



**Nisqually River Council
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2015, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

CAC Members Present: *Fred Michelson, Karelina Resnick, David Hymel, Phyllis Farrell, Lois Ward, Steve Pruitt, Bob Smith, Marjorie Smith*

Staff Present: *Morgan Greene, Sheila Wilson*

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:09pm. There was a motion to approve May's meeting minutes. They were approved, as was the agenda for the evening.

Nisqually Youth Council – Sheila Wilson, Nisqually River Education Program

Sheila is here to discuss the Nisqually Youth Council. She is currently working on a Letter of Interest (LOI) through Boeing funding; she shared the draft LOI tonight.

Her proposed plan, pending funding, would begin in the fall with networking and building partnerships. This would lead to Student Leadership Summits in the winter and spring, and teacher trainings in the summer. The core component of the program is to incorporate local and relevant planning documents—like the Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan, Eatonville Stormwater Plan and Earth Economics Ecosystem Services Plan—as curriculum for the students to become familiar with. The program would target middle and high school students throughout the Nisqually Watershed. The LOI also calls for consistent community involvement. For example, she proposes that community leaders would help students develop initiatives designed to increase sustainability in the area. Community members would also guide students at the Leadership Summits, and develop a collective impact model for sustainability. Outputs of the proposal include partnership building, an internship program, annual community summits, professional development and more. Sheila also anticipates that the CAC will be involved as interest and time allows.

The LOI and logic model will be submitted through the Nisqually River Foundation, and is due on June 30th. In addition to the grant proposal, Sheila has also updated her webpage to include information on the Sustainability Ambassadors program, and ideas for the Nisqually Youth Council.

Sheila will coordinate with Karelina, Phyllis, Debbie and Fred to determine meeting frequency of subcommittee meetings. All feedback on the LOI must be returned to Sheila by the end of this week. Send all feedback to Karelina, who will send it to Sheila. Sheila noted that this is only one grant source that she is pursuing, but it is helping her to flush out the ideas for the Youth Council. She considers the project to be in the idea phase, because implementation of such a large program will take an enormous amount of time and energy.

Nisqually Stream Stewards Flyer

Karelina pointed out that the reason she joined the Stream Stewards class wasn't listed on the flyer and that she didn't want to meet natural resource professionals. Bob disagreed, saying that was one of the highlights for his participation. Morgan and Sheila clarified that the Stream Stewards Team surveyed past participants

and learned that many of them joined the class to meet new people, conserve the watershed and meet natural resource professionals.

Green Infrastructure Stormwater Management Plan – David Hymel, Rain Dog Designs and CAC Member

David is a long time Nisqually Stream Steward and CAC member. He is taking the opportunity to update the group on his work over the last few years. He will highlight successful projects, challenges and his next steps. He'll focus on three ideas: survey results of Low Impact Development (LID) programs in the Puget Sound region; raingarden clusters as an outreach tool; partnerships that move LID forward.

David started by noting that the number of LID programs has grown tremendously. In fact, many jurisdictions have some sort of LID incentive program, including Thurston County, Tacoma, Puyallup, Kitsap County, Bellingham and dozens more. King County and City of Seattle's RainWise program is the most aggressive: it works to install raingardens and cisterns that reduce stormwater loads and prevent sewage overflows. As a contractor and owner of Rain Dog Designs, David has contracted through RainWise on multiple occasions.

To understand the problem, David explained that many jurisdictions have old infrastructure, and that stormwater runoff and sewage run in a combined pipe. During winter months and other times of heavy rainfall, the single pipes can become overwhelmed leading to sewage overflow. This is a violation of the Clean Water Act. By installing raingardens and cisterns, the RainWise program reduces stormwater loads and maintains flows within pipe capacity.

As an example, a typical 1,800 square foot home produces about 20,000 gallons of stormwater. To minimize stormwater runoff, this typical house would require a 140 square foot raingarden and 265 gallon cistern. The cistern has a restricted overflow valve, so water is slowly released during the winter. In the dry summer months, the valve can be closed so that water can be stored and used for other purposes. This helps reduce dependence on river water. On average, it costs \$4,500 to install cisterns, and \$6,000 to install a raingarden. In another example, David noted that the Rainier Beach Presbyterian Church produces about 80,000 gallons of stormwater. With the installation of several cisterns, the church now has 1,110 gallons worth of storage.

Shifting topics, David noted that clustering raingardens generates exciting side benefits. Clusters inspire communities, use resources efficiently, produce a measureable impact on stormwater, leverage programs and build partnerships. They are also installed to scale; in other words, you can finish one neighborhood in a single weekend, rather than by installing individual raingardens over a prolonged period of time. A recent example occurred on 8th Ave NW in Puyallup. The event was highlighted on the radio, King 5 news, and in This Old House. Between 2009-2012, 12 raingardens were installed in the area, with a Green Street completed in 2013. Pierce Conservation District was a partner, with funding from Department of Ecology.

David was also instrumental in several of the Eatonville raingardens. The first cluster was installed in front of the library. Since then, the program has grown, with 37 raingardens in multiple clusters. They were installed between 2009 and 2014. In fact, part of PBS' *River of Kings* was filmed in Eatonville, highlighting the raingardens and LID efforts. The video can be found here: <http://nisquallyriver.org/blog/2013/02/25/river-of-kings-airing-on-kcts-this-wednesday-and-right-now-online/>.

David was also involved in the writing of the Eatonville Stormwater Plan, a partnership between the Nisqually Tribe and Town of Eatonville. The 2003 plan was updated using EPA funding, distributed by the Nisqually Tribe. The Plan was adopted by the Town Council in 2013, and calls for increased stormwater rates and charges for maintenance. The Plan also calls for an education and outreach campaign, includes a

partnership matrix, and develops a grant funded capital program. The Campaign aims to educate and inspire community members to change their behavior, and allow them to participate in the Plan's implementation. Currently, the 5-year work plan outlines tasks and responsible entities. It calls for the establishment of an Advisory Committee that would advise the Town on implementation. The full Plan can be found here: http://www.eatonville-wa.gov/files/20131028_Draft-Stormwater-Plan.pdf.

"Moving Green Infrastructure Forward" is a Seattle-based project that David is working on. It is a portable raingarden developed by SplashBoxx LLC and Geologica, LLC. The idea is to create raingardens inside of shipping containers so they're easily transportable. The aim was to reduce zinc runoff from the roofs of industrial buildings. To test the project, one container included regular raingarden soils; the other had volcanic soil. A year after installation, both boxes reduces zinc loads tremendously. Each unit cost about \$9,000 to produce, but David noted this is still cheaper than chemically treating water. The Northwest EcoBuilding Guild and Code Innovations Database compiled the information gathered from this project; the online database enables other partners to view results of raingarden projects. Further, this method has been approved by Department of Ecology as an acceptable way to clean stormwater runoff. Another current project is the Vision2Action Series, hosted by Northwest EcoBuilding Guild. An upcoming discussion will focus on municipal stormwater permits requiring LIDs, including supporting Phase I and Phase II jurisdictions. A new stormwater permit must be in place by the end of 2016 and will require raingarden installation. To clarify, the new permits will require completed installations by December 2016.

David then shared some of the challenges he's faced. To start, the RainWise program is severely limited in the number of contractors needed to meet EPA mandates. Additionally, small jurisdictions often lack a capital funding strategy: small towns often have large impacts on streams, but no money to address problems. Coordination of LID rebate strategies between jurisdictions is also needed, but lacking. Further, recognizing and creating opportunities for LID partnerships should be promoted. Lastly, David called for increased support of Phase II jurisdictions.

In moving forward, health regulations should be expanded to allow rainwater harvesting and treatment as an incentive to manage stormwater. It could be treated to a potable level. Additionally, it will be important to continue to identify needs of jurisdictions in municipal permit implementation, and to leverage successful LID partnership models.

Questions/Comments:

- The Nisqually Youth Council could study/implement portions of the Eatonville Stormwater Plan
- Fred wondered about areas that can not be percolated; David explained that water still returns to the system, but in a cleaner form and at a reduced rate, so that the system can handle it.
- Steve noted the Greater Eatonville Heritage Area Forum is exploring conservation-based goals and aligned projects. The Eatonville Stormwater System could be a great project. Steve also noted that Eatonville currently sends untreated water into Lynch Creek, which feeds into the Nisqually by way of Ohop Creek. The stormwater is essentially collected throughout the town, and enters the river in several locations; it has been identified as a TMDL by the Department of Ecology.

David's presentation is available here: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/cohort-presentation>.

CAC Fieldwork

Karelina has talked to Cris Peck, of the Nisqually Land Trust, about getting the CAC group out to do a volunteer field day. The group will most likely help with invasive species removal. Karelina will initiate a Doodle Poll to determine dates; mornings are preferred.

Election of Officers in July

Officer nominations and elections will be held next month. Morgan will send an email to the CAC requesting nominations be sent to her. There are three positions available: chair, vice-chair and third voting member.

Nisqually River Trail committee (Fred)

The Nisqually River Trail Advisory Committee had a site visit last Tuesday. Fred particularly enjoyed seeing the confluence of the Ohop and Nisqually; he was surprised by the geology of the area, though he doesn't believe that it would be a suitable place to carry a boat. Bob noted that he has river access on his property too; Morgan will follow-up with him.

New Directions--Newsletter, Outreach & Other (All)

Debbie will be out of town for several months, and cannot commit to this project. The group agreed to wait on this project until she has more time in her schedule. In the meantime, the video produced by Steve Craig could serve suitable for sharing with community members.

Friends of Nisqually [Name to be determined] (All)

Several CAC members have discussed the idea of forming a new, independent citizens group. It would be totally separate from the NRC, so the group could become politically active. Sandra will most likely attend the next meeting to discuss how to make that transition. The idea is to meet for a couple minutes after each CAC meeting.

September CAC/NSS meeting

The September CAC meeting will be held in junction with the NSS meeting.

Updates: hikes, coal, bees, etc

Nothing was reported at this time.

For the Good of the Order – All

The group wondered if it would be feasible to use the rail line to transport gravel from the proposed Lynch Creek mine outside of Eatonville. Karelina is on a subcommittee; she'll keep people up to date.

The 2nd Legislative Democrats are getting a presentation on the Nisqually GRP on July 6th at 6:30pm in Yelm at the Masonic Temple/Grange. The same presentation will be given at the Sierra Club's annual picnic.

Lois and Phyllis recently attended a presentation hosted by the Center on Environmental Law and Policy. An award was presented to Upper Spokane Area Tribes for their efforts to improve water quality and recover salmon, including moving salmon over Grand Coolee Dam. Also, the local treaty will be revamped in 2024; the relevant Tribes want to include ecology and ecosystem function language in the treaty. Lois noted she watched a video about students building homemade canoes, and taking them upriver to the Dam, to show the path of the salmon. She is happy to share it. During the same event, they saw a presentation on Yelm Creek lawsuits that are in the Supreme Court right now.

Fred shared an article on the USDA Secretary who plans to introduce the first government certified non-GMO food label.

- Important Dates:
 - Next NRC Meeting: June 19, 2015 at Ashford Fire Hall, from 9:30-12:30.
 - Next CAC Meeting: July 14, 2015 from 6-8pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

NRC – CAC June 2015, Meeting Minutes