda Malatesta is to chair.
- a. Introductions, approve June 5th and August 7th Meeting Notes, and approve Agenda.
 - b. Presentation on known storm water outfalls in the McCallister Creek, Nisqually delta area, any fecal coliform studies related to that runoff, and any D O T outfalls in the area. In addition, a presentation was requested that would outline development projects that are underway for the area as well as those that are in the planning stages.
 - c. Update from Debbie Sergeant regarding the water quality testing being done in the area.
 - d. Update on plans to host a public workshop on water quality sampling.
 - e. Update of committee members' work on prioritization of actions in the Response Strategy.
 - f. Update on work by Henderson Shellfish Protection District committee.
 - g. Where to go from here?
- VII. Future meeting dates and chairs:
- a. September 4th – Linda
 - b. October 2nd – David
 - c. November 6th – Matt
- VIII. Public Comment – none during the allotted time.
- IX. Adjourn at 9:00 PM

MS:shellfish/Nisqually/Meeting Notes 8.7.02