Vaughn Bay Shellfish Protection District
What are Shellfish Protection Districts?

**Defined in State Law (RCW 90.72)**

- Required in the event of a “Downgrade” by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH)
- Local jurisdictions have 180 days to adopt a Shellfish Protection or Clean Water District after DOH makes the declaration
- Includes all upland area draining into the bay
- Includes a “Closure Response Plan”
  - Strategy to identify and correct pollution sources

**Existing Shellfish Protection Districts**

- Rocky Bay - 1996
- Burley Lagoon - 1999
- Filucy Bay - 2001
What is a Downgrade?

• Based on monthly or bi-monthly water quality samples collected by DOH using the 30 most recent samples

• Look at fecal coliform bacteria levels (# organisms/100ml)
  • Geometric mean under 14
  • 90th percentile under 43

• Categories
  • Approved
  • Conditionally Approved
  • Restricted
  • Prohibited
Vaughn Bay Shellfish Protection District

Vaughn Bay Background

- Historic shellfish industry
- Closed in the 1980’s
- DOH upgraded 103 acres to Approved in 2009
- Upgraded an additional 50 acres in 2011
Vaughn Bay Now

- Significant increase in bacteria counts in 2014
- Coordinated monthly sampling between DOH & TPCHD
- Downgrade official on August 5, 2015
- 180 day window expired on February 1, 2016
- Grant funding from DOH to create district and plan ($28,000)
Contents

• Based on Pierce County Shellfish Partners 2020 Strategic Plan
• Involve partners and public
• Includes pollution Prevention, Identification, and Correction components
• Focus on most probable sources: septic systems, pet waste, and livestock
• Define actions, roles, timelines, and costs for four organizations:
  ▪ Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
  ▪ Pierce Conservation District
  ▪ Pierce County Surface Water Management
  ▪ Pierce County Shellfish Partners
Outreach Findings

**Activities**
- Septic systems
- Livestock
- Pets
- Contractor practices on nearshore properties
- Canada geese
- Boats
- Clearing & grading
- Roadside drainage
- Landscaping

**Priorities**
- Community understanding of “watershed”
- Upland sanitary surveys
- Additional water quality sampling & target high risk areas
- Financial assistance for projects – rebate programs, cost share, etc.
- Offer septic workshops
- Use the Key Peninsula News to communicate
- Keep the community informed and updated on progress
Ordinance
• Similar to previous Districts
• Pierce County Public Works will be the lead (SWM)
• Accompanied by map
• Accompanied by Closure Response Plan
• Action by February 1, 2016

Geography
• 3,412 acres
• 705 parcels
• 406 residences
• Median lot size is 2.1 acres
• 19 saltwater tideland parcels
• 289 parcels without structures
• DNR owns two largest parcels, 320 acres and 160 acres
• 19 lots over 20 acres
Community Outreach

1. Coordinated mailing with TPCHD and WSU Cooperative Extension
2. Display at Puget Sounds Like Fun Day and Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair
3. Web page
4. Drainage-wide mailing – 500 owners
5. Open House – August 4
6. Contact list – Email + US Mail
7. Commission/Council Meetings
8. Article in KP News
Shellfish Partners Program

A partnership approach to protecting and improving water quality in the shellfish watersheds of Pierce County

We provide a coordinated response to all aspects of pollution prevention, identification, and correction.
Pierce County has over 8,500 acres of Approved growing area
26 public beaches &
13 commercial shellfish growing areas
How It Came to Be

• 3 closures = 3 Shellfish Protection Districts (1996-2001)
  – Rocky Bay
  – Burley Lagoon
  – Filucy Bay

• Shellfish Program adopted by Pierce County Council as part of the Key Peninsula-Islands Basin Plan in 2006

• Convening members sign pledge:
  – Pierce County Surface Water Management
  – Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
  – Pierce Conservation District

• Now there are 18 organization involved
Shellfish Partners
2020 Strategic Plan

**Vision**
Governments and stakeholders are actively working together to improve water quality in the shellfish watersheds of Pierce County.

**Mission**
Protect and improve shellfish watersheds by preventing, identifying and correcting sources of water pollution.

**Goals**
Prevention, Identification and Correction
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TPCHD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PALS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECOLOGY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheriff</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HWWI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCSSWM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KFHD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCCD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream Team</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPCR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sampling Sites
Septic Repair Financial Incentives

• Operation and Maintenance Incentives
  – $125 off a routine inspection (required to receive other discounts)
  – $125 off riser installation
  – $200 off tank(s) pumping

• Septic Repair Grant & Loan
  – Partnership between SWM, TPCHD, and Community Development
  – Using CCWF & SRF money
  – Repaired about 60 systems since 2007
  – Added Craft3 program
Shellfish Near Term Action

- Submitted to Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS)
- Update the *Puget Sound Action Agenda*
- Includes all South Sound shellfish programs – Pierce, Kitsap, Thurston, & Mason County
- $5.7 million over 2 years
- Ranked 5th by Shellfish SITTS
Questions?

Barbara Ann Smolko
Pierce County Public Works & Utilities