

Department of Ecology Triennial Review
Public Meeting

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF
WASHINGTON'S SURFACE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD BEFORE
JOCELYN WINZ, HEARING OFFICER,
IN MOUNT VERNON, WASHINGTON

NOVEMBER 16, 2010

COPY

Taken Before:

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Of

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4 CHAD BROWN

5 BECCA CONKLIN

6

7 PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY:

8 GARY T. JONES

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1 HEARING OFFICER: Let the record show it is
2 3:29 p.m. on November 15, 2010. This hearing is being
3 held in Mount Vernon at the Skagit Transit Station in
4 Washington State. Notice of this hearing was
5 electronically distributed to about 1,200 interested
6 people and delivered through the postal system to about
7 250 people. Many of you may have received that notice.
8 Additionally, a press release was issued on October 10,
9 2010.

10 So since we only have one person who wants to
11 testify, Gary is going to come up. And please state
12 your name and your address for the record, if you
13 would.

14 GARY T. JONES: Good afternoon. My name is
15 Gary, middle initial T, as in Tom, Jones, from Jones
16 and Smith in Mount Vernon, Washington, at P.O. Box
17 1245, Mount Vernon 98273.

18 I've attended this afternoon's session and
19 appreciated the fact that the Department of Ecology
20 sent a group of people to our town to explain the Clean
21 Water Act, and specifically these water quality
22 standards. I've encountered them as a lawyer mostly on
23 behalf of agricultural landowners. And I've been, I
24 guess, somewhat negatively impressed by the scientific
25 quality of the implementation of the standards.

1 It would seem to me that some flexibility in
2 recognizing the work that people are doing, whether
3 it's under grant funding or through the conservation
4 service, some natural resource conservation resource
5 funding as well, who have provided fencing, plantings,
6 improvements.

7 And if it were in fact a consequence if the water
8 quality standards were being degraded by livestock and
9 by farm use, it would seem that we should be gaining in
10 the effectiveness monitoring some indication that there
11 have been positive advances and that there should be
12 some lifting of total maximum data involved from at
13 least particular streams and stretches.

14 I just heard from Rick Haley, the county's public
15 work department fellow who's been doing five years of
16 monitoring, that in fact they are urging the Department
17 of Ecology to remove the South Fork and the North Fork
18 of the Skagit River from these TMDL watches, and from
19 the impaired waters. That's the first I had heard of
20 that.

21 And it's certainly a very encouraging thing to
22 hear that there is some recognition of the work that's
23 been done, because \$34 million has been spent by Skagit
24 Watershed Council. A lot of effort has been made by
25 individual farmers under the CREP. As I was indicating

1 otherwise, the Skagit Conservation District and the
2 NRCS have been out actively promoting measures to
3 improve water quality through habitat improvements in
4 the edges of streams. And I would like to think that
5 that has produced some positive or measurable benefit.

6 If it's not doing that, then I think we need to
7 really step back and start over on the water quality
8 standards and the measures that are being taken to
9 improve water quality.

10 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Gary.

11 Okay. So a couple more things to read into the
12 record. If you would like to send written comments,
13 you can send those to Becca Conklin, the Water Quality
14 Program, Washington State Department of Ecology, P.O.
15 Box 47600, Olympia, Washington 98504-7600, or
16 electronically at swqs@ecy.wa -- I'm sorry -- [.wa.gov](mailto:swqs@ecy.wa).

17 So all testimony received at this hearing as well
18 as the other hearings held across the state and written
19 comments received by 5 p.m. on the 17th will be part of
20 the official hearing record for this proposal.

21 In the spring of 2011 we anticipate posting the
22 transcript from this and the other hearings on the
23 website. If you'd like to be notified when that
24 happens, please take a moment to sign up for the
25 LISTSERV. That is at the back of the room there. If

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1 we can be of further help, don't hesitate to ask, and
2 contact Becca if you have more questions.

3 On behalf of Department of Ecology, thank you so
4 much for coming, and this meeting is adjourned at 3:34.
5 Thank you so much.

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CERTIFICATE

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3 I, Janette Curley, a Certified Court Reporter in and
4 for the State of Washington, residing at Kingston,
5 authorized to administer oaths and affirmations
6 pursuant to RCW 5.28.010, do hereby certify;

7 That the foregoing proceedings were taken
8 stenographically before me and thereafter reduced to a
9 typed format under my direction; that the transcript is
10 a full, true and complete transcript of said
11 proceedings;

12 That I am not a relative, employee, attorney or
13 counsel of any party to this action, or relative or
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16 outcome thereof;

17 That upon completion of signature, if required, the
18 original transcript will be securely sealed and the
19 same served upon the appropriate party.

20 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this

21 23rd day of November, 2010.

22
23 Janette Curley
24 Janette Curley, CCR No. 2030
25