SPDAC MEeting minutes – Quarter 3

Date: 9/24/2024

Time: 3pm

Facilitator: Thurston County Environmental Health (Tristen Payne-Senior Environmental Health Specialist)

# In attendance

Laura Blakely, Tristen Payne, Emily Davis (ECY), Barbara Ann Smolko, Margaret Homerding, Molly Paige, Scott Chernoff, AJ Mulder, Jean Frost, Priscilla Terry, Lea Sheilds, Patrick Townsend, Tom Terry, Triss, Larry Schaffner, Candace Penn, Marguerite, Marguerite Abplanalp, Kathryn

# Updates

**Scott Chernoff (Washington State Dept. of Health)**

Henderson Inlet:

* Data through the end of July 2024 – not much change
* Station 190 and 195 in past years have had a history of being threatened but have come down
* Decrease in prohibited areas-but these areas of are still closed
* When rain closure events are pulled out there is not a large decrease in data set
* Station 178 went from failing to meeting standards
* Station190 remains passing
* This data has not gone through QA QC it is subject to change
* Head of the bay has been mostly decreasing

Nisqually Reach:

* Most data has not changed in the last year
* Numbers have remained low – areas are meeting standard
* Water quality has improved at the mouth of the river (wild life refuge)
* South of Milbite – drainages have been dry so they are having a hard time getting samples
* Site 76 off Sandy Mill Rd there has been some elevated samples that have come out of the area
	+ There have been reports of wildlife activity

Eld Inlet:

* Station 849 has still remained threatened – high numbers in the middle of the dataset that are

still there

*Question brought up regarding dam removal in Budd Inlet*

* *when classifying shellfish areas DOH is required to go by federal requirements*
* *marinas require buffer due to the potential for contamination*

**Tristen Payne (Thurston County – Environmental Health)**

* No shoreline updates at this time
* Making edits to the effluent sampling requirements – hoping to implement in 2025
* Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) team has stopped shoreline testing due to being short staffed
* Jean Frost was recently hired as our new Operation & Maintenance supervisor – welcome Jean!

**Jean Frost (Thurston County – Environmental Health)**

* Winter dye testing process to start up soon
* Working to update the septic system code (Article IV) due to WAC change – this will go into effect next year
* Still following up on positive dye test results
* Pleasant Forest Camp Ground has moved forward with replacing all required On-site Septic Systems

**Molly Paige (Washington State Dept. of Ecology)**

* Just hired an outreach specialist for their department
* Terminated their NAP grant position – no longer doing NAP grant funded projects
* Going to be shuffling around staff and who will be working where

**Larry Schaffner (Thurston County Stormwater)**

* The number of County outfalls are much less than most people would think

**Marguerite Abplanalp (Conservation District Program Manager)**

* Update: hired a new planner!
	+ Excited to have an experienced farm planner on board
* Thurston Conservation will be applying for a grant in the next few months – requesting Thurston County to right support letter to include
* Looking for partnership opportunities

# Questions

* Link to current local management plan was requested – Thurston County to provide

# Shared data/links

[Henderson Inlet Watershed (arcgis.com)](https://waecy.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=5c5ce19bb2e74b25b12a447f9945655b)

[Stormwater Management Program Plan](https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/thurstoncountywa.gov.if-us-west-2/s3fs-public/2024-03/cped-boards-sswab-2024-SWMPP-Final.pdf)

[Commercial Shellfish Map Viewer (wa.gov)](https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/oswpviewer/index.html)

# Next meeting

December 10th possibly – more to come regarding this in the next month or so