



**Nisqually River Council  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
October 13, 2015, 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

**CAC Members Present:** *Phyllis Farrell, Steve Pruitt, Fred Michelson, Bob Smith, Marjorie Smith and Lois Ward*  
**Staff Present:** *Morgan Greene*

**Welcome and Introductions**

There was a motion to approve September's minutes as presented. They were approved, as was the agenda for the evening.

**Systems Approach to NRC-CAC Management – Steve Pruitt**

Steve introduced the concept of "systems management," which he hopes will allow the CAC to operate more smoothly. He hopes to continue to discuss the concept over the next year. In order to introduce the idea, he asked the CAC to imagine the Nisqually Watershed prior to any human influence: it acted as a perfect biosphere. This is known as the "Realm of the Biosphere" and is the first of 3 realms in systems management.

When fur trappers and other European settlers arrived in the area, the human impacts made the region operate under the "Realm of the Technosphere." This realm, one dominated by technology and human impacts, has been the prevalent realm in the watershed for the last 100 years. The third realm, or "Realm of the Noosphere" relates to the sustainability of a place, because it is tied to the local knowledge. Steve noted that the Nisqually people used the "noosphere" to use resources in a way that had no lasting impact on the land. Today, scientists believe the "noosphere" will protect the earth from current challenges, and to reduce additional harms caused by the "technosphere."

Steve hopes that the CAC can spend the next year examining the influences of the three realms, both inside and outside the watershed, to better understand what makes the Nisqually thrive. For example, the CAC could examine the influences that stem from within the watershed, and those from outside. Understanding this interaction is systems management. Steve added that all influences related to four words: introduction, interaction, transformation and production. In other words, new influences are *introduced* to an area and *interact* with current systems. *Transformation* takes place as a result of those interactions, and *produces* a new system. This is a sequential and repetitive process, and results are cumulative. To Steve, the Nisqually Watershed is an entirely different place than it was 300 years ago, because of the introduction, interaction, transformation and production of new influences, like cars, invasive species, and much more.

Steve will bring more information to the CAC in the hopes that systems management will become a regular tool to the group's activities. He believes that this will enable the CAC to become a more productive and useful group.

Questions:

1. Phyllis wondered about the huge influx of people to Thurston and Pierce County – how will this impact the watershed? Steve noted that a study conducted 30 years ago showed that tourism brings people to an area, and can persuade some people to take up permanent residency based on their experiences. Knowing

that, the CAC could work to understand the types of local tourist opportunities, and the people who move to the area because of those experiences.

#### **Karelina's Articles – Karelina Resnick**

Karelina shared two articles via Morgan from the Eatonville Dispatch. The first announced a call for public comment on the WA Department of Natural Resources trails plan; Morgan will reach out to Doug McClelland about a potential presentation at an NRC meeting. Note – the time for public comment has passed, but documents are available on the website (<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/trailspolicy>.)

The second article shared information on the culling of cormorants near the Columbia River in an effort to protect salmon and steelhead. The article is available here:

<http://www.dispatchnews.com/2015/10/12/cormorant-actions-aimed-at-protecting-salmon-steelhead/>.

#### Questions/Comments:

1. Fred wondered what the trail plan meant for the Nisqually Watershed. The article gave no indication; Morgan will share the link to the website. If Doug is available to speak at an NRC meeting, Morgan will also ask him to focus on the watershed.
2. Fred disagreed with the tactics used in the second article. He shared stories about cormorants on the Nisqually Delta.

#### **CAC Goal Reports/Member Goal Evaluation, prioritization, and looking ahead to 2016 – All CAC Members**

- 1) Access and Hikes (Ed): Morgan noted the Nisqually River Water Trail planning committee will host an open house on November 5<sup>th</sup> at Yelm Middle School from 6-8pm. This is a great chance to learn more about the project. There is also a survey open through December 4<sup>th</sup>. Steve noted that Pierce County Trails is updating its trail plan too; Morgan will share this information with the NRC and CAC. This may be a partnership in the future.
- 2) Neonicotinoids (Fred/Bob): Bob mentioned that the WA Department of Transportation will no longer use the pesticides on their land, and will begin planting a wider variety of plants. Fred will search for further information on a lawsuit brought by Canadian beekeepers. The WA Beekeepers Association elected a new President, and Marjorie is hopeful that he will keep a large presence in the legislature. Out-going president, Mark Emrich, will stay around in a limited capacity for another year.
- 3) NRC Youth Council (Karelina): Pending funding for the project, Karelina requested this be removed from the monthly update list.
- 4) Citizens Conservation Certification (Karelina): Until further notice, Karelina wished to have this removed from the monthly list.
- 5) Emeritus Board (Fred): This is now in the hands of the NRC. Karelina requested this be removed from the monthly list.
- 6) Membership (All): Fred wondered if there was any interest from the Stream Stewards in the CAC. Morgan noted that some people were, and she has added them to the mailing list. Several Stream Stewards attend Evergreen State College and have Tuesday evening classes.

Steve recognized the tremendous effort dedicated to the Stream Stewards program. He suggested each CAC member “adopt” several members of the Stream Stewards, in an effort to bring them information

from each meeting. CAC members could also have lunch with Stream Stewards occasionally, to keep them involved with the NRC/CAC community. All CAC members agreed this was a great idea. In addition, Lois suggested hosting occasional meetings closer to the Olympia area; this may make transportation easier for some people.

- 7) Dog and Pony Show (All): Fred noted that sharing materials on the CAC is key to successfully recruiting new members. In his opinion, it should cover the group's history, successes and what they have to offer. Fred added that the development of the materials shouldn't be a strain on members, but should be pursued this year. He suggested that members on each NRC subcommittee give a short overview of that subcommittee's work. To Fred, one of the things that should be highlighted the most is the opportunity to connect with agency representatives.

Steve believes that Goals 6 and 7 are linked: recruiting new membership is important, but having materials to give as a follow-up will help keep them at the table. He also recognized that the dog and pony show should not focus solely on increasing members. It should also be used as a tool for education and outreach.

Phyllis felt that David Troutt's presentation at the last CAC meeting covered a lot of the material desired; in her opinion, the information on the NRC, NRF, NREP and CAC could be combined and shortened into a summary. Lois agreed with this, and wanted to make clear that the connection between the NRC and the CAC needs to be explicit. Both Lois and Phyllis had confusions about this connection when they joined, and felt as though other new members would have similar questions.

To move this forward, the group agreed to individually craft Mission statements before the next meeting. These statements will be emailed amongst CAC members, until it is narrowed down to a few strong candidates. These candidates will be discussed at the next meeting. Fred agreed to start the email chain. The group will consider forming a subcommittee to further develop the dog and pony show; Steve is willing to chair, if appropriate, and Phyllis is willing to join.

- 8) Protected Marine Areas (Ed): Nothing at this time.
- 9) Coal and Oil Trains (Grace Ann & Fred): Fred noted that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Grays Harbor coal terminal has been released. Public meetings are scheduled, and comments are still being accepted. Fred has information for those wishing to get involved.

#### **For the Good of the Order – All**

Fred wished to share two infographics. The first, *A Climate for Coffee*, was a chart on climate change, and its impacts on the coffee industry. The second, *Data Will Change the World*, tracked the amount of water needed to produce various crops.

Bob saw a bobcat across the river from his house—once a week and a half ago, and again two days ago.

#### **Important Dates:**

- Next NRC Meeting: October 16, 2015 from 9:30-12:30 at UW Pack Forest.
- Next CAC Meeting: November 10, 2015 from 6-8pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.