



**Nisqually River Council
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2015, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

CAC Members Present: *Fred Michelson, Karelina Resnick, Bob Smith, Marjorie Smith, Steve Pruitt, Rosalea Pruitt, Lois Ward*

Guests Present: *Sandra Romero*

Staff Present: *Morgan Greene*

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:08pm. There was a motion to approve June's meeting minutes. They were approved. The agenda was updated to include a Beekeeper's Association Meeting update and Nisqually Reach eelgrass update. The agenda was approved.

Friends of [TBD] Establishment – All/Sandra Romero, Thurston County Commissioner

Several CAC members are interested in forming a politically active group, separate from the Nisqually River Council, Citizens Advisory Committee, or other organizations. Sandra attended the meeting to provide guidance on next steps. Morgan refrained from taking meeting notes due to a conflict of interest. Please contact Karelina with any questions.

NRC Subcommittees – All

Fred and Karelina wanted all CAC members to have the opportunity to be on any subcommittees of interest. Morgan created a list so that CAC members are knowledgeable and invited to subcommittees of their choice. If you have any questions or would like more details on any committees, please contact Morgan. One subcommittee that is not on the list is the NRC Nominations Subcommittee; this subcommittee meets annually to aide in the nominations of new NRC leadership.

CAC Fieldwork – All

Karelina would like to arrange quarterly volunteer dates for interested CAC members, which could include weed pulling or tree planting. Because most of the work right now is quite challenging, it was suggested that the fieldwork begin in September. The group agreed that the third Saturday of the month is available.

Cris Peck (Nisqually Land Trust) is willing to work with Karelina to set up work parties on Land Trust property. Fred noted that he already does a lot of fieldwork on his property, so perhaps other types of projects could be made available too. NatureMapping is a good option—various dates could be set up throughout the watershed. No commitments are needed now; Karelina will get more information on the NatureMapping possibilities.

Steve noted that some of these events could take place around the Nisqually Stream Stewards class, so the fieldwork could be done jointly. Morgan will take this into consideration for the 2016 course schedule, as it is too late to coordinate for this year.

Nisqually Stream Stewards @ CAC – All

At the last NRC meeting, Chris shared a drone video of the restoration done at Ohop. Karelina believes this could be a good video to show at the September CAC meeting, which will be hosting in conjunction with the Nisqually Stream Stewards. The video will need a script to go with it, to provide more details on the restoration. Lois and Steve will work on this; Debbie will help when she returns from her trip. Morgan will send a rough agenda of the CAC/NSS meeting to Steve and Lois as soon as possible.

Dog & Pony Show – All

The purpose of the dog and pony show is because the CAC needs a better way of connecting to the community, educating the public and recruiting new members. This could include a brochure and/or presentation to share with community organizations. It could also help with advertising. Morgan will also start advertising the meetings in local newspapers.

CAC Officer Elections – All

There were three nominations of people willing to accept the nominations. Steve was nominated as Chair, Phyllis as Vice-Chair, and Karelina as the third voting member. There was a motion to accept all nominations; it was approved. Welcome and congratulations to the newly elected leaders!

Olympia Beekeeper’s Association Meeting – Bob and Marjorie Smith

Bob and Marjorie attended the Pollinator’s Garden Dedication a couple of weeks ago; Sandra was there as well. This is a large garden that is dedicated to protecting pollinators. Other attendees included Karen Fraser and the Green Team.

Last night, Dr. Dewey Karen spoke to the Olympia Beekeeper’s Association about a survey conducted on pollinators in the region. The survey has been ongoing for 10 years, with increased data collected on bee health over the last 4 years. Bee numbers have been declining over the full 10-year survey. Dr. Karen collected information on folks who have less than 5 hives, people with 5-50 hives, and those with over 50 hives. In general, those with less than 5 hives (hobbyists) report a 44% loss in hives. Commercial beekeepers—those with over 50 hives—lost about 20-30% of hives. According to the presentation, this is not sustainable financially or ecologically.

At the meeting, Mark Emrich reported that the legislature passed a bill that designated beekeepers as “farmers,” rather than “service providers,” as they were in the past. This provides tax break possibilities for beekeepers, especially those operating on a large scale. There was an article here: <http://wasba.org/washington-state-beekeepers-are-farmers/>.

Eelgrass Beds – Fred Michelson

Fred has been in Hogam Bay looking for eelgrass. He saw that there were several sediment islands that appear at minus tides, and the last time he floated out there, eelgrass was everywhere! He travelled in all directions and noticed it in many places. According to Fred, the eelgrass is now in new places and will provide great habitat for macroinvertebrates and other creatures. Also, eelgrass removes nitrogen from the water. Fred has an article that he’ll share with the group tomorrow.

For the Good of the Order – All

Fred shared several newspaper articles on bee decline. Notably, the rate of decline increased in the last year.

Karelina watched a video on Canadian research on salmon and a virus that is killing many of them. They're finding a virus that's killing the salmon. Although the virus is caused by hatchery fish, it can contaminate wild populations. This may be a good presentation at an upcoming NRC meeting.

The Sierra Club is having a picnic soon and CAC members are invited.

Important Dates:

- Next NRC Meeting: July 17, 2015. Meet at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge from 9-11, then carpool to Zittle's Marina for trip on the Hickson. Return to car @ NNWR by 2pm.
- Next CAC Meeting: August 11, 2015 from 6-8pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.