



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council Meeting
June 16, 2017
Ashford Fire Hall
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

Matt Curtis – WDFW

JW Foster – City of Yelm

Abby Gribi – Town of Eatonville

Glynnis Nakai – USFWS BFJNNWR

Gary Stamper – Lewis County Commissioner

* CAC Representatives (2)

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

*Phyllis Farrell

Steve Pruitt

Karelina Resnick

*Bob Smith

Marjorie Smith

Guests

Roger Andrascik – NSS/NLT

Jeff Barney – Pierce County

Warren Bergh – Nisqually Stream Stewards

Kathleen Berger – Thurston Conservation District

Michael Burnham – Thurston Regional Planning Council

Howard Glastetter – Citizen

Jennifer Grant – Citizen

Etsuko Reistroffer – Nisqually Stream Stewards

James Reistroffer – NLT Volunteer

Doug Thompson – Pierce County SWM

Dan Trufford – Lacey Resident

Phil Freeman – Copper Creek Inn

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

Justin Hall – Nisqually River Foundation

Sheila Wilson – Nisqually River Ed. Project

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes and Agenda, Introductions

Call to Order – David called the meeting to order at 9:13.

Approval of Meeting Minutes and Agenda – There was a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting. They were approved, as was the agenda for the day.

2. Reports

Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – The CAC met on June 8th. Low key meeting. Participated in an exercise prioritizing the purchases for the Nisqually Community Forest. Net pen discussion. Howard Glastetter application was accepted.
- *Chair Report* – No report.
- *Staff Report* – NCF board, RMAP, Strategic Planning, Visioning exercise. Retreat will be on July 28th, location to be determined. Americorp background check, VELMA.

Allied Programs

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – SRFB Busywild Phase 2 was submitted along with, Wilcox Small lots, and Lower and Middle Ohop Protection. Conservation Futures has been put on hold in Thurston County. This will have a very negative effects on the Land Trust acquisition program in Thurston County. There are several public events coming up for the Land Trust. Float trips are coming on July 22, and 23rd. The annual meeting and salmon bake will be September 17th.
- *Nisqually River Education Project* – Took two groups to the Prairie as a part of the Connecting Kids With Nature. Included Weed Wrenching which the kids loved. Did a comparison survey of burned and unburned prairie. Eye on Nature just wrapped up at the Refuge. 400 from the Nisqually and 375 from Chehalis. Volunteer luncheon is coming up next week for that. The Summer Teachers Institute is September 26th-29th. Will be focusing on Climate Change. Will be visiting Pack Forest and Mount

Rainier. Nisqually Stream Stewards registration is still open. Looking for 10 more participants. We received ALEA funding for next year for Ohop and South Creek work.

- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Strategic planning is almost complete. Daniel J Evans Nisqually Stewardship Award Event is upcoming on September 7th.
- *Salmon Recovery Update* – Spent the week before last at the Washington Salmon Coalition meeting in Chelan. Getting ready to start planning for this years Festivals. The Yel-Me-Hu is out! Will be arriving in mailboxes soon. Has been helping with the restoration biologist position duties.

3. Repair Projects on the Levee – Michael Burnham

Works on the Pierce County levee that is partly in Mount Rainier National Park and partly outside. The levee is several thousand feet long/ PC has a partnership with the Corp of Engineers and the park. In 2006 the floods damaged the road and facilities in the Park. The oldest agreement for maintaining the levee was signed in 1961. That expired in 1981. They updated it regularly and currently the agreement is set to expire in March 2027. There have been recent repairs in the NPS portion in 2006 and the Pierce County portion in 2010. In 2011 the Corp of Engineers also effected repairs below the Pierce County portion. Repairs were again made in 2012. There is a plan for another set of repairs in 2017. This repair plans to use “Jetty” stone to really anchor the levee. In 2018 the plan to construct deflectors to move the river away from the levee. Can we get someone in to talk about climate change and modeling and effects on the river.

4. Outreach to Landowners – Kathleen Berger

Habitat specialist at the Thurston Conservation District. Talking about Chehalis floodplain outreach. There have been 14 federally declared disasters since 1971. 5 of the largest floods in recorded history over the past 30 years. Declining health of the Chehalis system. Currently there is a Governors Work Group examining various large and small scale projects to address flooding impacts and habitat loss. The role of the districts is to talk with the landowners about what they need to lessen the impacts of flooding on their properties. Wanted to use this feedback as a voice for landowners. Wanted to bring funding from the massive effort to small scale projects for landowners. Not education, but relationship building. They created community listening sessions. Used positive messaging. Sent invitation letters and served food. The format was a very quick introduction and then spent the majority of the time in small groups asking questions such as how have you been affected, have you experienced bank erosion, do you have suggestions for improvements? Community Feedback – Bank erosion and loss of land were the primary concerns. Frustration expressed about lack of funding to address erosion and flooding. Too many studies not enough action. Concern over noticeable decline in salmon over the years. Desire for farm pads and other farm protection structures. Frustration about the disconnect between county government and local ag producers. Concerns with logging methods upstream. Had over 80 attendees over 4 meetings. Landowners opened up and shared their ideas. One landowner in the final selection process for a large scale habitat restoration project. Many landowners interested in a farm pad, raised areas. This project was a partnership with the other counties, shared concerns with counties and the Chehalis Basin Flood authority. Next steps, this was a very successful model. Use targeted mailings and initiations to more community sessions. Will do a story telling session about experiences of the recent large floods. Farm Pad plan options are moving forward. Currently illegal in Thurston County. They will share their feedback summary with the Council over email

5. WDNR Harvest Plans – Elbe Hills – Ted Keeley

Craig Higbee is one of the foresters working in the Elbe block. The upcoming harvest are a part of a local landscape plan along with the overall state forest lands goals. They are hear today to talk about their long term plan and a couple local sales. Mike and Scott along with Ted Keeley are helping with the presentation. This area is comprised of three blocks, Tahoma, Elbe and Pleasant Valley. There are two sales coming up this year in Elbe hills, one in Tahoma and one in Pleasant Valley. In 2018 there will be three in Tahoma and one in Elbe hills. They are just starting planning for 2019 sales. There are proposals for 2020 and 2021 but they haven't done any of the background on those potential sales. Ye Old Donkey and Spitfire are the upcoming sales in the Tahoma Block. They will be variable density thinning. The WDNR tends to operate above and beyond the forest rules. Partly because of their HCP and partly because of their overall landscape goals. Spitfire is a three unit sale. They will be partly visible from 706. They plan for variable retention harvest. Leaving a minimum of 8 trees per acre. Will clump the leave trees to mitigate the visual impacts. They replant within 2 years. Phil Freeman brought up concerns about how the timber industry is impacting the tourism industry especially in the Ashford area. He would like to see the WDNR take a more protection oriented approach.

6. For the Good of the Order

- Washing ATV association spoke to the Eatonville Chamber. Seeking to gain access to DNR roads. DNR has multiple uses and has separated those uses by area to prevent conflicts.
- Brought fliers about the Puyallup Tribe rally against the Liquid Natural Gas facility at the Port of Tacoma.
- The Eatonville Chamber has presented the NRF and NLT thank you plaques.
- Randle's gravel pit expansion opposition in ongoing.
- Pack Forest has granted access to the Mashel for Pierce County water quality monitoring.
- Eatonville School District has their first crops in the ground at the old Burwash Farm. They have a farm manager and about 12 kids working on it.

Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 11:56am.

*Next Meeting: Retreat - Friday July 28th, 2017 from 9:00-2:00
Location TBD*