



THURSTON COUNTY

WASHINGTON

SINCE 1852

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OFFICE OF PROGRAM AND BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Nisqually Reach Shellfish Protection District
Stakeholder Group

Meeting Notes of September 4, 2002

Present

Committee: All members were present with the exceptions of Lisa Dennis-Perez.
Alternates: Fred Michelson and Don Malatesta
Staff/Guests Present: Mark Swartout, Scott Clark, Scott Davis, Mike Kain (Thurston County), Steve Thompson (WDOT), Kirk Robinson (TCD), and Debbie Sargent (WDOE).

- I. Introductions were made; agenda approved; Meeting notes of June 5th were approved; a correction was made to the Meeting Notes of August 7th – place on October 2nd agenda for final approval.

- II. Discussion of the Water Quality Public Workshop:
 - a. Date/Time – October 28th from 7 to 8:30 PM.
 - b. Possible meeting locations in priority order:
 - i. Nisqually Wildlife Refuge.
 - ii. Lacey Fire District Station on Steilacoom Road. – *(Reserved it on 9/6)*
 - iii. Nisqually Reach Nature Center
 - iv. Lacey Community Center
 - v. Thurston County's new Public Health Bldg. (across from St. Peter's Hospital).
 - c. Publicizing efforts were discussed.
 - i. Direct mailing of a post card would be preferred. Costs need to be determined. The TCD offered to partner in this effort.
 - ii. Press Release.
 - d. Festival of Waters on September 28th at the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge – it was suggested the county should have a display. *(The county is planning on having the same display as last year).*

- III. Discussed the District's support of the Thurston Conservation District Assessment by sending a letter to the Commissioners. The letter needs to be signed by everyone and should include:
 - a. Support tax dollars toward reducing fecal coliform.
 - b. The work of the District with agricultural producers has resulted in improving water quality.
 - c. The Assessment would result in no reduction of services in the Nisqually Basin.

- IV. Update on the TMDL process:

- a. Results of testing for Dissolved Oxygen were low. The D.O. levels are low in the water coming out of McAllister Springs.
 - b. Results of fecal coliform testing in early July were fairly low.
 - c. Future testing program will be focused on storm events.
 - d. In reviewing data: Improvements in bacteria levels upstream of Steilacoom Road are seen after late 1999.
 - e. The sampling season will from this November through next September.
 - f. Agencies doing the testing will be WDOE, WDOH, TCD, and Thurston County.
 - g. Ecology will provide the preliminary qualified results on a regular basis to the committee.
 - h. Ecology will provide a more thorough mid-season update in March.
 - i. Ecology will provide to the group a handout on the TMDL process.
 - j. Ecology will provide the QAPP to the group when it's completed.
 - k. Chris Mann will provide quarterly reports of the results of his student-testing program.
 - l. Ecology will be testing for both fecal coliform and e.coli in freshwater.
 - m. There is a challenge in trying to determine where the break is between marine and fresh water. This is important due to the different water quality standards that are applied to marine and fresh water.
- V. Work Plan discussion – a draft work plan was presented by Greg – comments and recommendations include:
- a. The report needs to be written so anyone can understand it.
 - b. There is the same framework for each of the topics.
 - c. Barriers of success is in each topic – e.g. might include very high cost.
 - d. Appendix 1 – is the map of the district.
 - e. It was suggested to break down into working groups for each topic.
 - f. The draft report provides a structure on how to proceed.
 - g. Need to incorporate Conclusions and Priorities.
 - h. Need to include education – educational activities will most likely be included in each of the topics.
- VI. Continuing more indepth discussion on Stormwater issues
- a. See attached powerpoint presentation for details.
 - b. Q and A.
 - i. There was a 37-acre clearcut above the shellfish growing areas. Is there any requirements for stormwater / runoff protection.
 - 1. The current version of the stormwater manual only considers impervious surface.
 - 2. Most timber harvesting in the rural areas (outside UGA) is regulated by WDNR as a class 3. This requires replanting as forestland. There is no County review of a class 3.
 - 3. If the rural area being harvested is going to have a landuse change, such as a subdivision, then the County becomes the regulatory agency. This type of harvest requires a class 4 permit. All class 4 permits require SEPA.
 - 4. If the harvest is within the urban areas (within UGA) the County is the regulatory agency. All harvests in the UGA are class 4.
 - 5. There is a possible regulatory gap with class 4 (conversion) harvesting in the

rural areas.

- a. The proponent is allowed to cut the trees first then submit a development proposal at which time the stormwater review kicks in.
 - b. Conditions may be placed in the SEPA determination. However, stormwater conditions in rural harvests are routinely designed to mitigate erosion and do not address infiltration or treatment. That comes later when the development proposal is reviewed. In contrast, in the urban areas, the SEPA will address all aspects of stormwater for the associated development proposal as well as the harvest activities.
- ii. The new Stormwater Manual is planned to be completed and approved by end of 2004.
 - iii. New standards may not achieve the desired reduction in fecal coliform loading. A more wholistic approach will be needed such as including landuse as well as the new standards.
 - iv. Q and A.
 1. What is currently mapped by the utility? Answer: At this point only culverts and infiltration facilities. Other discharges will be mapped in 2003.
 2. Where are developments occurring? Answer: Next month Scott will provide a map of commercial and subdivision developments in the permitting stage – those that have been vested. Most of the proposed development will have infiltration facilities for stormwater.
 3. Does the County know how water drains from the uplands to McAllister Creek? Answer – Need to know the soil types thereby identifying porous and non-poruous soils. Need a map with soils and location of proposed development.
 4. Is there a map of impervious surface in the area? Answer: Yes – Thurston Regional Planning has a map and Scott will bring it next month.
 - v. Discussion on WDOT outfalls.
 1. Stormwater from the main outfall under I-5 doesn't have much fecal coliform but does contain heavy metals, oils, and sediment resulting from about a ¼ million cars per day.
 2. The heavy use of vehicles causes significant runoff problems.
 3. At the bottom of the hill there is a 42" diameter drainage pipe outfall. This fall it will be retrofitted with a flow splitter and bioswales on each side.
 4. Future proposal is to line ditches with compost amended soils and revegetate, which will continue to reduce pollutant loading and sedimentation.
 5. Q and A.
 - a. Can WDOT treat fecal coliform at the big outfall? Answer – No water quality testing has indicated a problem of fecal coliform.
 - b. Are tidegates a problem? Answer – WDOT owns the levees and the tidegate. They have replace 5 failing tidegates this construction season. Yes the failing tidegate have been a problem because by failing they allow more water onto adjacent agricultural fields during high tides. The water picks up and transports the fecal coliform as the tide recedes.
 - c. A suggestion was made to study the hydrology of the McAllister to better understand the impacts of the dikes and tidegates.

VII. Agenda for the October 2nd meeting – David Troutt is the chair.

- a. Introductions, approve August 7th and September 4th Meeting Notes, and Agenda.
- b. Continue stormwater discussion.
- c. Update on plans to host a public workshop on water quality sampling.
- d. Step back and develop work plan approach – discuss possible subcommittees.
- e. Timelines and deliverables.
- f. Update on work by Henderson Shellfish Protection District committee.
- g. Need to discuss whether to continue having a revolving chair.

VIII. Future meeting dates and chairs:

- a. November 6th – Matt

IX. Public Comment – none during the allotted time.

X. Adjourn at 9:00 PM

Attachments: Stormwater Powerpoint Presentation (9/4/02)

MS:shellfish/Nisqually/Meeting Notes 9.04.02